



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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May 23, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Illinois Number Portability Task Force
c/o Brent Struthers
Illinois Commerce Commission
160 North LaSalle, Suite C-800
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3104

Re: FCC Guidance to the Illinois Number Portability Task Force
OMB Control No. 3060-0742
CC Docket No. 95-116

Dear Mr. Struthers:

On June 27, 1996, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted the *First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (First Report & Order)* in CC Docket No. 95-116, which implemented the telephone number portability provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. As you know, in the *First Report & Order*, the FCC directed the carriers that are members of the Illinois Local Number Portability Workshop to conduct a field test of Location Routing Number (LRN) or another technically feasible long-term number portability method. In addition, the FCC directed the carriers participating in the test jointly to file with the Common Carrier Bureau a report of their findings within 30 days following completion of the test.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et. seq.*, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directed the FCC to issue additional guidance on the content of the report to be prepared by the joint participants in the number portability trial. Consistent with this OMB directive, we hereby provide the following guidance with respect to the content of this report:

1. A Field Test report should evaluate accurately the ability of various service providers to implement LRN or another technically feasible long-term number portability method for Local Number Portability (LNP).
2. The Field Test report should encompass issues relating to both network capability and billing and ordering systems, as well as maintenance arrangements. The Field Test report should identify technical problems in advance of the widespread deployment of LRN or another technically feasible long-term number portability method, thereby ensuring the integrity of the public switched network as a long-term number portability solution is deployed nationwide. In particular,

- (a) Sufficient test scenarios should be designed to simulate the simultaneous failure of all number portability administration center (NPAC) databases in a region and the resulting impact on the local switches, if any, should be characterized. If no test scenarios can be designed to emulate simultaneous failures of all NPAC databases, the report should so state;
 - (b) Test scenarios should be designed to predict the effect of switch-based software fault factors on the failure of other network components. If no such test scenarios can be designed, the report should so state; and
 - (c) Test conditions should be designed to ensure that adequate time has been allocated for the installation, testing and "soaking" of the software necessary for the implementation of long-term number portability. In the event that no such conditions can be designed, the report should include such a finding.
3. Prior to initiating inter-company network testing, intra-company network testing should be completed by each individual service provider participating in the Field Test. The internal testing should be sufficient to ensure that the various elements are functioning properly before testing begins between service providers. The Field Test report should address the steps taken with respect to this issue.
4. The Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) vendor should certify that a service provider has successfully completed NPAC service management system (SMS) testing prior to that service provider's participation in the Field Test. The Field Test report should address the steps taken with respect to this issue.
5. The Field Test report should address tests of the ported subscriber's service. As applicable, various components of the telecommunications infrastructure (*e.g.*, CLASS, LIDB, 800/888 service, enhanced 911, OSPS, and calls to and from wireless networks) should be tested.
6. A summary of the results of the Final Test plan should be submitted to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC, within 30 days after the completion of the test plan.

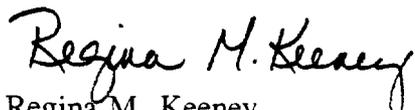
I hope that this additional guidance proves useful. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Steven Teplitz in the Common Carrier Bureau's Policy and Program Planning Division. Mr. Teplitz can be reached at 202-418-2692. The implementation of local number portability is essential to meaningful competition

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in the provision of local exchange service, and the contribution of the Illinois Number Portability Task Force in this effort is greatly appreciated. We look forward to receiving your report.

Sincerely,



Regina M. Keeney
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau

cc: Donald R. Arbuckle,
Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory
Office of Management and Budget