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December 2, 2008

Via ECFS

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

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication, Dockets 96-45, 99-68, 01-92, 04-36, 05-337,
& 06-122**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, this is to notify you that, on December 1, 2008, Robert Hale, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of Granite Telecommunications, Inc. ("Granite"), along with the undersigned, spoke by telephone with Scott Deutchman, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps, concerning the above-referenced dockets.

The purpose of this presentation was to discuss Granite's position on intercarrier compensation and universal service reform. The views expressed in the meeting were consistent with those stated in Granite's *ex parte* letters filed in the above-referenced dockets on October 27 and 28, 2008. In particular, Granite emphasized that (a) any changes to the current access charge regime should not be implemented immediately because carriers who provide retail services in competitive markets need time to adjust pricing for services provided under multi-year contracts; and (b) the Commission should reject the Universal Service contribution methodology proposed in Appendix B to the recent FNPRM, because it would impose crushing and irrational burdens on small business customers.

Very truly yours,

/s/ electronically signed

Russell M. Blau

cc (by e-mail): Scott Deutchman
Robert Hale, Jr.

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