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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Computer III Further Remand Proceedings:
Bell Operating Company
Provision of Enhanced Services

1998 Biennial Regulatory Review —
Review of *Computer III* and ONA
Safeguards and Requirements

CC Docket No. 95-20

CC Docket No. 98-10

COMMENTS OF
THE NETWORK INTERCONNECTION INTEROPERABILITY FORUM
OF
THE ALLIANCE FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS, INC.

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SUMMARY

By these comments, the NIIF, as sponsored by ATIS, provides background information regarding the processes of the NIIF, particularly as these processes relate to the role of the NIIF in addressing ESP issues as those processes were originally performed by the ATIS-sponsored Information Industry Liaison Committee ("IILC"). These comments also respond to those specific questions posed about the NIIF in the FCC's Further Notice.

Formed in 1996 and initiated in 1997, the NIIF, consisting of its General Session and five standing committees, provides an open forum to encourage the discussion and resolution, on a voluntary basis, of industry-wide issues associated with telecommunications network interconnection and interoperability which involve network architecture, management, testing and operations and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

Resolutions of the NIIF are achieved by consensus which is established when substantial agreement (i.e. more than a simple majority but less than unanimity) has been reached among interest groups (those materially affected by the outcome or result) participating in the consideration of the subject at hand. Comments, concerns and contributions from participants will be considered carefully and in good faith in reaching consensus recommendations and resolutions. Under some circumstances, consensus is achieved when the majority no longer wishes to articulate its objection. In other cases, the opinion of the minority may, upon request, be recorded with the consensus of the majority.

Of the five NIIF committees, the Network Interconnection Architecture Committee ("NIAC") which addresses and resolves industry-wide issues associated with telecommunications network architecture and technical interconnection, including ONA and/or network interaction, resolves those ESP issues transferred to it from the IILC. Unique to the NIIF's processes are the

Systematic Uniformity Process as well as ESP information requests. The Systematic Uniformity Process provides a systematic framework to facilitate the development and deployment of ONA services. This process does not, however, dictate the implementation of the ESP uniform service request. Implementation remains an individual company decision. Nor does the resolution derived from this process mean an agreement has been reached to uniformly implement the proposed service nor the technology on a national basis. This process, may however, serve as the starting point for consideration of whether an ESP will offer its service on a regional, local, or niche market basis. As such, the NIIF would have no further information nor role in the rollout of these ESP services. They are appropriately the subject of negotiations between the BOC or GTE and the ESP seeking the service. The NIAC's role is limited to those issues brought before it by an interested party and defined as having impacts which are industry-wide in scope.

With respect to the BOC/GTE 120 day request process, the NIIF takes no position as to whether it should be eliminated. However, should the Commission ultimately decide that it would be appropriate for those issues from requesting ESPs which are technical and operational in nature and arise in the context of the 120 day request process to be addressed within the NIIF, the NIIF would continue to offer its processes consistent with its stated mission. The NIIF dovetails its own activities to the current regulatory framework. If the regulatory framework and the related BOC/GTE reporting requirements were to change, the NIIF could respond and adapt its processes accordingly.

The NIIF continues to encourage the active participation of the ESP community as well as recommendations from ESPs on how the NIIF may improve its processes and operations to instill a renewed ESP interest.

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Information Industry Liaison Committee (“IILC”). These comments also respond to those specific questions posed about the NIIF in the FCC’s Further Notice.¹

These comments reflect the consensus view of the NIIF participants. As such, the information and views expressed herein represent substantial agreement as it was reached by the directly and materially affected interest groups in the NIIF.

I. THE NIIF AND ITS PROCESSES

Formed in 1996 and initiated in January, 1997², the NIIF provides an open forum to encourage the discussion and resolution, on a voluntary basis, of industry-wide issues associated with telecommunications network interconnection and interoperability which involve network architecture, management, testing and operations and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

The organizational structure of the NIIF consists of the General Session and five standing

¹ For purposes of these Comments, the NIIF continues to use the terminology “enhanced service” and “enhanced service provider” as its processes and procedures have been developed using this terminology. The NIIF acknowledges that the Commission has concluded that the services the Commission has previously considered to be “enhanced services” are now “information services” as defined in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the “Act”). See Further Notice at 6 n.17; see also Further Notice at ¶s 38-40. The NIIF has not yet reflected these changes in terminology in its processes and procedures.

