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EQ US: S&P: Embarq Corp.'s Rating Unaffected By Increased Di

THE MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES INC ("MHP-BHDNPX")
EMBARQ CORP ("EQ-N")
- S&P: Embarq Corp.'s Rating Unaffected By Increased Dividend
- And Share Repurchases

Jan. 9, 2008--Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said that its rating and outlook on Overland Park, Kansas-based Embarq Corp. (BBB-/Stable/--) would not be affected by the company's plan to increase its dividend by 10% to approximately \$425 million annually before the impact of share repurchases, and institute a \$500 million share repurchase program. Embarq's free cash flow generation should be sufficient to fund the increased dividend and share repurchase program without materially affecting its low investment grade financial profile, characterized by debt to EBITDA in the mid-2x area. However, if debt to EBITDA were to approach 3x because of accelerating access-line losses or stagnant DSL revenue growth, or if management pursued material debt-financed acquisitions or share repurchases, the outlook could be revised to negative.

Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect, Standard & Poor's Web-based credit analysis system, at www.ratingsdirect.com. All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on Standard & Poor's public Web site at www.standardandpoors.com; under Credit Ratings in the left navigation bar, select Find a Rating, then Credit Ratings Search.

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