



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 6, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Local Number Portability Administrator (LNPA) transition. I am pleased to provide you with an update on this transition, which I agree must be accomplished seamlessly and without disruption to public safety, law enforcement, industry, or the public.

As you may know, the LNPA operates the system that allows consumers to keep their phone numbers when they switch voice service providers, thereby promoting consumer choice and competition among those providers. Importantly, the LNPA database is not involved in real-time processing of phone calls, so there is no risk of widespread phone service outages as a result of the transition from the incumbent LNPA (Neustar) to the next LNPA (iconectiv). Rather, in the event that any problems arise, the most likely impact on consumers would be a delay in the typical one-business-day timeframe for porting their existing phone number from one service provider to another.

In addition to administering number porting, the LNPA provides several ancillary services based on the information it has about the assignment of phone numbers. Most importantly, U.S. law enforcement agencies and public safety answering points use the LNPA database to identify the current service providers associated with ported phone numbers. Due to testing, preparation, and coordination by the relevant stakeholders, including coordination by FCC staff with federal law enforcement agencies, these ancillary services were successfully transitioned from Neustar to iconectiv in early March 2018 without disruption to the law enforcement and public safety community.

As you note, the next key stage of the LNPA transition is the Southeast region cutover from Neustar to iconectiv on April 8, 2018. The telecom industry consortium that manages the LNPA contract (known as North American Number Portability Management LLC, or NAPM) and PwC, the third-party consulting firm retained by the NAPM to serve as the Transition Oversight Manager (TOM), have performed extensive preparatory work and testing to ensure a smooth transition. Of particular note, on March 18, 2018, the NAPM and the TOM conducted a successful "dry run" of critical components of the Southeast region cutover.

During the April 8th cutover, the TOM will notify service providers and other users of the LNPA database in the Southeast region of any problems through multiple communications channels, including a web-based dashboard, a teleconference bridge, and email. Working closely with the TOM, the parties to the new LNPA contract—iconectiv and the NAPM—will determine how those problems should be resolved. Although the NAPM, not the FCC, manages the LNPA contract, the FCC will continue to receive regular transition status updates and will continue to closely monitor the steps taken by the parties at each stage of the transition to minimize any disruption to consumers or other stakeholders.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai

