

199—5.7(476) Extent of deregulation. Notwithstanding the presence of effective competition, if the board determines a service or facility is an essential communications service or facility and the public interest warrants retention of service regulation, the board will deregulate rates and may continue service regulation.

No provider of the service or facility will be subject to greater or lesser regulatory control because of its alleged market share or market power.

Any deregulation under these rules, whether deregulation of rates and service or deregulation of rates only, will involve separation of the accounts of the deregulated competitive service or facility from the accounts of the telephone utility's regulated operation.

Deregulation of a service or facility for a utility is effective only after all of the following:

- a.* A finding of effective competition by the board;
- b.* Election by a utility providing the service or facility to file a deregulation accounting plan;
- c.* Approval of a utility's deregulation accounting plan by the board.