

Re: Request from Voicestream Wireless Corporation; Powertel, Inc.; and Deutsche Telekom AG for FCC consent to transfer control of licenses and the authorizations and the request for a declaratory ruling allowing indirect foreign ownership.

IB Docket No. 00 - 187

Comments to the FCC:

I request the FCC to refuse to waive the prohibition against the acquisition, direct or indirect, of American telephone license by a foreign government.

The United States should guard against permitting any foreign nation influence the policy or operations of communications facilities that may become vital to our national defense or national interests. Such influence could lead to sabotage and espionage. Meaningful regulation and supervision of such a foreign license also would be, as a practical matter, impossible. There is no way to effectively investigate the influence of a foreign government, its subsidiaries or affiliated operating companies. Can you require foreign government officials to produce books and records and to give testimony before you, or in U.S. courts? The FBI would experience similar difficulties in any investigation of matters pertaining to national defense or in any other violation of criminal laws.

Thank you,
Robert J. Stankey, Jr.