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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL POWELL ON WITHDRAWAL OF VERIZON'S 271 APPLICATION IN NEW JERSEY

Washington, DC – Verizon has withdrawn its application to provide long distance service in New Jersey. The FCC cannot approve such applications by the Bell Companies unless they satisfy the requirements of section 271 of the Communications Act.

Despite extensive conversation on this application, questions remain regarding whether Verizon has satisfied the rigorous substantive requirements of the statute and the FCC's precedents. Moreover, the omission of critical evidence in this application underscores the importance of the Commission's requirement that applications be complete when filed.

The Commission would like to thank the New Jersey state utility commission for its enormous contribution to this proceeding.

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