² The NIIF and its five standing committees were formed in 1996 at the direction of the ATIS Board of Directors after it studied and directed consolidation of three existing but separate ATIS forums: the Information Industry Liaison Committee, the Industry Carrier Compatibility Forum, and the Network Operations Forum. This change was designed to consolidate and focus industry attention and activity on the interconnection matters currently being worked by the industry as well as position ATIS committees to maximize limited industry resources in addressing future issues related to interconnection. Letter from George L. Edwards, ATIS President, to Peter Guggina (MCI), CLC Chair and Mike Drew (GTE), IILC Chair (June 26, 1996) (on file at ATIS).

committees: 1) the Network Testing Committee (“NTC”); 2) the Network Installation and Maintenance Committee (“NIMC”); 3) the Network Management Committee (“NMC”); 4) the Network Rating and Routing Information Committee (“NRRIC”); and 5) the Network Interconnection Architecture Committee (“NIAC”).

The NIIF General Session is the deliberative body in which issues are accepted and wherein, should the respective NIIF standing committee so recommend, issues are placed into the status of final closure. The Forum General Session also performs other functions such as the establishment of liaisons with other committees and organizations whose work relates to that of the NIIF, the development and maintenance of the NIIF Principles and Procedures, the management of appeals and concerns as they relate to due process afforded in the NIIF, and administrative items (calendars for future meetings and meeting hosts as well as secretarial support and funding for committee administrative support).³

The five NIIF standing committees develop recommendations and consensus resolutions for issues which may have been introduced first at the NIIF General Session and then assigned to the appropriate NIIF standing committee or for those issues which may have been introduced initially and accepted directly by participants in the standing committees, subject to consensus approval at the next NIIF General Session.

As a forum under the auspices of the Carrier Liaison Committee (“CLC”), decisions/resolutions of the NIIF are achieved via the consensus process as defined in the CLC

³ NIIF Principles and Procedures, Version 1 (December 10, 1997), at 7-8. The NIIF Principles and Procedures are available at Attachment 1.

Principles and Procedures. Consensus is established when substantial agreement has been reached among interest groups participating in the consideration of the subject at hand. Interest groups are those materially affected by the outcome or result. Substantial agreement means more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Comments, concerns and contributions from participants will be considered carefully and in good faith in reaching consensus recommendations and resolutions. The consensus process is to be free from interest group dominance, requiring that all views and objections be considered. This requires that a concerted effort be made toward issue resolution. Under some circumstances, consensus is achieved when the minority no longer wishes to articulate its objection. In other cases, the opinion of the minority may, upon request, be recorded with the consensus of the majority.⁴

The NIIF issue resolution process has three steps: 1) issue acceptance; 2) initial closure; and 3) final closure. The first of these steps, issue acceptance, begins when a participant or an interested party (i.e. the “issue originator”) brings an issue before the NIIF or one of its standing committees. New issues may be presented and accepted initially at the NIIF standing committees. However, should the issue first be presented at a standing committee, the NIIF, in its next General Session meeting, will review for acceptance those issues which were accepted at the committee level, as well as review for acceptance and the appropriate committee assignment, new issues brought directly to the NIIF General Session. Once an issue is accepted and assigned to the appropriate committee, the issue originator’s presence is not necessarily required for the issue to

⁴ CLC Principles and Procedures § 6.8.7, at 12 (February 1997). The CLC Principles and Procedures are available at Attachment B of the NIIF Principles and Procedures.

be worked, but it is desired. Allowing issues to originate at the NIIF or the committee level affords flexibility and a more expedient approach for the issue originator as the issue originator need only attend a single standing committee meeting to introduce the issue. It also allows the consideration of the issue and work to begin sooner.

The NIIF, like all ATIS-sponsored committees, acknowledges that any company has as its first avenue, the opportunity to deal one-on-one with any company with which it wants to do business or from which it seeks specific services. Assuming, however, that an interested party chooses to bring an issue to the NIIF, the issue must meet certain acceptance criteria. A proposed issue must satisfy the NIIF mission statement as well as the mission statement of one of the five standing committees where the work is to be done. The issue must also be a “customer-provider” issue and be industry-wide in scope.⁵ This, of course, extends to the acceptance of ESP issues. The NIIF will also investigate whether a solution already exists.

Upon meeting these criteria, the issue is accepted. The process of getting the issue accepted requires that the issue originator explain the nature of the issue to the NIIF or committee participants, who then review, consider, and debate whether the issue is an appropriate one for the NIIF and its standing committees to pursue and resolve. Upon completion of this acceptance process and if all criteria have been met, an issue receives a number and work on the issue begins.

