

in a nondiscriminatory manner. Finally, Verizon has demonstrated that it has a line-sharing and line-splitting provisioning process that affords competitors nondiscriminatory access to these facilities.

9. In the Commission's overview of Verizon's performance data, it relies primarily on Rhode Island performance data (supplemented with Massachusetts data) collected and submitted by Verizon under the state-adopted carrier-to-carrier standards. Verizon provides evidence and performance data establishing that it can efficiently furnish unbundled loops, for the provision of both traditional voice services and various advanced services, to other carriers in a nondiscriminatory manner.

10. *Checklist Item 1—Interconnection.* Based on the evidence in the record, the Commission concludes that Verizon demonstrates that it provides interconnection in accordance with the requirements of section 251(c)(2) and as specified in section 271 and applied in the Commission's prior orders. Pursuant to this checklist item, Verizon must allow other carriers to interconnect their networks to its network for the mutual exchange of traffic, using any available method of interconnection at any available point in Verizon's network.

11. Verizon also demonstrates that its collocation offerings in Rhode Island satisfy the requirements of sections 251 and 271 of the Act and are in compliance with the Commission's recent *Collocation Remand Order*. Verizon demonstrates that it offers interconnection in Rhode Island to other telecommunications carriers at just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory rates, in compliance with checklist item 1.

12. *Checklist Item 5—Unbundled Local Transport.* Section 271(c)(2)(B)(v) of the competitive checklist requires a BOC to provide "local transport from the trunk side of a wireline local exchange carrier switch unbundled from switching or other services." The Commission concludes, based upon the evidence in the record, that Verizon demonstrates that it provides both shared and dedicated transport, including dark fiber, in compliance with the requirements of checklist item 5.

13. *Checklist Item 14—Resale.* Based on the evidence in the record, the Commission concludes that Verizon demonstrates that it makes telecommunications services, including its DSL-based telecommunications service, available in Rhode Island for resale, in accordance with sections 251(c)(4) and 252(d)(3), and thus

satisfies the requirements for checklist item 14.

14. *Checklist Items 3, 6–13.* An applicant under section 271 must demonstrate that it complies with checklist item 3 (poles, ducts, conduits, and rights of way), item 6 (unbundled local switching), item 7 (911/E911 access and directory assistance/operator services), item 8 (white page directory listings), item 9 (numbering administration), item 10 (databases and associated signaling), item 11 (number portability), item 12 (local dialing parity), and item 13 (reciprocal compensation). Based on the evidence in the record, and in accordance with Commission rules and orders concerning compliance with section 271 of the Act, the Commission concludes that Verizon demonstrates that it is in compliance with these checklist items in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Commission also concluded that Verizon complies with the requirements of each of these checklist items.

Other Statutory Requirements

15. *Compliance with Section 271(c)(1)(A).* The Commission concludes that Verizon demonstrates that it satisfies the requirements of section 271(c)(1)(A) based on the interconnection agreements it has implemented with competing carriers in Rhode Island. The record demonstrates that competitive LECs serve some business and residential customers using predominantly their own facilities.

16. *Section 272 Compliance.* Verizon has demonstrated that it complies with the requirements of section 272. Significantly, Verizon provides evidence that it maintains the same structural separation and nondiscrimination safeguards in Rhode Island as it does in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts—states in which Verizon has already received section 271 authority.

17. *Public Interest Analysis.* The Commission concludes that approval of this application is consistent with the public interest. It views the public interest requirement as an opportunity to review the circumstances presented by the applications to ensure that no other relevant factors exist that would frustrate the congressional intent that markets be open, as required by the competitive checklist, and that entry will therefore serve the public interest as Congress expected. While no one factor is dispositive in this analysis, the Commission's overriding goal is to ensure that nothing undermines its conclusion that markets are open to competition.

18. The Commission finds that, consistent with its extensive review of the competitive checklist, barriers to competitive entry in the local market have been removed and the local exchange market today is open to competition. The Commission also finds that the record confirms its view that a BOC's entry into the long distance market will benefit consumers and competition if the relevant local exchange market is open to competition consistent with the competitive checklist.

19. The Commission also finds that the performance monitoring and enforcement mechanisms developed in Rhode Island, in combination with other factors, provide meaningful assurance that Verizon will continue to satisfy the requirements of section 271 after entering the long distance market. Commenters urge the Commission to perform a price squeeze analysis. The Commission has reviewed their evidence, however, and determined that even if it accepts their assertions that a price squeeze analysis is mandated by the section 271's public interest requirement, there is no price squeeze in Rhode Island.

