

Telecommunications Staff Meeting: VOIP

November 23, 2005

Docket UT-051580

Updates

1. **VOIP Staff Investigation, FCC and 911** (Rebecca Beaton)
2. **VOIP Overview** (Bob Williamson)
3. **BroadVoice VOIP telephone trial call testing** (All Staff)

VOIP: "Voice Over Internet Protocol."

This is a description of the process for routing a digitized and packetized voice message using the IP format. The definition of VOIP does not mean a telephone call must navigate the public internet.

There are two "classes" of VOIP

1. Service that uses a dedicated and integrated customer premises and head-end equipment. Voice conversations travel over a controlled network. (SBC, Comcast, Level 3)
2. Service that is transmitted using a third party's broadband connection. Voice conversations travel over the public internet. (Vonage, 8X8)

The WUTC does not regulate the following services:

- Interstate services.

Including digital subscriber line (DSL), cable modem service, and voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) services.

Note: CA, MN, NY appealed FCC preemption of state regulation VOIP services.

Other issues pending include: CO legislative bill VOIP surcharge, CT AG sued Vonage, GA VOIP regulation on bundling, IA VOIP regulation hearings, IL VOIP authority legislative bill, MI AG VOIP suit, MN VOIP jurisdiction, court case overturned, OH FCC preemption VOIP appeal 6th circuit, transferred to 9th circuit, TX PUC VOIP order on basic service, WA VOIP Local Dial 031472, Canada VOIP subject to regulatory obligations and must register.

- Wireless mobile service.

Note: the CA Commission regulates wireless services

- Services provided by cities and PUDs.
- "Enhanced" services, such as Internet access.

- Cable TV service.

Note: TX PUC has recently received authority from that legislature to manage video service channels and public education channels.

The WUTC does have authority on numbering and 911 that extend to wireless carriers and VOIP (where service is provided via CLEC.)

VOIP/911

November 1, 2005:

EMD and DOR submitted a recommendation to the legislature to study the extension of the 911 excise tax to VOIP carriers. 2007 session-anticipated.

November 29, 2005:

Deadline established by the FCC for compliance of all VOIP companies to have connectivity to 911 for customers.

- FCC 04-36 VOIP NPRM
- FCC 05-1607 SBC tariff –VOIP access charges
- FCC 04-36, 05-196, 05-116, 05-2358 Orders and guidance VOIP 911 access

November 2, 2005:

Senate Bill 1063 was approved by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. The bill gives the FCC authority to waive the deadline for VOIP companies to comply with 911 requirements for up to a year (Nov 2006.) Companies could receive the waiver claiming technical reasons. The bill forbids the FCC from directing VOIP carriers to use a specific technology to implement 911 connectivity.

Nov 17, 2005:

911 Advisory Committee Legislative subcommittee: votes to express concern to Senator Cantwell on SB 1063 on the assumption it will tie the FCC's hands if a 911 solution emerges that is superior to others.

TeleGeography Research: 2.7M U.S. VOIP customers (2Q 2005)
440,000 U.S. VOIP customers (2Q 2004)
\$220M consumer VOIP services revenue
\$3B projected consumer VOIP services revenue 2008
#1 VOIP Carrier Vonage, #2 Time Warner

Attachments:

King County VOIP 911 Notice, UW VOIP Presentation