The NIIF will accept issues from those who are regular participants as well as those who

⁵ To be “industry-wide” in scope, an issue must cause impact to multiple customers and/or multiple providers. The issue, itself, must impact at least one provider and more than one customer, or at least one customer, and more than one provider. Industry-wide in scope may include cross-border issues. CLC Principles and Procedures, Attachment B at 27. (February 1997). See *infra* Attachment 1.

may have a narrow or one-time interest in a single issue. Whether the issue originator is a regular participant or a one-time contributor, the issue originator may continue to champion the issue and shepherd it through the committee processes. A participant other than the originator may also choose to support and champion the issue and facilitate its movement through the resolution process. Given that the NIIF is a contribution-driven process, having an issue champion is important to encouraging contributions and supporting continued focus and work by the NIIF and its committees. Without an originator or an issue champion, the NIIF may table or withdraw issues from further work for lack of contributions and interest.⁶

Generally, the substantive work on an issue is done in the five NIIF standing committees. The standing committees have been formed to address particular areas associated with the provision of telecommunications services as identified by their respective mission statements. The NTC provides the opportunity for participating service providers and vendors/manufacturers of telecommunications equipment to develop internetwork test scenarios and scripts, as well as perform tests in a controlled environment. The committee facilitates the exchange of information

⁶ See infra the NIIF Issue Index at Attachment 2. The NIIF Issue Index logs the status of the issues with the NIIF and its committees. Four (4) issues have been tabled, and nine (9) issues have been withdrawn. A “tabled” issue is an issue which has been addressed to some degree by the NIIF but is inactive and awaiting further information. A “withdrawn issue” is one which has been accepted and later withdrawn by the originator or by the consensus of the NIIF in the absence of the originator or a representative of the originating company. The originator has the prerogative of withdrawing the issue. However, if the originator is not represented at the meeting, and the committee has determined that the issue should be withdrawn, then the committee leadership shall contact the originator to determine the originator’s perspective on the proposed withdrawal. In the event this input cannot be obtained within two meeting cycles, the committee has the prerogative to withdraw the issue. The withdrawal of the issue shall be based on the consensus of the committee. NIIF Principles and Procedures, § 6.3 at 17; see also CLC Principles and Procedures § 6.8.4 at p. 12.

regarding the interconnectivity of networks and equipment (hardware and software) and specific applications towards maintaining the highest standards of network reliability and integrity.

The NIMC addresses and resolves industry-wide issues related to the Installation, Maintenance and Testing guidelines for exchange access, interconnected telecommunications and signaling networks to promote industry progress and network reliability, and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

The NMC addresses and resolves industry-wide issues related to the network management activities associated with interconnected telecommunications and signaling networks to promote industry progress and network reliability, and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

The NRRIC addresses and resolves issues associated with local exchange rating and routing mechanisms, including associated databases, and related topics, to facilitate the exchange of information concerning these topics to support maintaining the highest standards of network rating and routing information and integrity.

The NIAC addresses and resolves industry-wide issues associated with telecommunications network architecture and technical interconnection, including Open Network Architecture (“ONA”) and/or network interaction, and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics. The NIAC had as one of its first undertakings those unresolved IILC issues that were transferred to it in the IILC/NIIF reorganization. Unique to the NIAC are the additional processes related to the Enhanced Service Provider (“ESP”) Service Request - Systematic Uniformity Process as well as ESP informational/educational requests.

Each of the NIIF committees is structured to have co-chairs to facilitate the discussion of issues assigned to the respective committees, each chair being from a different industry segment to afford a balanced approach to the discussion of issues.

The substantive progress of issues in the committees is reported and tracked at the NIIF General Session. The committees continue to deliberate on the issues at each of their meetings until consensus is reached and the issue can be placed into the status called “initial closure.”

“Initial closure” is notice to the industry that an initial resolution has been reached and the issue is planned to go into the status of “final closure” at the next NIIF General Session. Upon reaching “initial closure,” the resolution is reported to the NIIF General Session and notice is provided via the meeting record, now electronically posted on the NIIF homepage.⁷ At least one NIIF meeting cycle or no less than a period of six weeks shall pass before an issue can move into the status called “final closure”. This period of time is designed to provide an opportunity for interested parties to review the resolution and should the need arise, offer further comment. If during the final closure process of issue closure, the participants of the General Session determine that the issue requires further deliberation, the issue will be remanded back to the appropriate committee, then the issue will be addressed prior to the issue being re-introduced to the General Session. All input is considered, but only those specific recommendations which have the consensus support of the NIIF are ultimately included in the resolution.

