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EX PARTE PRESENTATION

August 18, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

AUG 18 '98

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Re: Written Ex Parte Presentation
CC Docket No. 97-213

Dear Ms. Salas:

In response to a recent ex parte submission filed in the above-referenced docket, the United States Telephone Association (USTA) is providing additional information to supplement the record in this proceeding. USTA is the principal trade association of the incumbent local exchange carrier industry with approximately 1,000 wireline telephone company members. All of these members are subject to the requirements of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA).

In an August 4, 1998 ex parte submission, the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) provided significant information regarding the schedules of switch manufacturers to develop and make generally available products which comply with the requirements of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). As explained in the ex parte, while manufacturers have devoted enormous engineering resources to the implementation of CALEA, no manufacturers anticipate having a complete solution generally available for all switch platforms which implements the interim industry standard (J-STD-025) until at least 2000. The term "generally available" is significant. Usually, after a manufacturer has completed the coding of new software, there is a period of from three to six months during which the

1Ex Parte Submission from Stewart A. Baker, Esq., to Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, CC Docket No. 97-213, August 4, 1998.

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software is tested in a live switch in the network (variously called "first office application" or "verification office" testing) before the software is called "generally available". As TIA observes, this is why an extension of the compliance date to October 25, 2000 is necessary.

TIA also points out that once a product which is compliant with J-STD-025 becomes generally available, additional time will be required to install these products into the carrier switches. USTA estimates that it would require approximately twelve months from the time a software product is generally available, as defined above, for a large wireline carrier to make a generic switch upgrade in every switch. An additional year will be required to install a hardware product and/or additional generic loads which may be necessary depending upon the switch. Any installation plan is dependent upon the vintage of the switch, the status of the existing platform, the carrier's budget planning and the availability of reimbursement by the government as required by CALEA. Thus, USTA strongly urges the Commission to consider all of the time necessary to ensure that CALEA is implemented in the most efficient and cost effective manner and provide adequate time for carriers to comply with CALEA.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, an original and two copies of this letter are enclosed for inclusion in CC Docket No. 97-213.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda L. Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Linda L. Kent
Associate General Counsel

cc: Dan Connors
Ari Fitzgerald
Karen Gulick
Paul Misener
Peter Tenhula