



Central Station Alarm Association

Signals

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SBC to Divest Itself of SecurityLink

FCC and SBC Enter into Consent Degree on Alarm Monitoring

The **Federal Communications Commission** (FCC) announced today a **Consent Decree** between itself and **SBC Communications, Inc**, where SBC agrees to use its best efforts to enter into a contract with a buyer to divest itself of SBC's affiliate, **SecurityLink**, prior to February 9, 2001, in such a way that SBC will not retain control of SecurityLink nor of the buyer.

According to the FCC's news release,

“Divestiture of SecurityLink would result in divestiture of both the grandfathered alarm monitoring assets that Ameritech lawfully held before February 1996 and the alarm monitoring services assets that Ameritech unlawfully acquired after February 1996.”

If SBC does not divest itself of SecurityLink by February 9, 2001, it agrees to make a voluntary contribution to the U.S. Treasury of \$1,000,000 on February 10, 2001.

The **Alarm Industry Communications Committee** (AICC), a coalition of industry associations and alarm monitoring companies, fought vigorously for the divestiture.

“The alarm industry has pursued righteous causes in the face of perceived overwhelming adversaries, and proven that it is “not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog” that prevails. When you have God and justice on your side, it is hard to lose,” said **Ralph W. Sevinor**, President of the **Central Station Alarm Association** (CSAA), a member of the AICC.

“After sixteen years of work on Telecommunication issues and particularly the past four and a half years since the signing of the Telecommunications Act, there is now confirmation by both the FCC and Ameritech's parent, SBC, that the AICC alarm industry position was correct from the beginning,” added Robert Bonifas, CSAA's representative at the AICC.

CSAA: The Association for the Professional Monitoring Industry

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The action terminates certain enforcement proceedings pending before the FCC concerning compliance by SBC's affiliates, **Ameritech Corp.** and **SecurityLink** with Section 275 of the Communications Act, which prohibits Bell Operating Companies (BOCs) from providing monitoring services before February 2001. A "grandfather" exception allowed Ameritech to continue to provide alarm monitoring services that it had begun providing prior to February 1996. Section 275(a)(2) prohibits Ameritech from obtaining an equity interest in or financial control of additional unaffiliated alarm monitoring entities from February 1996 to February 2001.

Ameritech merged into SBC Communications on October 6, 1999, after Ameritech acquired the five monitoring entities.

"The FCC/SBC Consent Decree affirms that those in the alarm industry who stayed the course were legally, ethically and morally correct to seek a remedy when Ameritech violated federal law," said **Stephen P. Doyle**, Executive Vice President of CSAA. □

Read the complete text of the FCC Consent Decree order
in the "Hot News" column at CSAA's Web site,

www.csaaul.org,

available later this afternoon.