

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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NYPSC Chairman Flynn on FCC Triennial Report: New York Already Out of Starting Gate

Albany, NY – 8/22/03 – New York State Public Service Commission Chairman William M. Flynn today announced that the Commission staff is implementing its plan to address wholesale market rules governing competition in the local telecommunications market as required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in its Triennial Report. The Report, issued yesterday, August 21, spells out the standards concerning which elements of the local telephone networks incumbent local telephone companies must make available to new entrants at cost-based rates.

"We look forward to playing an integral role with interested stakeholders in maintaining effective competition in the telecommunications market here in New York State," Chairman Flynn stated. "We anticipated this Report and many of the critical issues identified by the FCC, established a framework for involving interested parties in addressing these issues, and assembled a team with tremendous expertise in competition rules of the road who are already out of the starting gate in leading our cooperative effort."

New York was the first state in the country to open local markets to competition under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 through successful implementation of the market-opening provisions of the Act. As a result, New York State leads the nation in the number of lines served by competitors.

In anticipation of the FCC's Report, the Commission previously announced the process New York is implementing to quickly deal with the FCC's requirements contained in the Triennial Report. Written statements on the scope, number, nature and timing of the proceedings to be instituted by the PSC must be submitted no later than close of business September 5. Subsequently, on September 16 Department of Public Service Administrative Law Judges will convene an informational forum of all interested parties to review statements and to develop next steps.

The Commission's Notices seeking comment in Commission Case 03C0821 can be obtained from the Commission's Web site at <http://www.dps.state.ny.us> by accessing the Commission Documents section of the homepage and conducting a files search using the case number. Many libraries offer free Internet access. The Notices can also be obtained from the Files Office, 14th floor, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).