



April 25, 2005

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EX PARTE – VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45; *Universal Service Fund Contribution Methodology*
Notice of Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 22, 2005, Nanette Thompson, Vice President, Federal Policy and I met with Commissioner Michael Copps and his Legal Advisor, Jessica Rosenworcel. We discussed the importance of FCC action to reform the USF contribution methodology to broaden the contribution base on a per unit basis. The contribution methodology proposed as part of the Intercarrier Compensation Forum plan is one way to approach this issue. In addition, as the Joint Board considers options for high cost reform, the distribution mechanism must remain both competitively and technologically neutral to ensure that rural consumers continue to benefit from competition and so that an urban/rural divide for IP-based services is not created.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter with attachment is being filed in the captioned proceeding.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tina M. Pidgeon
Vice President, Federal Regulatory Affairs