



CenturyLink™

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE NOTICE

*Re: Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Dkt. No. 01-92;
A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 28, 2010, David Bartlett, Jeb Benedict and I met on behalf of CenturyLink with Margaret McCarthy in the office of Commissioner Copps. CenturyLink agreed that intercarrier compensation reform is critical to broadband deployment and expressed general agreement with the framework in the National Broadband Plan.

In particular, CenturyLink explained the importance to the Commission's broadband deployment goals of preserving and making explicit the high-cost support reflected in access charges. In addition, we explained the need for all carriers to compensate each other for the costs associated with using network facilities, which are particularly important with respect to higher-cost rural transport networks. CenturyLink explained that the Commission must take action promptly on the interim measures of phantom traffic, traffic pumping, and IP-PSTN access compensation to build confidence that the Commission and stakeholders can make progress on intercarrier compensation reform.

With respect to the treatment of IP-originated traffic, CenturyLink emphasized the need to ensure revenue stability during the transition to a new universal service and intercarrier compensation regime. It also noted that the Commission must not retroactively upset the current and long-held industry practice of treating IP-originated traffic like all other traffic on the PSTN. CenturyLink also explained that there is no way to distinguish IP-originated traffic, so it should not receive special treatment as this will only create massive new arbitrage. Finally, CenturyLink explained that the Commission should also ensure compliance with established intercarrier compensation rules and practices, rather than permit carriers to avoid tariffed rates and procedures unilaterally.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, a copy of this notice is being filed in the above-referenced dockets. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S Lanning

cc: Margaret McCarthy