

Before the

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the)	
)	Docket No. UT-991991
Petition of MCI WORLDCOM, INC. and)	
SPRINT CORPORATION, for an Order)	PETITION OF SBC FOR
(1) Disclaiming Jurisdiction or, (2) in the Alternative)	LATE INTERVENTION
Approving the Transfer)	
_____)	

SBC Communications Inc. ("SBC") respectfully petitions for late intervention in this docket. In support of its petition, SBC states:

1. This petition is brought under WAC 480-09-430.
2. By its petition, SBC will not broaden the issues in this docket.
3. SBC's address is:
SBC Communications, Inc.
175 East Houston Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205.
4. The name and address of SBC's attorney is:

R. Michael Senkowski
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5. SBC is a global telecommunications company. Through its operating subsidiaries, SBC provides local exchange services, exchange access, wireless communications, Internet access, out-of-region interexchange services, cable and satellite television, security services, and directory publishing. Several wholly-owned subsidiaries of SBC are authorized to provide telecommunications services in Washington. Southwestern Bell Long Distance Company, SNET America, and Ameritech Communications International, Inc. are each registered to provide intrastate, interexchange long distance service in the state.¹ In addition, SBC Telecom Inc., another wholly-owned SBC subsidiary, is authorized to provide local and interexchange services in this state.

6. SBC has a substantial interest in this proceeding. As noted, SBC subsidiaries are authorized to provide interexchange service in Washington. Moreover, as recognized by the Federal Communications Commission, SBC is currently pursuing a National Local strategy that centers on entering out-of-region local service markets. SBC's aim in pursuing such entry is to serve not only

¹ See Docket No. UT-970798(Southwestern Bell Long Distance); Docket No. UT-950613(SNET America, Inc.); Docket No. UT-960697(Ameritech Communications International, Inc.).

customers' local needs, but also their needs for long distance, data, Internet and other services.²

7. SBC's ability to pursue this strategy in Washington would be substantially, and negatively, affected by approval of MCI Worldcom and Sprint's merger, because the merger of the two companies would substantially lessen competition in three distinct markets - long distance, local exchange, and Internet - each of which is vitally important to SBC's ability to provide telecommunications services in Washington. In long distance, for example, the merger would increase the cost of wholesale long distance capacity. Because SBC must purchase such capacity to provide interLATA services in Washington, the merger would raise SBC's costs of providing services to Washington consumers. Moreover, insofar as the merger results in higher prices for long distance services, consumers will purchase less long distance, reducing the volume of exchange access services sold in Washington. Finally, the merger would limit competition among Internet backbone providers, raising the cost of supplying Internet services to Washington consumers.

8. SBC respectfully requests that its intervention be granted after the initial prehearing conference pursuant to WAC 480-09-430(1)(b) and (3). SBC has good cause for late intervention because it did not receive a copy of the notice of the initial prehearing conference and did not learn of the prehearing conference until after it had already occurred. SBC first learned of the initial prehearing conference from the Commission Staff's Assistant Director of Telecommunications, Glenn Blackmon, January 26, 2000. On the following day, Assistant Attorney General Greg Trautman then advised SBC of the schedule in the case. He subsequently sent a copy of the service list on February 4, 2000.

9. No party is likely to be prejudiced by the granting late intervention to SBC. At this point no testimony has been prefiled or distributed from any party other than the joint applicants, and no discovery of any other party has taken place. Further, SBC does not intend to seek any modification of the current schedule; therefore, all parties will have the same opportunity to conduct discovery of any testimony that SBC may file and to respond to SBC's testimony that they would have with respect to any other party who timely intervened. Accordingly, SBC requests leave to intervene as a party in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of February, 2000.

R. Michael Senkowski
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² See Order, *Applications of Ameritech Corp. and SBC Communications Inc. for Consent to Transfer Control of Corporations Holding Commission Licenses and Lines Pursuant to Sections 214 and 310(d) of the Communications Act and Parts 5, 22, 24, 25, 63, 90, 95 and 101 of the Commission's Rules*, FCC 99-279, CC Docket No. 98-141, ¶305 (Oct. 8, 1999).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon the persons and entities listed on the Service List below by depositing a copy of said document in the United States mail, addressed as shown on said Service List, with first class postage prepaid.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this 7th day of February, 2000

Suzanne Yelen

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