

The Point of Interconnection Must be Within Rural ILEC's Network

- CMRS carriers are attempting to use separate rating and routing to move the POI from within the ILEC's network to the RBOC tandem.
- Some commenters appear to create a “dual-POI” requirement that does not exist.
- “Dual-POI” arrangements would wrongly place interconnection at RBOC tandem for rural ILEC-originated traffic and on ILEC network for CMRS-originated traffic.
- The Act does not require the rural ILEC's POI to be beyond its network, nor does it require the rural ILEC to assume transport responsibility beyond its network.

ILECs Have Statutorily Mandated Toll Dialing Parity Obligations

- ILECs have toll dialing parity obligations for interexchange calls.
 - For local traffic to a CMRS customer, transport beyond the POI is part of the CMRS carrier's terminating responsibility and subject to reciprocal compensation.
 - For interexchange traffic to a CMRS customer, an IXC carries the traffic and should pay the ILEC.
- If ILECs are forced to route interexchange calls to wireless customers without using the customer's PIC, then:
 - toll dialing parity requirements would be violated, and
 - IXCs would be eliminated from an entire segment of the market, and
 - a nonsensical dichotomy results.
 - IXCs carry interexchange traffic bound for wireline customers, while ILECs carry interexchange traffic bound for wireless customers.

Recommendations:

- Any FCC decision must not place ILECs in violation of toll dialing parity obligations in Section 251(b)(3).
- The Commission should confirm that a POI must be located within each ILEC's network as required by Section 251(c)(2).
- With the above FCC direction, states should be left to fulfill their statutory role in overseeing negotiations and arbitrations on wireless/wireline interconnection.
- Compensation issues and responsibilities should be determined in the intercarrier compensation docket, not through a narrow declaratory ruling.
- Rating, routing and transport issues have strong implications to universal service.