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September 3, 2004

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RE: WT Docket 02-55

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

I am writing in my capacity as chair of the Transition Administrator (TA) Search Committee to request an extension of time to submit our recommendations to the Commission. The other members of the Search Committee are Jill Lyon (UTC), Mark Crosby (ITA), Christine Gill (Southern Linc) and Geoff Stearn (Nextel). Pursuant to the *Report and Order* in WT Docket 02-55, the Search Committee was to convene no later than August 23, 2004, and submit its recommendations to the Commission by September 20, 2004. The Search Committee convened on August 18, and has been working diligently to fulfill its obligations. Since August 18, the Committee has taken the following steps through face-to-face meetings and telephone conference calls:

- Developed internal operating procedures.
- Analyzed portions of *Report and Order* addressing the TA's responsibilities and identified areas requiring clarification.
- Met with FCC staff on August 26, to discuss the responsibilities of the TA and identify subjects that may require Commission clarification or correction before prospective TA candidates submit proposals.
- Developed a draft Request for Statements of Interest containing a description of the required qualifications of the TA.

- Developed procedures for prospective TAs to submit questions and receive answers regarding the selection process and responsibilities of the TA.
- Developed a procedure for submitting a Statement of Interest.
- Established a website for posting the Request for Statement of Interest, fielding questions, and submitting Statements of Interest.

We understand that the Commission intends to release a Public Notice announcing the establishment of the Search Committee and pointing interested parties to the website containing the Request for Statements of Interest. We believe that prospective TAs should have fourteen (14) days from the date of the Commission's Public Notice to submit their Statements of Interest, and that the Search Committee should have at least fourteen (14) days to review and evaluate those Statements of Interest, interview top candidates, seek further information if necessary, and make a final recommendation to the Commission. We believe that such a time frame is essential to ensure that the TA selected is properly qualified to perform the critical tasks set forth in the *Report and Order*.

Our proposed timeframe does not permit submission of our recommendation by September 20, as required by the *Report and Order*. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Commission allow thirty (30) days from the date of the Public Notice for the Search Committee to submit its recommendation. A copy of this request will be filed with the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. Gurss