

## **Minutes from 4/24/2002 Competitive Topics Forum**

Attendees: Chairman Jaber  
PSC Staff (Tudor, Brown, Shafer)  
AT&T  
Sprint  
Verizon  
BellSouth  
MCI/WorldCom  
Time-Warner  
Z-Tel  
Vicki Kaufman (XO et al)

Phone participants:  
Allegiance  
FDN  
Network Telephone  
KMC  
Covad

Opening remarks were made by Chairman Jaber. She indicated her support for the collaborative process as well as the support of the other Commissioners. She thanked those in attendance for their participation. She asked for feedback from the participants regarding their assessment of the process to date and asked if such things as agendas and time frames for dealing with particular issues would be useful and if Commissioner involvement would be useful.

Representatives for BellSouth responded that they thought that the billing issue discussion had been useful and that it had created a dialogue among the subject matter experts that lead to a smoother relationship. They indicated that they wanted to continue the process. They also expressed displeasure over a recent use of the e-mail list as a forum for expressing displeasure with BellSouth. It was noted that progress was slow but that it was being made and the suggestion was made to focus on more functional issues rather than policy.

Representatives for MCI/WorldCom expressed the opinion that expert to expert communication was the most productive, expressed an interest in a line loss workshop that would focus on the details of process from start to finish to provide a more granular, detailed approach. They also indicated that they thought the process was useful.

Vicki Kaufman expressed some frustration that it was a time consuming process for smaller CLECs and that she was not sure exactly what had been accomplished since there had been nothing committed to writing in the form of an agreement or otherwise. She indicated that many of her client's issues had been discussed but there had been no closure. She was in favor of establishing time frames for topics to be resolved or kicked into another forum for resolution. She also expressed that narrowing the issues would be important to her clients to enable them to focus on items that were of interest so they could determine their level of participation.

Covad's representative expressed a desire for a mechanism to achieve a timely resolution and provide closure on issues. Mention was made of the success of the New York collaborative. Discussion from other participants noted that New York used administrative law judges to resolve issues which escalated the formality of the process.

Time-Warner's representative was pleased with the results admitting that some of their key issues had been addressed early and the dialogue established with BellSouth billing personnel had been very helpful.

AT&T also indicated that the improved communications had been very helpful but that resolution of issues had been slow.

Sprint's representative expressed that getting subject matter experts together had been useful in their dealings with other carriers.

The remaining participants concurred with the comments of those preceding them and it was suggested that smaller groups might be good on some issues.

The Chairman concluded that portion of the discussion by suggesting the topics be as specific as possible and that target dates for resolution be established.

The discussion then turned to how best to achieve resolution if there was an impasse on a particular issue. After discussion of several possibilities staff suggested that the participants make a process recommendation. Verizon's representative suggested a small working group to make proposals at the next meeting. The group was designated the Process Working Group.

**The participants in the group include:**

Michelle Robinson, Verizon (Chair)  
Donna McNulty, MCI/WorldCom  
Brent McMahan, Network Telephone  
Tracy Hatch, AT&T  
Nancy White, BellSouth  
Sandy Khazraee, Sprint

**Working Group meeting:** May 2, 2002, at PSC/Conference Call

**Product Due to Participants:** May 14, 2002

The next item of discussion was what topics to address next and whether any could be quickly resolved. The participants determined that another working group was in order to review and cull the original topic list and to categorize topics as Easily Resolved (ER), Needs Discussion (ND), Really Tough (RT), Better or Best Addressed Elsewhere (B(B)AE). There was some discussion of designating certain issues as Hot Topics. The group was designated as the Topics Working Group. **Participants include:**

Jay Bradbury, AT&T (Co-Chair)  
Stan Greer, BellSouth (Co-Chair)  
Dave Christian, Verizon

Peggy Rubino, Z-Tel  
Sherri Lichtenberg, MCI/WorldCom

**Working Group meeting:** May 6, 2002, 3:30 pm EDT (Conference call)

**Report Due to Participants:** May 14, 2002

It was determined that the next meeting would take place at the Commission on May 16, 2002. There was discussion of other possible venues for future meetings, including Atlanta or Orlando.

**Next meeting:** May 16, 2002, 10:00 AM, in Tallahassee at PSC Internal Affairs Conference Room