



Telecom Decision CRTC 2012-664

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Ottawa, 5 December 2012

Forbearance from the regulation of high capacity / digital data services interexchange private line services on certain additional routes

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In this decision, the Commission forbears, with some conditions, from regulating high-capacity / digital data services interexchange private line services on 14 additional routes.

1. In Telecom Order 99-434, the Commission directed the competitors of several incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) to file a semi-annual report identifying the interexchange private line (IXPL) routes on which the competitors provided or offered high capacity / digital data services IXPL services (IXPL services) to at least one customer, at the equivalent of DS-3 or greater bandwidth, using terrestrial facilities from a company other than the ILEC or an affiliate of the ILEC.¹
2. Also in that order, the Commission stated that upon being satisfied that one or more competitors met this criterion, it would proceed to forbear from the regulation of IXPL services on those particular routes without further process. The reports are due on 1 April and 1 October each year.
3. The Commission received October 2012 filings from the following competitors: Axia SuperNet Ltd.; Bell Canada, on behalf of itself, Bell Aliant Regional Communications, Limited Partnership (Bell Aliant), and NorthernTel, Limited Partnership; Bragg Communications Inc., on behalf of itself, Amtelecom Telco GP Inc., and Persona Communications Corp.; Greater Sudbury Telecommunications Inc., operating as Agilis Networks; Hydro One Telecom Inc.; Manitoba Hydro Telecom; MTS Inc. and Allstream Inc. (collectively, MTS Allstream); Navigata Communications 2009, Inc.; O.N.Tel Inc., carrying on business as Ontera; Rogers Communications Partnership; Saskatchewan Telecommunications (SaskTel); Shaw Telecom G.P.; TBayTel; TELUS Communications Company (TCC); and Videotron G.P.

¹ In Telecom Order 99-905, the Commission extended the IXPL forbearance process of Telecom Order 99-434 to Québec-Téléphone, now part of TELUS Communications Company, and to Télébec ltée, now Télébec, Limited Partnership.

Commission's analysis and determinations

4. The Commission established a framework for considering whether to forbear from regulation in Telecom Decision 94-19.
5. In Telecom Decision 97-20, pursuant to section 34 of the *Telecommunications Act* (the Act) and in accordance with the framework set out in Telecom Decision 94-19, the Commission forbore in large part from regulating the IXPL services provided by the former Stentor-member companies on certain routes. The Commission expanded the scope of forbearance for forborne IXPL services provided by TCC in Telecom Decision 2003-77, and for those provided by Aliant Telecom Inc. (now part of Bell Aliant), Bell Canada, MTS Allstream, and SaskTel in Telecom Decision 2004-80.
6. The Commission has reviewed the competitors' reports filed pursuant to Telecom Order 99-434 and finds that the above-noted forbearance criterion is met for 14 additional routes, which are in territories served by Bell Aliant, Bell Canada, and TCC. These additional routes are listed in the Appendix.
7. Pursuant to subsection 34(1) of the Act, the Commission finds as a question of fact that to refrain from exercising its powers and performing its duties, to the extent specified in this decision, in relation to the regulation of IXPL services on the routes listed in the Appendix would be consistent with the Canadian telecommunications policy objectives set out in section 7 of the Act.
8. Pursuant to subsection 34(2) of the Act, the Commission finds as a question of fact that the IXPL services on the routes listed in the Appendix are subject to a level of competition sufficient to protect the interests of users of these services and that, to the extent specified in this decision, it is appropriate to refrain from regulating the IXPL services provided on these routes.
9. Pursuant to subsection 34(3) of the Act, the Commission finds as a question of fact that to refrain from regulating the IXPL services on the routes listed in the Appendix, to the extent specified in this decision, would be unlikely to unduly impair the continuance of a competitive market for these services.
10. In light of the above and pursuant to subsection 34(4) of the Act, the Commission declares that the following sections of the Act, with some exceptions as noted, do not apply to the affected ILECs' IXPL services on the routes identified in the Appendix:
 - section 24, except that the Commission directs the ILECs whose territories include one or more of the IXPL routes listed in the Appendix (the affected ILECs) to incorporate into all contracts and any other arrangements for the IXPL services forborne from regulation in this decision, where appropriate and on a going-forward basis, the existing conditions regarding the disclosure of confidential customer information to third parties. The Commission considers that it is also appropriate for it to retain sufficient powers under

section 24 of the Act to specify possible future conditions upon the forbore services provided by the affected ILECs, where circumstances warrant;

- section 25;
- section 27, except with respect to subsection 27(3) of the Act in relation to compliance with powers and duties not forbore from in this decision;
- section 29; and
- section 31.

11. The Commission directs the affected ILECs to issue, within 45 days of the date of this decision, tariff pages removing the tariffs for the IXPL services on the routes identified in the Appendix, effective on the date of issuance of the tariff pages.

Secretary General

Related documents

- *Aliant Telecom, Bell Canada, MTS Allstream and SaskTel – Forbearance from section 29 of the Act for agreements related to forbore domestic toll services and forbore interexchange private line services*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2004-80, 9 December 2004
- *TELUS' application for forbearance from section 29 of the Telecommunications Act with respect to forbore interexchange private line and long distance services*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2003-77, 19 November 2003
- Telecom Order CRTC 99-905, 17 September 1999
- *Follow-up Proceeding to Telecom Decision CRTC 97-20: Establishment of criterion and process for considering further forbearance for High Capacity/DDS interexchange private line services*, Telecom Order CRTC 99-434, 12 May 1999
- *Stentor Resource Centre Inc. – Forbearance from regulation of interexchange private line services*, Telecom Decision CRTC 97-20, 18 December 1997
- *Review of regulatory framework*, Telecom Decision CRTC 94-19, 16 September 1994

Appendix

Additional IXPL routes that qualify for forbearance based on the October 2012 reports from competitors, pursuant to Telecom Order 99-434

ILEC A	Exchange A	Exchange B	ILEC B
1 Bell Aliant	Fredericton NB	Montréal QC	Bell Canada
2 Bell Aliant	Moncton NB	Toronto ON	Bell Canada
3 Bell Canada	Detroit MI (border crossing)	Stratford ON	Bell Canada
4 Bell Canada	Port Credit ON	Toronto ON	Bell Canada
5 Bell Canada	St-Hyacinthe QC	Unionville ON	Bell Canada
6 TCC	Blaine WA (border crossing)	Victoria BC	TCC
7 TCC	Bragg Creek AB	Calgary AB	TCC
8 TCC	Calgary AB	Rockyford AB	TCC
9 TCC	Chauvin AB	Edmonton AB	TCC
10 TCC	Edmonton AB	Hay Lakes AB	TCC
11 TCC	Edmonton AB	Niton Junction AB	TCC
12 TCC	Grande Prairie AB	La Crête AB	TCC
13 TCC	Grande Prairie AB	Wabasca AB	TCC
14 TCC	Vancouver BC	Whonnock BC	TCC