



May 12, 2016

***Ex Parte Notice***

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: *Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission’s Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications, PS Docket No. 15-80; 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; New Part 4 of the Commission’s Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications, ET Docket No. 04-35***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, the undersigned on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) along with Jesse Ward, Industry & Policy Analysis Manager for NTCA, met with Daudeline Meme, legal advisor to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn to discuss the Part 4 Network Outage Reporting System (“NORS”) Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will be discussed and voted upon at the upcoming May 25 open meeting. The undersigned also held similar meetings on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, with Brendan Carr, legal advisor to Commissioner Ajit Pai, and separately with Johanna Thomas, legal advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, and, on Thursday, May 12, 2016, with Erin McGrath, legal advisor to Commissioner Michael O’Rielly.

In each of these meetings, NTCA stressed that many of the Commission’s proposals put forth in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in March 2015 would significantly increase the reporting burden on small carriers and consequently have a corresponding negative affect on their rural consumers. Further, the association noted that many of the current standards are functioning as intended and no additional reporting requirements are needed.

Specifically, the association urged the Commission to maintain the status quo in regard to the reporting requirements for simplex “outages,” wherein one circuit fails and traffic is diverted to a backup circuit or route. Under the current rules, carriers need to report if the outage lasts 5 days or more. Also, many factors contribute to restoration intervals, including access to customer sites, the availability of replacement equipment, and harsh weather. Reducing the reporting window is unlikely to cause carriers to invest additional resources to resolve these facilities any

Marlene H. Dortch

May 12, 2016

Page 2 of 2

sooner, as carriers may be unable to do so given circumstances out of their control. Further, increasing the reporting requirement will result in a substantial increase in reports and administrative time, without serving any consumer interest or purpose.

Additionally, NTCA noted that the Commission should reject the proposal to install a new wireless reporting requirement based upon RAN congestion, and a new wireless metric for reporting based upon the geographic scope of an outage.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jill Canfield

Jill Canfield

Vice President of Legal & Industry,

Assistant General Counsel

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association

cc: Brendan Carr  
Erin McGrath  
Daudeline Meme  
Johanna Thomas