



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: Toll Free Number Assignment Modernization

Dear Chairperson McKee:

As you are aware, the Commission has established an auction of 17,638 unassigned toll free numbers in the 833 toll free code (the 833 Auction).¹ The Commission decided the 833 Auction will be conducted as a single round, sealed-bid, Vickrey auction, in which the amount paid by the winning bidder is determined by the second-highest bid. Applications to participate in the 833 Auction were accepted from October 7 to October 18, 2019, and the single round of bidding will occur on December 17, 2019. The Commission has directed the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) to issue a report, after completion of the 833 Auction, outlining the outcomes of the Auction and lessons learned. We believe that the NANC is well suited to provide the perspective of participants in the 833 Auction and potential future auction participants for use in the Bureau's report. With that perspective as its lens, we therefore direct the NANC, via its Toll Free Number Modernization Issues Working Group, to address the following:

- Evaluate the utility for bidders of the single round, sealed-bid Vickrey auction design used in the 833 Auction and suggest any alternative auction designs or aspects of the design that would be more useful for bidders in any future toll free number auctions.
- Evaluate the education and outreach efforts undertaken throughout the 833 Auction process.
- Evaluate the application process for the 833 Auction, specifically the auction application requirements and the decision to not require a post-auction application, in view of the Commission's commitment to promoting auction transparency and integrity and its goal of ensuring the auction is simple and cost-effective.
- Evaluate the upfront payment mechanism in the 833 Auction considering the Commission's goal of ensuring bidders in toll free number auctions place sincere offers, while maximizing auction participation and recommend whether to modify the upfront payment mechanism or amount of upfront payment required in any future toll free number auctions.
- Recommend improvements for any future toll free number auctions that would promote the efficient and equitable assignment of toll free numbers through competitive bidding.

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 (Bureau) within 6 months of the release date of

¹ See generally *Toll Free Assignment Modernization; Toll Free Service Access Codes*, WC Docket No. 17-192, CC Docket No. 95-155, Report and Order, FCC 18-137 (2018) (*Report and Order*).

the bidding data from the 833 Auction. The draft report must be sent to the NANC and the Bureau 30 days in advance of the date on which the NANC will vote on the working group's recommendation. If you 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.

Thank you again for your assistance in helping to modernize the toll free number assignment process.

Sincerely,

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

Kris Anne Monteith

Chief

Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC