



# NEWS

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Report No. CC 97-53

COMMON CARRIER ACTION

October 9, 1997

## COMMISSION MODIFIES ACCESS CHARGE REFORM ORDER

(CC Docket No. 96-262; 94-1; 91-213)

The Commission has adopted an order on reconsideration modifying several of the rules adopted in its May 7, 1997 access charge reform order.

The reconsideration order reduces the amount of the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge (PICC) assessed on Centrex lines so that Centrex users will be assessed PICCs in an amount roughly equivalent to similarly-sized PBX users. The PICC is a flat-rated, monthly, per-line charge that LECs will begin collecting from interexchange carriers (IXCs) on January 1, 1998. Under the original rule, Centrex users could have been required to pay many times more PICCs than PBX users might pay. In addition, the decision adopts a line-to-trunk equivalency ratio of nine to one, which means that for most Centrex users only one-ninth of a PICC will be assessed per Centrex line.

The decision also modifies the transport interconnection charge (TIC) exemption provided in the May 7 order to IXCs using competitive providers of local transport. The modified exemption only exempts an IXC using a competitor's transport facilities from having to pay per-minute TIC amounts that are directly related to the incumbent LEC's transport facilities. The reconsideration order also denies NYNEX's and U S West's petition to stay the rule adopted in May prohibiting LECs from assessing the per-minute TIC on traffic that uses the LECs' local switching services, but not the LECs' local transport services.

The order also grants a waiver requested by the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) that the Commission set the NECA carrier common line rates, effective January 1, 1998, at levels that will recover the difference between common line revenue requirements and revenues recovered through subscriber line charges, special access surcharges, and universal service payments equivalent to current long term support payments. This decision allows NECA to conform its rates to decisions reflected in the universal service docket by reflecting revised long term support formula amounts in its carrier common line tariff rates.

Finally, the reconsideration order provides guidance in implementing and calculating the PICC, and corrects technical errors in the rules adopted in May.

Action by the Commission October 8, 1997 by Second Order on Reconsideration and Memorandum Opinion and Order (FCC 97-368). Chairman Hundt, Commissioners Quello, Ness, and Chong.

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