

Americans. Mindful that competition would not develop in all markets immediately, Congress left in place certain safeguards, such as section 251(g). That statutory provision preserves the equal access and nondiscrimination requirements that were established for LECs “under any court order, consent decree, or regulation, order, or policy of the Commission” prior to passage of the 1996 Act. Notably, section 251(g) imports the obligations of the Modification of Final Judgment (MFJ), the consent decree that settled the Department of Justice’s antitrust suit against AT&T and required divestiture of the BOCs, as well as Commission equal access requirements. Section 251(g) grants the Commission authority to prescribe regulations superseding pre-existing equal access and nondiscrimination obligations.

3. First, the Commission seeks comment on how it should go about changing or eliminating any existing equal access and nondiscrimination requirements, should it decide to do so. Specifically, section 251(g) states that all pre-1996 Act requirements continue to apply “until such restrictions and obligations are explicitly superseded by regulations prescribed by the Commission.” Congress expected that “[w]hen the Commission promulgates its new regulations, * * * the Commission will explicitly identify those parts of the interim restrictions and obligations that it is superseding so that there is no confusion as to what restrictions and obligations remain in effect.” The Commission asks whether it should adopt new rules to replace the existing section 251(g) requirements, or is it enough for the Commission to state in an order that such requirements are no longer necessary in the wake of the 1996 Act? Alternatively, it asks whether the Commission should forbear from such requirements to the extent they meet the standards of 47 U.S.C. 160?

4. *Changing Market Conditions.* The Commission seeks comment on what equal access and nondiscrimination requirements were carried through from the MFJ, to which carriers these requirements apply, and the extent to which these requirements are relevant today. The Commission further seeks comment on whether the goals underlying section 251(g) can be achieved through any other means, including reliance on other provisions of section 251 and the requirements that the Commission has imposed pursuant to those provisions. It further asks how sections 201 and 202, and the Commission’s orders interpreting those sections, affect the need for separate

equal access and nondiscrimination requirements in light of current marketplace conditions, including the state of competition in the local market and BOC entry into the long distance market.

5. *Bell Operating Companies.* The Commission seeks comment on the existing equal access and nondiscrimination requirements of BOCs, which include the line of cases stemming from the MFJ. It also seeks comment on what the BOCs’ equal access and nondiscrimination obligation should be, whether changes in equal access and nondiscrimination requirements are now needed for BOCs and what changes are appropriate. Should BOCs be required to provide information regarding all available interexchange carriers? What kind of marketing arrangements between BOCs and other carriers are permissible? What is the relationship between sections 251(g) and 272?

6. *Incumbent Independent Local Exchange Carriers.* Section 251(g) also imports equal access and nondiscrimination requirements that existed for incumbent independent LECs prior to the 1996 Act. The Commission seeks comment on what, if any, “order, consent decree, or regulation, order, or policy of the Commission” applies to incumbent independent LECs. It also asks what the regulatory costs to these carriers are under the current equal access and nondiscrimination requirements and whether those requirements should continue to apply to incumbent independent LECs in view of the new competitive paradigm contemplated by the 1996 Act. The Commission also asks for comment on the extent to which it can harmonize the obligations of incumbent independent LECs that provide interLATA services through a separate affiliate with the obligations of other LECs that provide interLATA services through a separate affiliate, and the extent to which it can harmonize the obligations of incumbent independent LECs that provide interLATA services on an integrated basis with the obligations of other LECs that provide interLATA services on an integrated basis.

7. *Competitive Local Exchange Carriers.* The Commission also seeks comment on the existing equal access and nondiscrimination obligations that apply to competitive LECs. What Commission orders or other law impose equal access and nondiscrimination requirements on non-incumbent LECs today, and what are the regulatory costs to these carriers of those requirements? What, if any, should the equal access

and nondiscrimination obligations of competitive LECs be? Can the Commission harmonize the obligations of competitive LECs with the obligations of other LECs that provide interLATA services on an integrated basis?

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-5673 Filed 3-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Technological Advisory Council Meeting Postponed

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of cancellation of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, Public Law 92-463, as amended, this notice advises interested persons that the meeting of the Technological Advisory Council scheduled for March 20, 2002 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffery Goldthorp, *jgoldtho@fcc.gov*, or 202-418-1096.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-5674 Filed 3-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[Report No. 2534]

Petition for Clarification and Waiver of Action in Rulemaking Proceeding

March 4, 2002.

Petition for Clarification and Waiver has been filed in the Commission’s rulemaking proceeding listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR 1.429(e). The full text of this document is available for viewing and copying in Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC or may be purchased from the Commission’s copy contractor, Qualex International (202) 863-2893. Oppositions to this petition must be filed by March 26, 2002. See section 1.4(b)(1) of the Commission’s rules (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must be filed within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.

Subject: Billed Party Preference for O + Interlata Calls (CC Docket No. 92-77).

Number of Petitions Filed: 1.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-5678 Filed 3-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6212-01-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[Report No. 2535]

Petition for Reconsideration of Action in Rulemaking Proceeding

March 5, 2002.

Petition for Reconsideration has been filed in the Commission's rulemaking proceeding listed in this Public Notice and published pursuant to 47 CFR 1.429(e). The full text on this document is available for viewing and copying in Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC or may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International (202) 863-2893. Oppositions to this petition must be filed by March 26, 2002. See section 1.4(b)(1) of the Commission's rules (47 CFR 1.4(b)(1)). Replies to an opposition must be filed within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.

Subject: Amendment of part 67 of the Commission's Rules and Establishment of a Joint Board (CC Docket No. 80-286).

Numbers of Petitions Filed: 1.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-5679 Filed 3-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday, March 14, 2002 at 10 a.m.

Place: 999 E Street, NW., Washington, DC (Ninth Floor).

Status: This meeting will be open to the public.

The following item has been added to the agenda: Topics for Administrative Fines Rulemaking.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION:

Mr. Ron Harris, Press Officer,
Telephone: (202) 694-1220.

Mary W. Dove,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 02-5859 Filed 3-7-02; 11:51 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-M

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 April 5, 2002.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland
(Stephen J. Ong, Vice President) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-2566:

1. Charter One Financial, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio; to acquire and merge with Charter National Bancorp, Inc., Taylor, Michigan, and thereby acquire Charter Bank, Wyandotte, Michigan.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 6, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 02-5829 Filed 3-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act. 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 the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 25, 2002.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Betsy Buttrill White, Senior Vice President) 33 Liberty Street, New York, New York 10045-0001:

1. Barclays Plc and Barclays Bank, both of London, England; to acquire Digital Signature Trust Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, and thereby indirectly engage through Identrus, LLC, New York, New York, in certification authority activities, and other incidental activities relating to the certification authority activities, pursuant to Bayer Hypo- und Verinsbank AG 86 Fed. Res. Bull. 56 (2000).

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, March 5, 2002.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 02-5772 Filed 3-8-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-S