



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 19, 2013

VIA ECFS ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

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

Re: Measuring Broadband America Program (Fixed), GN Docket No. 12-264

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 7, 2013, representatives of broadband providers met in person and via conference call with Commission staff to discuss schedules and data collection policies for the Measuring Broadband America (MBA) Fixed data collection targeted for September 2013.¹

Mr. Walter Johnston, Chief, Electromagnetic Compatibility Division (EMCD) in the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) and Mr. James Miller, Senior Attorney Advisor, EMCD/OET summarized current plans for September 2013 fixed measurements and ongoing preparation efforts. Mr. Johnston discussed policies established in 2012 for the use of data collected in a reporting month to be used in the FCC's report. It had been agreed for data to be included in the report, the collection process had to be unimpaired during the specific interval of the collection across all ISPs for which data was to be collected for the report. Data collected from measurement servers subject to short interruptions or impairments of less than five days could still be used for reporting as a "short collection" month, with impaired data not included in reporting. Where impairments persist and prevent a "short collection", data collection for reporting would be carried over to a succeeding month until sufficient data could be collected to complete testing, and this extended reporting period would be used for reporting purposes.

Mr. Johnston discussed that further review of the data anomalies reported at the July 11, 2013 Collaborative meeting suggested that network problems were impairing data collection from four measurement servers hosted by Measurement Lab (M-Lab) and it was likely that the network issues would not be resolved in time for the September collection period. Given the desire to proceed with the planned testing and consistent with the policy to use unimpaired data, a decision had been reached to use data from equivalent Level 3 servers in place of data from the impacted M-Lab servers.

¹ A list of attendees and presentation materials are attached to this filing in GN Docket No. 12-264.

Mr. Johnston discussed that steps would be taken to ensure that the statistical quality of the data collected would be maintained. He discussed that data collection schedules would be modified to ensure that the statistical spread of measurements across the server networks would ensure that sufficient data would be collected for reporting on the September 2013 data collection month. Post-collection analysis would review the quality of the data collection. Participants asked for more information on the Level 3 measurement server specifications and the schedule proposed schedule for the publication of the report on the September 2013 data collection. He indicated that a technical description of the Level 3 measurement servers would be prepared and presented at a coming meeting, and indicated that the September 2013 data collection report would likely be published in the first quarter of 2014.

Mr. Johnston and Mr. Miller also provided updates on the progress of the in-home testing special study and indicated that progress was continuing but that a targeted collection would follow the September 2013 data collection.

Mr. Johnston and Mr. Miller concluded by thanking all the participants for their active participation in the meetings and encouraged participants to look for an invitation to an upcoming meeting via the collaborative distribution list in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

/s/ James Miller

James Miller, Senior Attorney Advisor
Electromagnetic Compatibility Division/OET
Federal Communications Commission