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December 6, 2007

Via Electronic Filing

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

Re: *Ex parte*: WC Docket No. 06-159: Petition of Neutral Tandem, Inc. for Interconnection with Verizon Wireless Pursuant to Section 201(a) and 332(c)(1)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to respond on behalf of Neutral Tandem, Inc., to the *ex parte* letter submitted December 5, 2007, by John T. Scott, III of Verizon Wireless in reference to the above-captioned docket.

To put Mr. Scott's letter in some context, Neutral Tandem has been seeking to terminate traffic directly to Verizon Wireless for over four years, through three separate proceedings before this Commission, and has had numerous contacts with Verizon Wireless over that time. The lack of progress from those four years of effort is the reason for the above-referenced petition being filed.

Section 201(a) of the Communications Act provides the Commission with authority to impose interconnection requirements where warranted in the public interest, and Section 332(c)(1)(A) expressly provides for the continued applicability of Section 201 with respect to commercial mobile services. Further, Neutral Tandem believes that the record in this proceeding does establish conclusively that the interconnection it seeks with Verizon Wireless is necessary and desirable in the public interest.

As Mr. Scott describes, contacts between the two companies resumed within the past few weeks, after it was reported that a draft order in this proceeding was being circulated. Nonetheless, until quite recently, Neutral Tandem did not believe that these contacts provided any basis for a negotiated resolution of issues that would obviate the need for Commission action in this docket. During a telephone conference on the afternoon of December 4, however, the parties had substantive discussions on many of the issues in this proceeding. The two companies had a further conference today, December 6, and have agreed to continue their discussions. To preserve the confidentiality of these discussions, Neutral Tandem will not characterize them other than to say that both parties appear to be making a good-faith effort to resolve issues.

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Neutral Tandem is committed to concluding these discussions with Verizon Wireless within a very short time, so as to avoid any unnecessary delay in resolution of the issues pending before the Commission. We commit to advising the Commission of the status of the discussions as soon as possible, and will update this information no later than Tuesday, December 11, one week after the good-faith negotiations commenced.

Respectfully submitted,

/electronically signed/

Russell M. Blau

cc: Daniel Gonzalez
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