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EX PARTE

September 30, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *In the Matter of Telephone Number Portability*, CC Docket No. 95-116

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 26, 2003, Cronan O'Connell of Qwest Communications International Inc., ("Qwest") and Jon Nuechterlein of Wilmer Cutler and Pickering, representing Qwest, met with Dan Gonzalez, Senior Legal Advisor and Jason Williams, Special Assistant to Commissioner Kevin Martin of the Federal Communications Commission to discuss intermodal LNP issues. In particular, Qwest discussed: 1) the technical burdens created by changing the LNP rules in place today coupled with the fact that we do not yet have a clear definition of how the rules would be changed; 2) the competitive inequities for all providers who implemented LNP according to the Commission's rules, in effect since 1996, should the Commission modify the current LNP rules as currently advocated by the wireless providers; and 3) the fact that the Commission has not yet properly notified the public and the industry of the Commission's potential LNP rule changes and given the public sufficient time to establish a proper record on which it can rely in determining which rule changes are in the public interest. The discussion was consistent with Qwest's comments and *ex partes* as filed on the record.

During the discussion a question was raised as to whether the wireline companies themselves could use the LRN to port numbers between rate centers. Wireline carriers, like all LNP-capable service providers, use the LRN architecture as a means of properly routing calls in a porting environment. However, call routing is distinct and separate from all of the other network and OSS considerations which make porting across a rate center boundary technically infeasible. LRNs are used to direct calls to the appropriate service provider that serves a particular telephone number. LRNs are not used by service providers to facilitate the ordering and provisioning of service and the proper billing of calls. As discussed by Qwest in its previous *ex partes*, there is a currently well-defined process that is used to establish and provide service to a customer. This process is separate and distinct from the customer routing information necessary to route calls to the proper terminating locations. This process and system must properly work in tandem to provide finished telecommunications services to the customer.

Qwest was also questioned about porting intervals and as Qwest has stated previously on the record, will port with any carrier under our current three-day porting intervals. Although, NANC intervals currently are set at four-days, Qwest has reduced the interval down to three days. Needless to say, Qwest will continue to work with the industry and the NANC to manage these timelines to meet all carriers' needs. However, Qwest insists that the appropriate checks must continue to remain in place to minimize detrimental impacts to customers.

In closing, while discussions of alternatives are helpful to facilitate a list of potential LNP porting solutions, like all proposals with regard to intermodal LNP between wireline and wireless providers, the multitude of issues have not been fully noticed on the public record and the public has not yet had the opportunity to fully document the time, and cost, let alone the technical feasibility, for any of these potential solutions. Therefore, based on the fact that the wireless carriers' proposals are neither bi-directional nor do they meet the Commission's public policy objectives for numbering whereby an adopted policy should not favor one technology over another, let alone one service provider over another, the Commission should release a FNPRM to determine the best means to accomplish its stated objectives and meet the public interest test.

In accordance with FCC Rule 47 C.F.R. § 1.49(f), this *ex parte* letter is being filed electronically for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceeding pursuant to FCC Rule 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2).

Sincerely,
/s/ Cronan O'Connell

cc:

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