



# State of North Carolina

## Utilities Commission

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**SEP 12 2006**

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N.C. Utilities Commission

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September 12, 2006

RE: The Missoula Plan

Dear Telecom Carrier:

On July 24, 2006, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC's) Task Force on Intercarrier Compensation filed an intercarrier compensation reform plan (the Missoula Plan) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC has put the Missoula Plan out for comments. Currently, comments are due by October 25, 2006 and reply comments are due by December 11, 2006.

Essentially, the Missoula Plan would allow for a gradual unification of originating and terminating access charges. Under the Missoula Plan, the FCC may be allowed to preempt state public utility commission (PUC) jurisdiction over intrastate access charges. In order to replace a portion of the decrease in access charge revenues, carriers would be allowed to increase gradually the Subscriber Line Charge (SLC) from the current \$6.50 per single line to a maximum of \$10.00 per single line. The Missoula Plan, in its entirety, is over 100 pages and is very complex and detailed.

The Missoula Plan is supported by AT&T, BellSouth, Cingular Wireless, Global Crossing, Level 3 Communications, Iowa Telecom, Madison River Communications, and the Rural Alliance. The latter represents 336 small rural telephone companies, including Randolph Telephone Company, Surry TMC, Barnardsville Telephone Company, Service Telephone Company, and Saluda Mountain Telephone Company. Verizon and Embarq have not sponsored the Missoula Plan.

The Missoula Plan, if adopted by the FCC and implemented, will obviously impact customers and telecom carriers in North Carolina. Therefore, the Commission is interested in monitoring the Missoula Plan and gathering information on the specifics of the Plan.

Therefore, we request all incumbent local exchange companies (ILECs), all competing local providers (CLPs), and all interexchange carriers (IXCs), to:

(1) File 17 copies of comments on the Missoula Plan with the Chief Clerk for inclusion in your company folder no later than Friday, September 29, 2006, generally addressing the following issues, in addition to providing any further information the company believes would be helpful<sup>1</sup>:

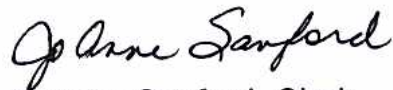
- (a) What are the benefits of the Missoula Plan to customers and carriers?
- (b) What are the detriments of the Missoula Plan to customers and carriers?
- (c) What are the potential consequences of the Missoula Plan to customers and carriers?
- (d) What are your current intrastate access charges and how would they be impacted by the Missoula Plan?
- (e) What is your current Subscriber Line Charge (SLC) and how would it be impacted by the Missoula Plan? and

(2) File 17 copies of all comments filed with the FCC concerning the Missoula Plan with the Chief Clerk for inclusion in your company folder.

In order for us to get a more complete picture of the impact of the Missoula Plan in North Carolina, we are inviting Telephone Membership Corporations (TMCs) to also provide us the information as outlined above.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to provide us information on the potential impacts of this proposal. Please contact Bridget Paschal at (919) 715-4006 or [paschal@ncuc.net](mailto:paschal@ncuc.net) if you have questions, and we thank you in advance for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Jo Anne Sanford, Chair  
North Carolina Utilities Commission

JAS/bp

c: Chief Clerk

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<sup>1</sup> Comments may be filed on a confidential basis in order to protect sensitive information, as necessary. If confidential information is provided, please file redacted and unredacted versions of your comments.