



September 15, 2009

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

*EX PARTE NOTICE*

RE: *A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket 09-51*  
*Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket 05-25*  
*Universal Service Contribution Methodology, WC Dkt 06-112*  
*Federal State Board on Universal Service, CC Dkt 96-45*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, BT hereby gives notice that on September 14, Sheba Chacko spoke with Nick Alexander, Legal Advisor to Commissioner McDowell, via phone to brief him about possible topics that may be covered in the upcoming meeting between Commissioner McDowell and BT's CEO Ian Livingston on September 17, 2009.

BT reiterated its concerns about ineffective regulation of special access, other dedicated access services such as Ethernet, and the Universal Service Fund. On the access issue, BT highlighted that in addition to the wealth of data filed in the special access dockets, price comparisons of equivalent UK access products show that US products are more expensive. BT committed to make this data available shortly. Moreover, as BT has stated in comments filed in the National Broadband Plan docket, GN 09-51, ineffective regulation of access bottlenecks also has a negative impact on the uptake of broadband services. BT urged the FCC to take action on access and to start by issuing a data request.

On the issue of universal service, BT urged the FCC to reform the USF contribution and distribution mechanisms and stated its support for the numbers-based proposal put forth by AT&T and Verizon, primarily because of the simplicity and ease of administration of this proposal. However, BT also expressed its willingness to consider other reform proposals that are fair.

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If you have any questions regarding matters discussed herein, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SChacko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "S" and a stylized "C".

Sheba Chacko  
Head, Global Operational Regulation  
and Americas Regulation - BT Global Services