

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM



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ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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2008 NOV 19 A 9:49

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

NOV 19 2008

DOCKETED BY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
WWC LICENSE LLC (WWC-ALLTEL
CORPORATION) FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER AND REDEFINITION OF RURAL
TELEPHONE COMPANY SERVICE AREA.

DOCKET NO. T-04248A-04-0239

MOTION TO CLOSE DOCKET

1

2 The Arizona Local Exchange Carriers Association ("ALECA") moves to close the above-
3 captioned docket.

4 Over four-and-one-half years ago, on March 26, 2004, Western Wireless Corporation
5 ("Western Wireless"), a commercial mobile radio services ("CMRS") provider, filed with the
6 Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application for designation as an
7 eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") for certain wire centers. On August 1, 2005,
8 Western Wireless became part of the Alltel Corporation ("Alltel"). On November 2, 2007,
9 Administrative Law Judge Teena Wolfe issued a Recommended Opinion and Order ("ROO") in
10 this docket.

11 More than one year has passed since the ROO was issued. In that time, the Commission
12 has not considered the ROO and there has been no additional activity in the docket. Further, just
13 as Alltel acquired the original applicant in this docket, Alltel Corporation is now being acquired
14 by Verizon Wireless.¹ Of particular importance to this docket, the FCC conditioned the

¹ See Exhibit A and FCC 08-245 (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-258A1.pdf).

1 acquisition on Verizon Wireless' agreement to phase-out competitive ETC high cost support for
2 the acquired Alltel properties over a five year period following closing of the transaction.²

3 Because (i) the applicant in this docket has twice been acquired, (ii) the record is stale,
4 and (iii) the FCC has required Verizon Wireless to phase-out ETC high cost support for the
5 Alltel properties, it makes no sense to leave this docket open. The docket should be closed.

6 Respectfully submitted on November 18, 2008, by:

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20 **Original** and 13 copies **mailed**
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28 **Copies** of the foregoing **mailed** on
29 November 18, 2008, to:

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31 Teena Wolfe
32 Administrative Law Judge
33 Arizona Corporation Commission
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² *Id.* at ¶¶ 196, 197 and 233.

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By: 
Craig A. Marks

washingtonpost.com

Exhibit A

FCC Gives Verizon the Final Greenlight Needed to Buy Alltel

Greg Kumparak
TechCrunch.com
Tuesday, November 4, 2008; 12:42 PM

It's been nearly five months since Verizon announced their plans to buy out Alltel, but they've finally leaped the last hurdle. Just minutes ago, the FCC signed off on the \$28.1 billion dollar deal (Verizon is paying \$5.9 billion, and assuming \$22.2 billion of Alltel's debt.), clearing the way for its finalization.

The FCC's stamp of approval doesn't come without strings attached, however. Amongst other conditions, Verizon will be required to maintain any roaming agreements Alltel has with other carriers for at least four years. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin originally requested that roaming agreements would be honored for two years, and Verizon responded with the offer to honor them for four. This still wasn't quite enough for some; though the vote passed 5-0, 2 of those who voted yes dissented, feeling that the roaming agreements should be required for at least seven years.

Before the merger, Verizon had roughly 70.8 million subscribers. With Alltel bringing around 13 million new subscribers to their door, this brings Verizon's total up to approximately 83.8 million, dethroning AT&T (with 74.8 million) from the number one spot.

What does this mean to Verizon/Alltel customers? Well, "the network" just got a whole lot bigger - Alltel customers will soon have an additional 71 million people or so they can call without gobbling up their minutes. Beyond that, both groups gain access to the other's device lineup, with Alltel customers now able to take advantage of Verizon's bring-your-own-handset "Open Development" program.



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