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November 29, 2011

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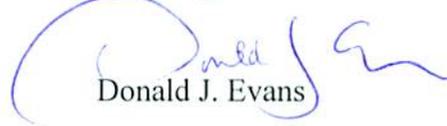
Re: Ex Parte Notification
WC Dockets No. 11-42 and No. 09-197

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter advises the Commission of an ex parte meeting between the undersigned and Eric Steinmann on behalf of NTCH, Inc. and Kim Scardino and Divya Shenoy of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division on November 28, 2011. We expressed our concerns that the conditions imposed on NTCH in connection with the grant of a forbearance petition in September would place NTCH at a competitive disadvantage to other providers of Lifeline services who do not have to comply with the eligibility verification requirements which the conditions impose on NTCH. The staff went over the likely timing of action on NTCH's companion ETC designation petition and full Commission action on a Report and Order dealing with the imposition of eligibility requirements on the industry generally. There was also discussion of the possibility of a disconnect between the conditions which have been imposed on NTCH in connection with forbearance petitions and the requirements which may be imposed on the industry generally, and how such a disconnect would be handled.

More generally, Mr. Steinmann inquired about the purpose of the Lifeline program, the amount of payments for which a recipient would be eligible, the process and timing for receiving payment, criteria for eligibility, and conditions that apply to other major Lifeline providers. Mr. Steinmann expressed the practical difficulties of verifying whether a customer meets the eligibility requirements.

Sincerely,


Donald J. Evans

bc: Kim Scardino
Divya Shenoy