



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 3, 2018

The Honorable Travis Kavulla
Commissioner
Montana Public Service Commission
Chairman, North American Numbering Council (NANC)
1701 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 2026-1
Helena, MT 59620-2601

Re: Interoperable Video Calling

Dear Chairman Kavulla:

Real-time video communication technology is already in widespread use, for different types of applications. Many consumers use various types of video conferencing and video chat services; and individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have a speech disability can use Video Relay Services (VRS) and point-to-point video calling (point-to-point), to make calls that can be identified by and interconnected with North American Numbering Plan (NANP) telephone numbers.

The Commission is interested in exploring how to facilitate the provision of interoperable telephone number-based video calling, which could allow increased use of video calling for both hearing individuals and people with hearing and speech disabilities using different, otherwise-incompatible equipment and services. We envision carriers and providers being able to voluntarily offer, to any customer, the capability to make or receive a video call between ten-digit NANP numbers. Thus, we direct the NANC, through a new Working Group focused on Interoperable Video Calling issues,¹ to:

1. Provide options for, and analyses of, any changes necessary in numbering or numbering administration to allow and encourage the deployment of telephone number-based interoperable video calling, including any changes to Commission rules, and any change, migration, or consolidation of existing numbering directories, including the TRS Numbering Directory;
2. Describe any recommended developments in technology, standards, or operations required to promote the deployment of telephone number-based interoperable video calling, including the incorporation of interoperable video calling in the implementation of NG911; and
3. Recommend next steps the Commission and industry should take to promote interoperable video calling services.

¹ *Administration of the North American Numbering Plan*, WC Docket No. 92-237, Public Notice, DA 18-697 (July 3, 2018).

We further direct the NANC to provide to the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) an interim report of the Working Group's findings on these issues at the NANC's first meeting of 2019, which will be held in the first quarter of that year. The NANC should also vote on and transmit to the Bureau a final report of its findings at the NANC's second meeting of 2019, which will be held in the second quarter of that year. If you or any members of the designated Working Group or the NANC have questions about the Bureau's referral, please contact Marilyn Jones, the NANC's Designated Federal Officer, by telephone at (202) 418-2357, or by email at marilyn.jones@fcc.gov, or contact Sherwin Siy, Special Counsel, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-2783 or sherwin.siy@fcc.gov. In the meantime, thank you for your work to encourage the growth and development of video calling.

Sincerely,



Kris Anne Monteith
Chief

Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC