



October 8, 2008

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

***Ex Parte Notice***

**Re: CC Docket No. 01-92, *In the Matter of Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime*; WC Docket No. 05-337, *In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support*; CC Docket No. 96-45, *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*; CC Docket No. 99-68, *In the Matter of Inter-carrier Compensation for ISP-Bound Traffic***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 7, 2008, representatives of Great Plains Communications, Inc. of Blair, Nebraska, Consolidated Companies of Lincoln, Nebraska, Chickasaw Telephone Company of Sulphur, Oklahoma, Eastex Telephone Cooperative of Henderson, Texas, and the Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperatives, Inc. met separately with FCC staff and representatives from two commissioners' offices regarding the above-referenced dockets.

Participants included Cheryl Parrino, of Parrino Strategic Consulting Group, Madison, Wisconsin; Larry Jones, Chief Financial Officer of Chickasaw Telephone Company; Weldon Gray, Chief Financial Officer of Eastex Telephone Cooperative; Jo Shotwell, of CHR Solutions, Inc., Austin, Texas; Wendy Thompson Fast, Chief Executive Officer of Consolidated Companies; and Ken Pfister, Vice President-Strategic Policy of Great Plains Communications.

The group presented its views on the factual and legal claims recently made by Verizon in its attempt to get the Commission to adopt a .0007/minute terminating charge. It also presented its analysis of the benefits that would accrue to AT&T and Verizon if their proposals were adopted, as well as the harm that would be done to rural ILECs and their customers under such proposals. In addition, the group presented its analysis of the benefits to AT&T and Verizon if those companies' number-based USF contributions proposal is adopted. Finally, the group urged that if a numbers-based proposal is adopted, it should include some method of assessing special access so that users of those services also support universal service.



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Meetings were held with the following:

- Nicholas Alexander, legal advisor for wireline issues to Commissioner McDowell.
- Greg Orlando, legal advisor for wireline issues to Commissioner Taylor Tate.
- Claude Aiken, Nicholas Degani, Cindy Spiers, Greg Guice, Marcus Maher, Al Lewis, Doug Slotten, Randy Clarke, Carol Pompomo and Matt Warner of the Wireline Competition Bureau and Lisa Gelb of the Office of General Counsel.

This letter is being filed pursuant to Commission rules. Please contact me at (402) 426-6413 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Pfister".

Ken Pfister  
Vice President-Strategic Policy  
Great Plains Communications, Inc.

Attachment

Cc: Commissioner McDowell  
Commissioner Taylor Tate  
Nicholas Alexander  
Greg Orlando  
Claude Aiken  
Nicholas Degani  
Cindy Spiers  
Greg Guice  
Marcus Maher  
Al Lewis  
Doug Slotten  
Randy Clarke  
Carol Pompomo  
Matt Warner  
Lisa Gelb  
Donald Stockdale  
Dana Shaffer  
Jeremy Marcus