

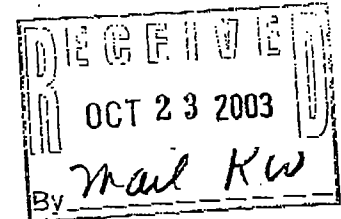


**MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE**

85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
651.296.4026 FAX 651.297.1959 TTY 651.297.3067

October 22, 2003

RE: Docket No. P999/CI-03-961



TO MINNESOTA CLECS

The Minnesota Department of Commerce submits the following Information Requests (IRs) in the above-captioned matter. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has established this proceeding to apply the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) impairment criteria, set forth in its Triennial Review Order to mass market local switching, high capacity loops and dedicated transport. The Commission must determine if the FCC's preliminary decision that CLECs are impaired without access to these Unbundled Network Elements can be rebutted for specific markets. These IRs are a product of a joint effort with other parties to obtain necessary information in a coordinated and efficient manner.

Time Frame

The Administrative Law Judge has established a deadline of ten days from the date of receipt to respond to this initial round of discovery. Subsequent information requests will contain a five business day response time. If you cannot respond within this time frame, please contact me (651-296-0399 or susan.peirce@state.mn.us) immediately to discuss an alternative deadline. Your timely response to these IRs is appreciated.

Trade Secret

Consistent with the Minnesota Data Practices Act, responders may designate data they consider trade secret. A Protective Order has been established by the parties to this case. The Protective Order provides for two types of protections for information considered to be proprietary by companies: Trade Secret and Highly Sensitive Trade Secret. For an electronic copy of the Protective Order, you may contact Priti Patel, counsel for the Department of Commerce (651-296-7861).

Response to Department

Please send the original and 1 copy of all responses (public and trade secret versions) by the indicated due date to:

Sharon Ferguson
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Market Assurance: 1.800.657.3602
Energy Information: 1.800.657.3710
www.commerce.state.mn.us

Licensing: 1.800.657.3978
Unclaimed Property: 1.800.925.5668
An Equal Opportunity Employer

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On your response, please indicate the above cited docket number, the corresponding request number, the requesting analyst, and the respondent's name and title. If your response contains Trade Secret data, please mark the document as such and include a public version of that document. Trade Secret data should be submitted on yellow paper, and Highly Sensitive Trade Secret data on pink paper.

Copies to Other Parties

Please send a copy of the public version of your responses to the other parties in this case as listed on the attached service list.

To safeguard against the disclosure of trade secret information, the Department has agreed to mask responses containing Trade Secret or Highly Sensitive Trade Secret data. To facilitate this process, the Department will develop an identifying code for each CLEC so that the identity or name of the CLEC providing the response will remain unknown to other parties. CLEC switch names and locations should be masked. CLECs must contact me (651-296-0399, susan.peirce@state.mn.us) to obtain their code prior to submitting their responses. CLECs should submit one masked version of their response to any Trade Secret or Highly Sensitive Trade Secret IR, along with the copies indicated above to Sharon Ferguson at the Department of Commerce. The Department will distribute the masked version of any responses to the parties in the case.

An unmasked version of any responses should also be served on the Office of the Attorney General – Residential and Small Business Utilities Division (OAG-RUD).

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



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SLP/jl