20. *Section 271(d)(6) Enforcement Authority.* Working with the Rhode Island Commission, the Commission intends to monitor closely post-entry compliance and to enforce the provisions of section 271 using the various enforcement tools Congress provided in the Communications Act.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02–4977 Filed 2–28–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

Sunshine Act Meeting Notice; Announcing an Open Meeting of the Board

TIME AND DATE: 8 a.m., Wednesday, March 6, 2002.

PLACE: Board Room, Second Floor, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

STATUS: The entire meeting will be open to the public.

MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED DURING PORTIONS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

- Appointment of Federal Home Loan Bank Directors

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Elaine L. Baker, Secretary to the Board,
(202) 408-2837.

James L. Bothwell,
Managing Director.

[FR Doc. 02-5079 Filed 2-27-02; 1:50 pm]

BILLING CODE 6725-01-P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at www.ffiec.gov/nic/.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 28, 2002.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Julie Stackhouse, Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *First Financial Corporation*, Arthur, North Dakota; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Omega City Holding Company, LaMoure, North Dakota, and thereby indirectly acquire First State

Bank of LaMoure, LaMoure, North Dakota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 26, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 02-4915 Filed 2-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

[FMR Bulletin B-2]

Motor Vehicle Management

This notice contains GSA Bulletin FMR B-2 which addresses the use of hand-held wireless phones while driving motor vehicles owned or leased by the Federal government. The text of the bulletin follows:

To: Heads of Federal Agencies.

Subject: Use of Hand-held Wireless Phones while Driving Motor Vehicles Owned or Leased by the Federal Government.

1. *What Is the Purpose of This Bulletin?*

This bulletin provides guidance to Federal agencies concerning the use of hand-held wireless phones while driving motor vehicles owned or leased by the Federal government.

2. *What Is the Effective Date of This Bulletin?*

This bulletin is effective March 1, 2002.

3. *When Does This Bulletin Expire?*

This bulletin will remain in effect until specifically cancelled.

4. *What Is the Background?*

a. Over 110 million people use wireless phones in the United States. A recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) survey found that 54 percent of motor vehicle drivers in the United States usually have a wireless phone in their vehicle. Federal and State policymakers have been weighing the benefits of wireless phone use in vehicles against the growing evidence of their potential to increase driver distraction and the risks to safety. The recent ban of hand-held wireless phones while driving in New York State and pending legislation in at least 27 other states has received significant publicity in 2001. In addition, 23 countries now restrict or prohibit wireless phones in motor vehicles.

b. It is appropriate that the Federal government assume a leadership role in promoting the safe use of wireless telephones by its employees when they

are engaged in official Government business. Accordingly, Federal agencies should address the issue of wireless phone use in their internal policies. Additionally, many agencies have requested guidance from the General Services Administration's Office of Governmentwide Policy (OGP), Federal Vehicle Policy Division on wireless phone use in government owned and leased vehicles.

5. *What Is the Recommended Policy We Should Follow When Issuing Guidance on the Use of Wireless Phones While Driving Motor Vehicles Owned or Leased by the Federal Government?*

Federal agencies should:

- Discourage the use of hand-held wireless phones by a driver while operating motor vehicles owned or leased by the Federal government.
- Provide a portable hands-free accessory and/or a hands-free car kit for government owned wireless phones.
- Educate employees on driving safely while using hands-free wireless phones. See Attachment A for "Cellular Phone Driving Tips" published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

6. *Are Federal Employees Exempt From Local or State Laws Prohibiting or Limiting the Use of Wireless Phones While Driving?*

Generally, Federal employees are not exempt from state and local laws governing operation of a motor vehicle. If adhering to state and local laws would impede your agency's mission, consult your General Counsel for advice.

7. *Could Federal Agencies Be Held Liable for Injuries or Damages Caused by Employees Who Use Wireless Phones While Driving Motor Vehicles Owned or Leased by the Federal Government?*

Federal agencies should be aware of the potential for increased liability from accidents that occur if directly caused by the use of wireless phones while driving motor vehicles owned or leased by the Federal government.

8. *What Future Actions Should We Expect?*

NHTSA has over a dozen new studies planned during the next two years regarding driver distractions such as wireless phone use. As these reports are published, the General Services Administration's Federal Vehicle Policy Division will keep agencies abreast of the current research and recommendations on whether wireless phones, or any other device, should be used while driving.