



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 16, 2019

Jennifer K. McKee
Vice President and Associate General Counsel
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association
Chairperson, North American Numbering Council (NANC)
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 100
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Interoperable Video Calling

Dear Chairperson McKee:

The Wireline Competition Bureau would like to thank the North American Numbering Council (NANC), and the Interoperable Video Calling Working Group (IVCWG) for your work on the Report on Interoperable Video Calling. Your efforts are a good start toward creating the ability for providers voluntarily to offer the capability to make or receive a video call between ten-digit telephone numbers on an interoperable basis. Interoperability has the promise to make video calling simpler and thus more popular and competitive, which benefits all potential users.

We are interested in continuing progress towards a framework for interoperable video calling, and we appreciate the IVCWG's request for an extension of its work assignment so it can continue its work. We are encouraged by the NANC's findings of two theoretical frameworks for using ten-digit telephone numbers—the "database approach" and the "platform approach"—and the NANC's recommendations for further study of numbering databases and various technical issues.

Based on our review of the NANC's recommendations and other information, we request the NANC to develop more specific recommendations on how to implement the "database approach." Specifically, we direct the NANC to:

1. Recommend a path toward implementing the "database approach," including specifically providing recommendations as to:
 - a. Whether it is preferable to use one or more existing numbering databases or to establish a new database;
 - b. The performance and security measures that would need to be established for interoperable video calling to work effectively, using any endpoint, whether fixed, mobile, or interconnected Voice/Video over IP; and
 - c. How the database(s) should be funded and which parties should bear the costs.
2. Evaluate the technical and operational feasibility of interoperating with Telecommunications Relay Services to ensure that persons with disabilities can connect directly to Public Safety Answering Point telecommunicators.

We further direct the NANC to approve a written report on its findings on these issues, and to transmit that report to the Wireline Competition Bureau, by July 29, 2020. The IVCWG must submit its

recommended report to the full NANC no later than June 28, 2020, to allow for its consideration by all NANC members. If you have questions about this 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.

Thank you again for your assistance in helping to make interoperable video conferencing available to all consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Anne Monteith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kris Anne Monteith
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC