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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Numbering Resource Optimization	)	CC Docket No. 99-200
	)	
Petitions for Reconsideration	)	
And Clarification	)	

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REPLY TO OPPOSITIONS

WorldCom, Inc. ("WorldCom") hereby submits this Reply to Oppositions to Petitions for Reconsideration filed in the above-referenced docket. It is apparent that there is widespread agreement within the industry regarding most issues. Here, WorldCom answers the few objections raised against its Petition.

We note at the outset that no party objected to WorldCom's request that the Commission establish an expedited review process to ensure that state commission decisions taken pursuant to delegated authority over numbering administration comply with the Communications Act, this Commission's rules, and sound public policy. Such a process would benefit all by reducing uncertainty over how and where to seek enforcement of national numbering policy.

T1S1.6 Technical Standard. According to BellSouth, unless the Commission requires carriers to implement the T1S1.6 standard, the rollout of pooling will be more complicated and could be delayed.[1] This is a remarkable assertion with no supporting evidence. If anything, mandatory implementation of the T1S1.6 standard, which

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establishes complicated and costly announcement protocols, might itself complicate and delay the rollout of pooling.[2] No party has made any showing that the mandatory implementation of the T1S1.6 standard is a necessary precondition to the rollout of pooling. The Commission never required implementation of a specific technical standard for LNP. It should not do so for pooling.

Cost Recovery. BellSouth also argues that the Commission should guarantee the recovery of all costs incurred to participate in state-initiated pooling trials.[3] Such a cost recovery guarantee would contravene the "but for" standard that the Commission intends to apply to pooling cost recovery. National pooling cannot be the "but for" cause of costs incurred to participate in state pooling. If the Commission provided for recovery of state pooling costs via the national cost recovery mechanism, it would perversely encourage states to disregard this critical issue. There is no need for such cost recovery insurance. If BellSouth is denied the opportunity to recover legitimate costs associated with state pooling, it can seek a remedy for that denial. It is not within this Commission's purview to provide cost recovery for state proceedings.

Reseller Reporting. BellSouth and Qwest both object to WorldCom's argument that resellers that are common carriers should have no greater reporting obligation than non-carrier resellers.[4] In fact, they agree with WorldCom that the extent of the reporting obligation should not depend on a reseller's status as a carrier or non-carrier entity. However, there is little record justification for placing the same reporting obligation on resellers, including non-carriers, as on code and block holders. Many resellers are likely

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[1] BellSouth Opposition and Comments at 10.
[2] No state has required implementation of this standard for state pooling trials, which nonetheless appear to be moving forward.
[3] BellSouth Opposition and Comments at 7-8.

to be relatively small businesses for which the reporting requirements would constitute a substantial burden. Moreover, resellers frequently obtain numbering resources in quite small blocks. The Commission's reporting forms and requirements are not well-tailored for entities that hold numerous blocks consisting of as few as five or six telephone numbers. It makes far better sense to encourage resellers and their underlying providers to establish mechanisms for reporting by the underlying provider, than to impose ill-fitting reporting requirements on resellers.

Reporting of Ported, Reserved Numbers. SBC has expressed "bafflement" at WorldCom's recommendation that the Commission require porting carriers to continue to report reserved, ported numbers as *reserved* until they are either assigned or returned.[5] SBC appears to be confused about the nature of the reporting obligation for ported numbers. According to SBC, "[t]o argue that the donating carrier has some continuing obligation to include the ported numbers in its inventory is patently absurd." Of course, this is exactly what the Commission's rules do. Under those rules, the porting carrier will continue to report ported assigned numbers as *assigned*, while the receiving carrier will not include such numbers in its reporting at all.[6] WorldCom's suggestion was intended to fill what appears to be an inadvertent hole in the Commission's rules – the treatment of ported, reserved numbers. There may be other ways to fill that hole, but SBC has not suggested one.

Sequential Assignment. SBC also opposes WorldCom's request that the Commission clarify that service providers may assign numbers out of sequence to meet a

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[4] *Id.* at 12; Qwest Corporation Support/Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration/Clarification at 5-7.
[5] Opposition/Support of SBC Communications, Inc. to Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification ("SBC Opposition") at 7.

bona fide customer request. According to SBC, such an assignment "would serve to needlessly contaminate thousands-blocks and undercut the Commission's efforts to aggressively address number conservation."[7] This is an admirable sentiment from a company that is likely to hold many more contaminated thousands-blocks than do its competitors.[8] Unless the Commission makes the requested clarification, incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs") like SBC will hold a competitive advantage over competitive local exchange carriers when it comes to meeting customer number requests. Since SBC has more contaminated blocks than WorldCom, it would have greater flexibility to meet customer requests for numbers with specific characteristics. The Commission should not enhance the competitive advantage that the ILECs hold because of their massive number inventories.

Proof of Need for Initial Codes. The California Public Utility Commission ("CPUC") appears to be in complete agreement with WorldCom that any *type* of proof of authorization and readiness that is acceptable in one state, should also be acceptable in other states.[9] WorldCom welcomes the CPUC's commitment to uniformity in the required showing. The CPUC appears, however, to misunderstand WorldCom's proposal. WorldCom never intended to suggest that proof of authorization and readiness in one state could be used to support code applications in other states. Such a proposal would be absurd. Instead, WorldCom strongly supports the CPUC's commitment to uniformity with respect to the type of proof that is required.

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[6] In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, CC Docket No. 99-200, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (rel. March 31, 2000), ¶ 18.
[7] SBC Opposition at 8.
[8] As a result of the large number of contaminated blocks held by the ILECs, those companies will likely hold number inventories projected to last far longer than 6 months in many rate areas. In contrast, after block donation it is likely that CLEC number inventories will be far closer to 6 months.
[9] CPUC Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration at 14-15.

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August 30, 2000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Vivian Lee, do hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Reply to Oppositions of WorldCom, Inc. In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification were sent via first class mail, postage paid, to the following on this 30th day of August, 2000.

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