

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20054**

In the Matter of)	
)	
IP-Enabled Services)	WC Docket No. 04-36
)	
Implementation of Sections 255 and 251(a)(2))	WT Docket No. 96-198
of The Communications Act of 1934, as)	
Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of)	
1996: Access to Telecommunications Service,)	
Telecommunications Equipment and)	
Customer Premises Equipment by Persons)	
with Disabilities)	
)	
Telecommunications Relay Services and)	CG Docket No. 03-123
Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals)	
with Hearing and Speech Disabilities)	
)	
The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated)	CC Docket No. 92-105
Dialing Arrangements)	

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF WAIVER

AT&T Inc. (“AT&T”), on behalf of its telephone companies, files this Petition for Extension of Waiver from the requirements of Commission Rule 64.604(a)(4) to the extent it requires traditional telecommunications relay service (“TRS”) providers to automatically and immediately transfer 711-dialed emergency calls that originate on interconnected voice over internet protocol (“VoIP”) networks to an appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”).

Discussion

On June 26, 2009, the Commission extended until June 29, 2010 the waiver granted to traditional TRS providers of their obligation to automatically and immediately route emergency

711-dialed calls received from an interconnected VoIP service provider to an appropriate PSAP.¹

The Commission based its decision on the continued significant operational and technical challenges encountered by traditional TRS providers in reliably identifying the physical location of a VoIP caller making a 711 emergency call.² Specifically, the Commission determined as follows:

The record reflects that the remaining technical and operational challenges of compliance with this requirement are formidable and that a comprehensive resolution of these issues will require significant, ongoing collaboration among a variety of industry stakeholders. At the same time, the comments suggest that the increasing popularity and availability of Internet-based forms of TRS have significantly reduced the number of consumers with broadband Internet access who communicate via a TTY and an interconnected VoIP service, rather than via an Internet-based form of TRS. Moreover, the introduction of more forward-looking solutions, such as the “real-time text” solution described by the Consumer Groups, is likely to diminish further the incidence of TTY use with an interconnected VoIP service.³

This situation has not changed. Although VoIP calls can now be identified by the dedicated toll free number on which the calls arrive at AT&T’s TRS centers, few VoIP providers have taken advantage of that solution. It also does not resolve the remaining problems--TRS providers cannot reliably identify the location of a VoIP caller because of the unreliability of the telephone number as an indicator of geographic location⁴ and TRS providers’ lack of access to

¹ IP-Enabled Services; Implementation of Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996: Access to Telecommunications Service, Telecommunications Equipment and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals With Hearing and Speech Disabilities; The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements, WC Docket No. 04-36, WT Docket No. 96-198, CG Docket No. 03-123 & CC Docket No. 92-105, Order, (rel. June 26, 2009) (the “2009 Waiver Order”).

² *Id.* at ¶15.

³ *Id.*

⁴ For VoIP callers, the telephone number is an unreliable indicator of the caller’s geographic location because VoIP providers have assigned “non-geographically relevant” telephone numbers or offered “nomadic” VoIP services.

registered location information from VoIP.⁵ AT&T anticipates that these issues will remain unresolved for some time.

The current waiver of Commission Rule 64.604(a)(4) expires on June 29, 2010. In the 2009 Waiver Order, the Commission rejected AT&T's call to grant an indefinite waiver of Commission Rule 64.604(a)(4) in this respect due to the continued inability to resolve technical and operating challenges and the minimal number of calls that will be affected. The passage of another year has merely reinforced the opinion of AT&T that an indefinite waiver is warranted. AT&T's records reveal that from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010, emergency calls via 711 comprised a mere 0.005% of the total 711 calls received at AT&T's Pennsylvania and Virginia relay centers (comparable to the 0.003% during the same period in 2008-2009), and that AT&T VoIP customers completed no emergency calls via TTY in the last year. AT&T respectfully petitions the Commission to indefinitely waive the requirement in Rule 64.604(a)(4) that traditional TRS providers route VoIP originated emergency calls via 711 to the appropriate PSAP. In the alternative, AT&T requests an extension of one to three years.

For the foregoing reasons, Petitioners respectfully request that the Commission consider AT&T's Petition.

⁵ See AT&T, Inc. Comments, p. 6-9, WC Docket No. 04-36, WT Docket No. 96-198, CG Docket No. 03-123 & CC Docket No. 92-105 (filed May 28, 2009), explaining the problem with accessing registered location information from a VoIP provider.

Dated: June 23, 2010

Respectfully submitted,



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