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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Released: July 1, 1998

**COMMISSION SEEKS COMMENT ON REQUEST
 BY VIRGIN ISLANDS TELEPHONE CORPORATION
 FOR EXTENSION AND WAIVER OF THE
 CARRIER IDENTIFICATION CODE (CIC)
 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
 (CC Docket No. 92-237)**

Comment Date: July 8, 1998

In its October 22, 1997, CICs Order on Reconsideration, the Commission created a "two-step" transition. The CICs Order on Reconsideration mandated that all LECs providing equal access complete switch changes to recognize four-digit CICs by January 1, 1998, the end of the first phase. In addition, the Commission mandated that the transition or permissive dialing period, during which LEC networks would process both three-digit CICs that allow five-digit CAC dialing and four-digit CICs that allow seven-digit CAC dialing would end on June 30, 1998. After June 30, 1998, only four-digit CICs and seven-digit CACs will be recognized. The Commission also affirmed its previous decision not to grandfather the use of three-digit CICs and five-digit CACs that were in use during the transition. Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), Order on Reconsideration, Order on Application for Review and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 92-237, FCC 97-386 (rel. Oct. 22, 1997). In a May 6, 1998, CICs Declaratory Ruling, the Common Carrier Bureau clarified Commission requirements concerning the June 30, 1998, deadline by stating that carriers begin blocking three-digit CICs no earlier than July 1, 1998. Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Carrier Identification Codes (CICs), Declaratory Ruling, CC Docket No. 92-237, DA 98-828 (rel. May 1, 1998).

On June 12, 1998, the Virgin Islands Telephone Corp. (Vitelco) filed a Petition for Extension of the Commission's Rules Regarding Transition to Four-Digit CICs requesting that the Commission extend its waiver of the conversion deadline for four-digit CIC capability from a previously-granted July 1, 1998, waiver deadline until December 1999. In a letter filed June 25, 1998, Vitelco clarified its petition to also request that the Commission waive the three-digit CIC blocking deadline of July 1, 1998, until Vitelco has implemented seven-digit CAC dialing in December 1999.

Interested parties may file comments no later than July 8, 1998; no reply comments will be accepted. Comments should discuss both the technical and competitive aspects of issues raised by Vitelco's requests. An original and four copies of all comments and replies must be filed in

accordance with Section 1.51(c) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.51(c). In addition, one copy of each pleading must be filed with the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036, and two copies with the Chief, Network Services Division, Room 235, 2000 M Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20554.

For further information, contact Renee Alexander, (202) 418-2497 (voice), (202) 418-2224 (TTY), or Kris Monteith, (202) 418-1098, at the Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission.

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