

VERIDIAN CONNECTIONS INTERROGATORY #6

INTERROGATORY

Setting aside (for the moment) what the OEB is empowered to do or not do concerning license amendments and service area expansions, please describe Wirebury's concept of the "continued use and expansion of competition for distribution services" as identified in paragraphs 30 and 31.

RESPONSE

Wirebury's evidence is that, rather than precluding distribution competition, the Macdonald Report, the government's white paper and the Board objectives in the governing legislation, supports the expansion and continued use of competition for new distribution customers. The competing applications for customer connections underlying this combined proceeding provide sufficient evidence of the acceptance of competition for new customers. Wirebury believes that the benefits of customer choice and open competition can be extended to all areas that are not currently serviced by an incumbent LDC. Consequently, the issue for the Board to decide is not whether distribution competition should be allowed but rather to what degree, if at all, it should be limited.

