

Pennsylvania Telephone Association

*"The Communications
Leader in Pennsylvania"*

The Friday Report

July 24, 2009

PUC PUBLIC MEETING

July 23, 2009

- In a unanimous vote, the Commission adopted an order establishing a framework for PTA member companies (and all other “jurisdictional telecommunications carriers”), to begin recording customer calls for service quality and training purposes. Telcos interested in doing so are required to give the Commission and their customers 30 days notice. The order will be distributed via PTA Member Bulletin as soon as it is available from the PUC.
- The Commission voted unanimously in opposition to petitions submitted by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (Neustar), which proposed to adopt plans to add new area codes to the 814 and 570 regions. A news release from the PUC said that the petitions were denied in order to solicit input on area code relief from consumers, the telco industry, and other parties.

CONGRESS

- On Tuesday, the Senate Commerce Committee approved the nominations of Mignon Clyburn and Meredith Baker to serve at the FCC. Full Senate confirmation is expected in the near future for both nominees who will fill the seats of former Commissioners Deborah Tate (Clyburn) and Chairman Kevin Martin (Baker).

THE DAILY NUMBERS

- 255,300,000
The FCC’s mid-year report on phone service trends shows that there were 255.3 million cellphone customers in the U.S. compared with 124.6 million ILEC access lines. Wireless subscribers increased by 7 percent over the previous year. With regard to competitive carriers, the report found that there was at least one CLEC serving customers in 82 percent of the nation’s zip codes.
- 25
Earlier this week, VoIP provider Skype reported 25 percent year-over-year revenue growth for the second quarter of 2009 to \$170 million.

- 40,000,000
Parks Associates reported this week that its research predicts telco IPTV services will reach 40 million subscribers worldwide by the end of next year.

QUOTABLE

- *“This Commission, unlike what has occurred in many other states, has proceeded with numerous intrastate carrier access charge reforms and the institution of a Pennsylvania-specific USF. However, ongoing proceedings both before the Commission and the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court have provided serious indications that, in the absence of substantive FCC actions in the areas of national intercarrier compensation reform and the federal USF, this Commission may need to again undertake the initiative of reexamining the area of intrastate carrier access charges for the rural ILECs. The AT&T Complaint underlines the need for such action. I am in full agreement with the recommendation that the AT&T Complaint should be consolidated with the rural ILEC access charge Investigation at Docket No. I-00040105. However, following such consolidation, moving forward with this investigation can no longer be stayed or otherwise postponed. Because of the complexity of the issues involved, their reasonable examination and the development of an adequate evidentiary record cannot occur in less than a year. Thus, the ALJ who will be assigned to preside over this consolidated proceeding and the participating parties should have the time period of 12 months to develop an adequate evidentiary record and issue the appropriate Recommended Decision.”*

Excerpt from the unanimously supported Motion of PUC Chairman Jim Cawley regarding two dockets addressing intrastate access charges. The Motion consolidates the AT&T Complaint against the PTA Member Companies with the generic access charge investigation and establishes a year-long timeframe for the development of a record on the matter.