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MPSC Issues Order Starting Collaborative Process on Wholesale Unbundled Network Elements (UNE) by SBC and Verizon

February 28, 2005

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) today issued an order that starts a collaborative process on wholesale unbundled network elements (UNE) by SBC and Verizon.

SBC on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11 issued five “Accessible Letters” that state the company will withdraw its wholesale UNE tariffs beginning as early as March 10.

Various competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) filed objections to SBC’s Accessible Letters, saying that SBC has no unilateral right to change its wholesale tariffs. SBC says its Accessible Letters are consistent with the Federal Communications Commission’s Feb. 4 order on unbundling obligations of incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs).

Finding that the objections filed by the CLECs have merit, the Commission is starting a collaborative process lasting no more than 45 days on the implementation of SBC’s and Verizon’s Accessible Letters. At the end of the collaborative process, the Commission will have a true-up proceeding that will adjust rates and charges retroactively to
March 11, 2005.

The Commission also started a proceeding that is devoted specifically to this issue – Case No. U-14447.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

Cases Nos. U-12320, U-14447

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