Southern Bell Proposes Lower Rate For Companies

ed a reduction in the charges charges to customers actuallong distance companies pay ly will lower the average local telephone companies in customer's total bill because pay local telephone com-North Carolina which, the long distance companies will company says, will result in be able to reduce their rates, lower total monthly phone more than offsetting inbills for its customers.

Dr. Frank J. Alessio, a nationally economist and consultant charges, competition within testifying for Southern Bell. told the North Carolina Utilities Commission that the long distance revenues by proposed reduction for long phone companies in the state. that shifting access charges distance companies would be offset by increased charges to Bell's residential and business customers.

Alessio introduced a study

Southern Bell today propos- that shows moving the creases in local charges.

The Commission began recognized hearings to consider access local telephone company calling zones and the pooling of

PPG, General Electric

Announce Joint Venture

Access charges include contributions, or subsidies, that long distance companies panies to help cover the costs of the dial tone line that runs from a customer's residence to the local company's central switching office. The price a customer pays for that line is less than half the cost to provide it.

Southern Bell witness David B. Denton testified to customers would increase warned of the threat of the local portion of their monthly phone bills from 75 cents

on whether the commission decides to add the charges over a three-year period, or all at once.

Alessio's study shows the company's residence and business customers will benefit from lower total telephone bills because of substantially reduced long distance rates and the increased value of long distance brought about by greater use at lower prices.

Alessio testified that access petitive market.

"The average total telephone bill for residence customers is lower with market-based carrier access charges than with the current artificially high carrier ac-

charges to long distance companies have nothing to do with the cost of local service. "The cost of a customer's dial tone line, which gives him access to the telephone network, is a separate service," he said. That expense is caused by the customer's request for service and should be paid for by that customer in today's com-

cess charges," Alessio told the commission. He also

bypass, in which long distance companies and private businesses use ser-The amount would depend vices other than local company switching offices to avoid paying access charges. Bypass will result in even

higher rates, he cautioned.
Alessio's study concludes that the plan to shift access charges to customers will not cause them to give up telephone service but actually will encourage an increase in the number of residence customers since their total

phone bills will be lower. 'Residence customers tend to react to their total telephone bill in deciding whether or not to continue subscribing to telephone service," he said.



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PPG Industries and Harden, PPG's Shelby fiber General Electric Co. announced today at a press conference in New York their intent to form a joint venture to produce and sell PPG's patented fiber glass reinforc-ed thermoplastic laminate known as Azdel sheet.
PPG and GE will become

equal partners in the new venture, to be named Azdel, Inc., according to David

The Cos makes comedy points as Chet Kincaid, a points as Chet Kincaid, a hip gym teacher at a big city high school.

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glass plant manager. The company headquarters and production facilities will be located at what is now PPG's Shelby Azdel production facility, which is adjacent to the fiber glass production

plant.
"Initially, the new company will have about 75 employees," Harden said. "They will include the 60 current PPG employees at the Shelby Azdel facility as well as the seven employees at the Azdel department center in Troy, Mich., near Detroit, where Azdel, Inc., is expected to maintain a

technology center." Harden said the joint venture is expected to be in place by mid-August, subject to ap-proval of PPG's board and the necessary government agencies, including the FTC. The new business will operate as an independent company with its own board of directors. PPG's Richard Zahren, who had been general manager of Azdel products, will be president of Azdel, Inc.

Harden said the joint venture will combine PPG's proprietary fiber glass and com-posites technology with General Electric's proprietary resin position. The new company will manufac-ture and sell the PPG-patented composite sheet to numerous industries, including the transportation, appliance, furniture, construction and materials handling industries.

An expansion at the Shelby facility is now under way, Harden said. Equipment to double Azdel sheet production is being started up and expected to be in full production by Abella.

The Shelby fiber glass plant will continue to supply fiber glass mat to the new company for producing Azdel thermoplastic composite sheet. The PPG facility for producing Azdel sheet began operations in 1979.

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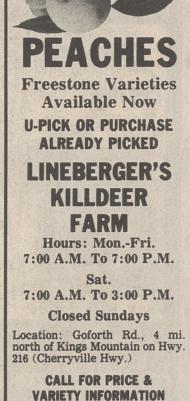


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