STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Re: Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25; AT&T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services, RM-10593

I am pleased that today we begin the long-overdue process of collecting the data we need to reform our special access rules.

As I said in August when I supported suspending our pricing flexibility triggers, our special access rules would benefit from a fresh look. Large and small businesses and institutions rely on these high-capacity dedicated services to meet their voice and communications needs. But the pricing flexibility triggers we had in place for more than a decade were a poor proxy for competitive conditions in a geographic market. In some circumstances they were overinclusive, while in others they were underinclusive. This led a wide variety of interests, including the Small Business Administration, the Government Accountability Office, the American Petroleum Institute, and wireline and wireless carriers to call for reform of our special access rules.

Through the data collection and rulemaking we initiate today, it is my hope that we can lay the foundation for a new system that promotes competition, investment, and deployment of high-capacity services across the country.