

ATTACHMENT 2

type of provider Y is. There are three likely possibilities: (1) a conventional “local exchange carrier” (LEC) such as CenturyLink, (2) a mobile wireless provider such as AT&T, Verizon Wireless, or Sprint, or (3) a provider of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services such as Cox or Time Warner Cable. VoIP is a means of providing voice telephony services over a broadband connection by means of the same family of digital technologies used for Internet communications. This appeal challenges the FCC’s decision to privilege fixed-line VoIP services over wireless services for access charge purposes.²

We introduce this dispute with several scenarios illustrating which providers may collect access charges and for what types of network functions.

Scenario 1: calls to conventional wired telephone lines. Suppose that a friend in Los Angeles places a long-distance call to your home line in Denver. Your friend’s long-distance company will transport the call to the Denver area and hand it off to your local telephone company there. If your phone company is a

² See Order ¶¶ 968-971. A “fixed” VoIP provider supplies the last-mile broadband connection to the VoIP subscriber; examples include cable companies and integrated IP service providers such as AT&T in some locations. This appeal focuses only on fixed VoIP services because the FCC has effectively precluded, in relevant part, access charges for calls to subscribers of “over-the-top” VoIP services offered by providers such as Vonage or Skype that do *not* supply broadband transmission. *Id.* ¶ 970 & n.2028.