Once the requisite time has passed, the co-chairs of the standing committees again present

⁷ The address for the NIIF homepage on the ATIS website is <http://www.atis.org/atis/clc/niif>.

the issue to the NIIF at its General Session for “final closure.” “Final closure” is notice to the industry that consensus has been reached on the resolution of an issue and the issue is now complete. Of course, if any participant has any concerns with the resolution of an issue at any step of the process, whether it be a substantive concern with the proposed resolution, or a procedural concern with the way the issue has been handled in the NIIF process, they are encouraged to provide comments.

When a consensus resolution reaches final closure, its implementation is voluntary and nonbinding. Implementation is a business decision and is determined by those individuals, participants, companies, and organizations that participate in the NIIF. The NIIF does not control which services are offered by the participating companies; nor does it control how services are offered. Being a forum under the auspices of the CLC, the NIIF also supports that while it is within the independent and voluntary discretion of each participating company as to whether or not it will implement any specific resolution, broad and consistent implementation of NIIF resolutions is a fundamental goal of the NIIF.⁸

The NIIF issue resolution process is designed to afford a full and fair opportunity for participants as well as interested parties to raise and discuss issues, views, objections, and concerns before reaching final agreement on the outcome of a matter. Efforts are made to work toward rapid and timely resolution of issues. This goal is balanced with the need to ensure that resolutions for all of the involved participants are fair and practical.

⁸ CLC Principles and Procedures § 6.8.8 at 12, see also CLC Principles and Procedures §4(5).

II. THE NIIF'S NETWORK INTERCONNECTION ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE AND ITS CURRENT PROCESSES IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED SERVICE PROVIDERS' REQUESTS

In its Further Notice, the Commission raises a number of questions regarding existing Open Network Architecture (ONA) processes as first implemented in the IILC, and with the 1996 reorganization of certain ATIS committees, now fully absorbed by the NIIF.⁹ These "ESP" processes, specifically the Systematic Uniformity Process and any informational requests by ESPs, are now contained in the Network Interconnection Architecture Committee - the NIAC of the NIIF. Thus, for purposes of providing information generally, as well as addressing these specific Commission questions on the processes available to ESPs within the NIIF, the following discussion will focus mainly on the NIAC and its activities. The NIIF also notes that the processes of the other four NIIF standing committees are also open to any ESP and ESP-related issues that are within the mission and scope of the respective standing committees. The ESPs are not confined solely to the NIAC.¹⁰ Further, to ensure that the issues are recognized as being ESP-generated and afforded due attention by the NIIF committees, the NIIF issue statement form includes the information as to whether the request was generated by an ESP.¹¹

The NIAC utilizes the same Systematic Uniformity Process developed by the IILC

⁹ See discussion of ATIS reorganization *supra* p.4, n.2.

¹⁰ For example, should an ESP have a particular issue which relates to installation and maintenance concerns, the issue may be most appropriately addressed by the NIMC and not the NIAC. Currently, there are no ESP-identified issues residing in any NIIF standing committee other than the NIAC.

¹¹ See Attachment 3 which is an NIIF issue statement form.

in 1990 to resolve ESP service request issues. It provides a systematic framework to facilitate the uniform development and deployment of ONA services. It is a four-step process which is initiated by an ESP request, thereafter substantiated by a description of functionality, documented by a technical description, and considered for technical feasibility. As a candidate service moves through this process, each step is completed, thereby providing appropriate inputs to each successive step. Further, while the process is designed to provide every opportunity for the uniform development and deployment of an ONA service, a mechanism has been incorporated at appropriate points in the process to allow for future reconsideration of any service request that does not complete the entire process.

The NIIF notes, however, that the Systematic Uniformity Process does not dictate the implementation of the uniform service request. Implementation is an individual company decision even though achieving uniformity is part of the desired result. At the heart of the Systematic Uniformity Process is the description of functionality being requested by the service provider with the goal being that the service request will be as complete a technical description as possible so that a network provider may respond whether it would be technically feasible to implement the request. The process requires a "give and take" by both interests.

