



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 10, 2013

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STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL ON THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS POLICY TASK FORCE PUBLIC NOTICE SEEKING COMMENT ON POTENTIAL TRIALS

“Today’s Public Notice released by the Chairman’s Technology Transition Task Force asks questions about Commission trials to gather data to develop appropriate policy recommendations related to an industry-wide shift from TDM- to IP-based technologies. I support this effort.

As we start this process, I still believe, as I first stated in a speech to the Practising Law Institute last December (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-317923A1.pdf), that four fundamental principles—grounded in the law—should guide us.

First, public safety is paramount. The proposed NG911 trial may prove quite valuable. But we must go further. Especially in light of outages that may occur due to greater reliance on commercial power, any technological or network transition must, first and foremost, be judged by its ultimate impact on public safety and network resiliency.

Second, universal access is still essential. No matter who you are or where you live, prosperity in the 21st century will require access to broadband services. As we consider various trials, we must remain focused on the potential impact on low-income consumers as well as those in rural and high-cost areas.

Third, competitive markets are fundamental. Competition inspires private sector investment. The competitive markets that have spurred so much technological innovation in the past will be the most effective means of making sure that consumers reap the benefits of this network transition in the future. Monitoring IP interconnection should help us determine how we can stand ready to act to ensure that network providers negotiate in good faith.

Fourth, consumer protection is always in the public interest. Consumers today rely on both old and new technologies. As the Public Notice acknowledges, all of the proposed trials could impact consumers. We must vigorously enforce principled consumer protection policies across technologies.

Over the long haul, as we assess changes in the public switched telephone network, I think these principles are good guideposts. I think that we can work within this framework and promote

confidence in network investment. And as we do so, we must ensure that any trials are carefully designed. I look forward to receiving input from all stakeholders, including our state counterparts. The issues here may seem small, but the implications are undeniably big. Taking smart steps to foster a movement to the next generation of network infrastructure merits our attention, efforts, and support. Today's Public Notice is a prudent step forward."

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