Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Petition of AT&T Inc. for Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route	)	IB Docket No. 09-10
	)	

ORDER

Adopted: December 3, 2009 **Released: December 4, 2009**

Comment Date: January 6, 2010
Reply Comment Date: January 20, 2010

By the Chief, Policy Division, International Bureau:

1. In this Order, we grant the motion for extension of time filed by Digicel Tonga Limited (Digicel) in the above-captioned proceeding. We find that it is in the public interest to extend the deadline for comments and replies on the Second Order and Request for Further Comment[1] to January 6, 2010 and January 20, 2010, respectively.

2. AT&T Inc., on behalf of its affiliates (AT&T), filed a petition requesting that the Commission issue an order stopping U.S. settlement payments to Tonga Communications Corporation (TCC) on the U.S.-Tonga route.[2] In our initial *Tonga Stop Payment Order*,[3] we found that actions taken by TCC to disrupt the U.S.-international networks of AT&T Inc. (AT&T) and Verizon Communications, Inc. (Verizon), for the purpose of trying to force those carriers to agree to higher termination rates, were anticompetitive and required action to protect U.S. consumers in accordance with Commission policy and precedent. Further, in the *Tonga Stop Payment Order*, we requested further comment on whether we should extend the stop payment order to any U.S. carrier with direct arrangements with Digicel for international termination services in Tonga.

3. In our *Second Tonga Stop Payment Order*, we extended the stop payment order to U.S. carriers exchanging traffic to Tonga with Digicel and ordered all U.S. carriers with Commission authorizations permitting the provision of facilities-based international switched voice services on the

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[1] *Petition of AT&T Inc. for Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route,* Second Order and Request for Further Comment, IB Docket No, 09-10, DA 09-2422 (IB 2009) (*Second Tonga Stop Payment Order*).

[2] *See Petition Pursuant to Rule 64.1002(d) Requesting Issuance of Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route*, IB Docket No. 09-10 (filed Dec. 3, 2008) (*AT&T Petition*).

[3] *Petition of AT&T Inc. for Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route,* IB Docket No. 09-10, Order and Request for Further Comment, 24 FCC Rcd 8006, ¶ 1 (IB 2009) (*Tonga Stop Payment Order*). TCC filed an application for review of the *Tonga Stop Payment Order. Petition of AT&T Inc. for Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route,* TCC Application for Review, IB Docket No. 09-10 (filed July 15, 2009). AT&T and Verizon filed oppositions to TCC's Application for Review. *Petition of AT&T Inc. for Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route,* AT&T Opposition to Application for Review, IB Docket No. 09-10 (filed July 30, 2009); *Petition of AT&T Inc. for Settlements Stop Payment Order on the U.S.-Tonga Route,* Verizon Opposition to Application for Review, IB Docket No. 09-10 (filed July 31, 2009).

U.S.-Tonga route to suspend immediately all payments for termination services to Digicel.[4] We also requested further comment on AT&T's proposal that we enforce the benchmark rate on all U.S.-Tonga traffic, including third party re-origination traffic, and established a pleading cycle with comments due on December 7, 2009 and replies due December 21, 2009. On November 25, 2009, Digicel filed a motion to extend the due dates for the comments and replies by thirty (30) days. In its motion, Digicel states that the Bureau's request for further comment raises issues of substantial complexity and questions whether the established time frame would provide Digicel and other interested parties a full opportunity to respond in a manner that would produce a meaningful record.

4. After reviewing the request for extension of time, we conclude that, due to the complexity of the issues involved, the public interest would be served by granting Digicel's request for an extension of time to allow Digicel and other interested parties to file comments and replies.

5. Consequently, the Bureau shall grant a thirty (30) day extension of time for interested parties, including Digicel, to file comments and replies. Accordingly, the date for filing comments is **January 6, 2010** and the dated for filing replies is **January 20, 2010**.

6. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Digicel's motion for an extension of time IS GRANTED, and that the time for filing comments IS EXTENDED until **January 6, 2010** and the date to file replies IS EXTENDED until **January 20, 2010**.

7. This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to Section 0.261 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.261.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

James L. Ball

James L. Ball
Chief, Policy Division
International Bureau

[4] *See Second Tonga Stop Payment Order* at ¶ 10.