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Ex Parte

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

Re: Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135

Dear Ms. Dortch:

AT&T's July 30 letter to Chairman Kevin J. Martin noted that CLECs are now engaging in unlawful traffic pumping schemes, and that the traffic associated with the schemes has begun to migrate from ILECs to CLECs. AT&T concluded that a rulemaking solely addressing ILEC traffic pumping would not effectively eliminate traffic pumping and recommended that in its forthcoming rulemaking the Commission address CLEC traffic pumping as well as traffic pumping by ILECs. Verizon has observed similar trends on its network and agrees with AT&T's recommendation.

The volume of minutes that Verizon routed to traffic pumping CLECs *more than doubled* between November 2006 and August 2007 -- from approximately twenty-five million minutes of use ("MOU") to approximately sixty-seven million MOUs. In the most recent month for which data are available, August 2007, traffic routed to traffic pumping CLECs accounted for approximately eighty percent of all MOUs routed to traffic pumping LECs by Verizon.

The increased traffic volumes routed to certain individual CLECs during that ten-month period are remarkable. For example, in November 2006 Verizon sent to Premier Communications Inc. of Iowa only thirty MOUs. By August 2007, that number had increased *more than one hundred thousand times*, to approximately three million MOUs. Similarly, the volume of traffic Verizon has routed to Omnitel Communications, Inc. of Iowa has increased from approximately eighty-two thousand MOUs in June 2007 to approximately six million MOUs in August 2007 -- a more than seventy-fold increase in just two months.

Between November 2006 and August 2007, Verizon also observed similar dramatic volume increases for other CLECs, including but not limited to the following companies:

- Coon Creek Telecommunications Corp. of Iowa (increasing from approximately seventy thousand MOUs in November 2006 to approximately four million MOUs in August 2007);
- Bluegrass Telephone Company, Inc. of Kentucky (increasing from approximately twenty thousand MOUs in November 2006 to approximately one million MOUs in August 2007);
- Northern Valley Communications, LLC of South Dakota (increasing from approximately one million MOUs in November 2006 to approximately eight million MOUs in August 2007);
- BTC, Inc. of Iowa (increasing from approximately five hundred thousand MOUs in November 2006 to approximately four million MOUs in August 2007); and
- Tekstar Communications, Inc. of South Dakota (increasing from approximately four million MOUs in November 2006 to approximately twenty million MOUs in August 2007).

Traffic pumping is the only plausible explanation for the dramatic increases in volume that these CLECs and other CLECs experienced during such a short time period.

As these traffic patterns demonstrate, CLEC traffic pumping has become a serious issue. In order to stop the growth of CLEC traffic pumping and the migration of traffic pumping from ILECs to CLECs, the forthcoming rulemaking proceedings should also address CLEC traffic pumping.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Epps". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

cc: Dana Shaffer
Donald Stockdale
Albert Lewis
Deena Shetler