



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 25, 2017

Honorable Betty Ann Kane, Chairman  
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia  
1333 H Street, N.W., West Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Foreign Ownership of Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Applicants

Dear Chairman Kane,

As you are aware, pursuant to the Commission's *Direct Access Order*,<sup>1</sup> the Commission now has in place a process to grant authorization to interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers to obtain numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators. As part of that process, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) has received two applications for interconnected VoIP numbering authorization that present an issue involving foreign ownership. The *Direct Access Order* and Commission rules do not address foreign ownership of applicants for VoIP numbering authorization and applicants are not required to include foreign ownership information in their applications.

The Bureau is interested in further exploring any concerns that may be raised by foreign ownership of VoIP applicants seeking numbering authorization from the Commission. We believe the North American Numbering Council (NANC) is well-suited to identify and evaluate these issues. Thus, we direct the NANC to:

- (1) identify what issues foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers seeking to obtain numbering resources may present;
- (2) provide information about NANC member experience with foreign-owned carriers obtaining telephone numbers from the NANP and/or use of those numbers outside the United States, and
- (3) make specific recommendations about how to address foreign ownership of interconnected VoIP providers that seek to obtain numbers directly.

We further direct the NANC to approve a written report on its findings on these issues at its June 29, 2017 meeting and to transmit that report to the Bureau on the same date. If you have questions about the Bureau's referral, please contact Marilyn Jones, the NANC's Designated Federal Officer, by telephone at 418-2357, or by email at [marilyn.jones@fcc.gov](mailto:marilyn.jones@fcc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Anne Monteith".

Kris Anne Monteith  
Acting Chief  
Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC

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<sup>1</sup> See *Numbering Policies for Modern Communications et al.*, WC Docket No. 13-97 et al., Report and Order, 30 FCC Rcd 6839 (2015) (*Direct Access Order*).