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January 8, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: NOTICE OF EX-PARTE COMMUNICATION

***Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seeks Comment on Response Efforts
Undertaken during 2017 Hurricane Season; PS Docket No. 17-344***

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On January 4th and 5th, Joe Marx, Will Schutts, José J. Morán Sifre, and I (all of AT&T) spoke with Jennifer Holtz, John Healy, and Anita Patankar-Stoll of the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. The purpose of these conversations was to discuss AT&T's experiences and general impressions regarding the restoration of service to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. AT&T did not use or distribute any presentation materials as part of either meeting.

During these conversations, we discussed the importance of stable, reliable commercial power on telecommunications networks, and the importance of both for the economic and industrial recovery of Puerto Rico. We pointed out how important the construction and repair of utility poles are to the network recovery effort. Further, we acknowledged the current opportunities to harden and/or replace power and telecommunications infrastructure in Puerto Rico with trenched facilities. Unfortunately, trenching of facilities is a long-term network infrastructure improvement strategy, not a short-term network restoration strategy and, moreover, may not be a viable option for *every* portion of the network.

Also, we briefly discussed our network mitigation strategies, both from the perspective of the unprecedented scope and duration of portable generator use, and our reliance on our satellite-based assets as a replacement for widely destroyed fiber backhaul facilities.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

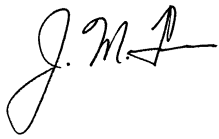
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Finally, we also discussed the importance and prevalence of coordination, between and amongst the private sector companies, various federal agencies, and Puerto Rico agencies, throughout this network restoration process.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(d) of the Commission's rules, I am filing a copy of this letter in the above-referenced docket via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. M. F." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cc: (via electronic mail)

Ms. Jennifer Holtz

Mr. John Healy

Ms. Anita Patankar-Stoll