



OPASTCO

December 7, 2011

Ex Parte Notice

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

Re: *Proposed Extension of Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Outage Reporting to Interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol Service Providers and Broadband Internet Service Providers, PS Docket No. 11-82*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On December 6, the undersigned and John McHugh, Technical Director of the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO),¹ met with Jeffery Goldthorp, Lauren Kravetz, John Healy, Vernon Mosley, and Gregory Intoccia of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, and Michael Connelly of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to discuss the above-captioned docket.

As OPASTCO and other rural carrier groups have previously asserted, the Commission's Part 4 service disruption reporting requirements should apply to interconnected voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) providers in the same manner as to traditional telephone service providers.² By confirming that both facilities-based and non-facilities-based interconnected VoIP providers have the same duties and responsibilities to report service outages as others, the Commission will ensure that consumers receive the same level of reliability and accountability, regardless of the technology used by their service providers.³ This is especially important as it regards the Commission's responsibility to ensure that consumers of all voice services have reliable access to E911 services. Small ILECs have functioned under Part 4 rules for a number of years without significant impacts on their operations. Therefore, extension of existing Part 4 requirements to interconnected VoIP providers should not prove to be unduly burdensome.

¹ OPASTCO is a national trade association representing approximately 460 small incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) serving rural areas of the United States. Its members, which include both commercial companies and cooperatives, together serve more than 3 million customers. All OPASTCO members are rural telephone companies as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(37).

² Comments of the National Exchange Carrier Association, the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, OPASTCO, the Western Telecommunications Alliance, and the Eastern Rural Telecomm Association, *Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seeks Comment on Whether The Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions To Communications Should Apply to Broadband Internet Service Providers and Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Service Providers*, ET Docket No. 04-35, WC Docket No. 05-271, GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, 09-137, Public Notice, DA 10-1245 (fil. Aug. 2, 2010), pp. 4-5.

³ *Id.*

In accordance with FCC rules, this letter is being filed electronically in the above-captioned docket.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stephen Pastorkovich

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