

APPENDIX D

CHARTER FOR THE NETWORK RELIABILITY AND INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL

A. The Committee's Official Designation

The official designation of the advisory committee will be the "Network Reliability and Interoperability Council."

B. The Committee's Objective and Scope of its Activity

The purpose of the committee is to provide recommendations both for the FCC and for the telecommunications industry that, when implemented, will assure optimal reliability and interoperability of, and accessibility and interconnectivity to, the public telecommunications networks. The committee will address:

1. **Barriers to Interconnectivity, Interoperability and Accessibility:** The Committee will identify, and prepare recommendations to avoid, 1) barriers to the interconnectivity, interoperability and accessibility of public telecommunications networks and 2) barriers to the interconnectivity, interoperability and accessibility of telecommunications devices with those networks. The recommendations will ensure the ability of users and information providers to seamlessly and transparently transmit and receive information between and across telecommunications networks.

2. **Oversight of Coordinated Public Telecommunications Network Planning and Design:** The Committee will consider, and provide recommendations on, how the Commission most efficiently can conduct effective oversight of coordinated telecommunications network planning and design to assure optimal reliability, interoperability, accessibility and interconnectivity of public telecommunications networks.

3. **Standards-setting Organizations:** The Committee will consider, and provide recommendations on, how the Commission most efficiently can participate in the development by appropriate industry standards-setting organizations of public telecommunications network interconnectivity standards that promote access to (1) public telecommunications networks providing telecommunications service; (2) information services by subscribers of rural telephone companies; (3) network capabilities and services by individuals with disabilities.

4. **National Network Reliability:** The Committee will report on the reliability of public telecommunications network services in the United States.

The committee will assemble data and information and perform analyses in order to provide to the Federal Communications Commission and the industry the reports and recommendations mentioned herein.

C. Period of Time Necessary for the Committee to Carry Out its Purpose

The committee will require between twelve and eighteen months to carry out its purpose.

D. Official to Whom the Committee Reports

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

E. Agency Responsible for Providing Necessary Support

The Federal Communications Commission will provide the necessary support for the committee, including the facilities needed for the conduct of the meetings of the committee. Private sector members of the committee will serve without any government compensation, nor will they be entitled to travel expenses or per diem or subsistence allowances.

F. Description of the Duties for Which the Committee is Responsible

The duties of the committee will be to gather the data and information necessary to form reports and recommendations to the industry and to the FCC for assuring optimal network reliability within the parameters set forth in Section B., above.

G. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years

Estimated staff years that will be expended by the committee are 2 for the FCC staff and 12 for private sector and other governmental representatives. The estimated annual cost to the FCC of operating the committee is \$100,000.

H. Estimated Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings

The Council will meet at least semi-annually with possible more frequent meetings of informal subcommittees.

I. Committee's Termination Date

The Committee will terminate January 6, 1998.

J. Date Original Charter Filed

January 6, 1992