

March 18, 2005

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RE: DR 26/UC 600

Gentlemen:

At the telephone conference on March 3, 2005, I advised the parties of my preference to hold this proceeding in abeyance pending a decision by the Federal Communications Commission on the consolidated petitions for declaratory ruling in CC Docket No. 96-128. After discussing the matter at length with the parties, I indicated that I would take additional time to further consider my approach. I indicated that I would likely give the parties an opportunity to file supplemental comments prior to issuing my ruling.

Upon review, I remain convinced that the most reasonable procedural approach is to hold this matter in abeyance. However, rather than have the parties file supplemental comments prior to my ruling, I believe it is more efficient to simply allow the parties to file responsive comments. I will treat any response filed as a request to certify the matter for Commission consideration. The parties may expect to receive my ruling within the next several days.

Samuel J. Petrillo
Administrative Law Judge