With regard to the NIAC processes, particularly the Systematic Uniformity Process and any ESP informational requests, consensus signifies that the NIIF/NIAC has systematically reviewed an issue, sought to address it in a professional manner that meets the needs of the issue originator, and has reached an initial substantial agreement on findings, recommendations, and/or technical descriptions of possible services to be offered. A finding and/or a recommendation for

an ESP service request that has received the initial consensus of the NIAC and ultimately, the consensus of the NIIF, provides participants with documentation that can be used in the public domain or in interaction with individual companies as the provision of these services are contemplated.

The NIIF submits that an important part of its processes to address ESP issues in the NIAC is the acceptance that consensus, whether it be the result of the issue resolution process or specifically, the Systematic Uniformity Process, is not an agreement to uniformly implement the proposed service nor the technology on a national basis. Nor are these processes intended to usurp a participating company's ability to make independent business judgements and implementation plans.

Further, the output of the Systematic Uniformity Process may serve as the starting point for consideration of whether an ESP service will be offered on a regional, local, or niche market basis. That being the case, the NIIF would have no further information nor role in the rollout of a regional, local, or niche market ESP service, unless some additional aspect of the service's implementation was raised at the NIIF as an industry-wide issue. Otherwise, such services are appropriately the subject of negotiations between the respective BOC or GTE and the ESP seeking the service. It is also the case that an ESP's initial request for a service may be raised directly with the BOC or GTE and never engage the NIAC processes.

As such, the NIAC's role is limited to those issues brought before it by an interested party and defined as having impacts which are industry-wide in their scope.¹² It is in this context which

¹² See *supra* p.7, n.5.

the NIIF emphasizes its important but somewhat narrower role in the provision of ONA services. This also may offer some explanation for the relatively limited participation by the ESP community both during the tenure of the IILC, particularly in its final year of operation - 1996, as well as during the first year of the NIIF's existence.¹³ ESPs have varying approaches to entering the market and offering their services. Certainly, the NIIF presents an option to work those issues related to offering a national ESP service or one that has industry-wide impacts. But it is an equally viable and perhaps a more direct approach for those ESPs targeting regional or local markets to enter into direct negotiations with the service provider which serves the ESP's market. An ESP's choice as to how it wants to enter the market is an independent business decision. The NIIF simply reaffirms that it is just one way for ESPs to get their industry-wide issues worked. Further, the NIIF emphasizes the availability of its processes to the ESP marketplace and encourages ESP participation.

To this end, the NIIF is aware that certain concerns had been expressed by certain members of the ESP community regarding the ATIS reorganization of the IILC and two other of its forums, to create the NIIF, at the time the reorganization was in its infancy. The specific concerns were : 1) the lack of a single forum within which the ESPs could raise concerns given

¹³ During 1996, the final year of the IILC's operation, nine different ESPs attended at least one of the four meetings of the full IILC. In some cases, service providers encouraged the participation of regional and local ESPs to attend the IILC meetings as these meetings were moved about the country and a particular location afforded their attendance. The IILC continued to seek additional attendance and undertook certain recruitment efforts to encourage wider participation. During 1997, three different ESPs participated in at least one of the NIAC meetings. There were seven NIAC meetings held in conjunction with the NIIF General Session in 1997. There was also one interim NIAC meeting and three conference calls for the purpose of addressing a specific NIIF issue.

that the NIIF has five standing committees; 2) the number of meetings that had been anticipated by the NIIF being too high and the possible simultaneous scheduling of standing committee meetings; 3) projected issues relating to support and administrative costs for NIIF and committee meetings; and 4) no guaranteed role for ESPs or other non-carriers in a governing or policy-making function.¹⁴ While these issues were raised just after the NIIF held its organizational meeting and its processes were yet to be fully defined, the NIIF maintains that these concerns have not been borne out and are addressed in its now, more mature and defined processes.

With regard to the concern over the lack of a single forum for ESPs to work their issues, the ESP processes are localized in the NIAC. As stated earlier, while ESPs have the opportunity to raise their issues in any of the NIIF committees or any ATIS committee with the requisite subject matter expertise - an opportunity which affords them flexibility - those processes which directly support the provision of ESP services are addressed in the NIAC exclusively. To date, no other ESP-designated issues have been raised in the four other NIIF committees and no new issues have been brought to the NIAC itself. In fact, to date, there are currently only four issues that have been designated ESP issues, issues which were introduced at the IILC and now reside in the NIAC as a result of the reorganization.¹⁵ Two of these issues are closed and two have been

¹⁴ Letter from Herta Tucker, Executive Vice President of the Association of Telemessaging Services International ("ATSI"), to the Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (March 31, 1997).

¹⁵ They are: Issue #0004 - Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) Access by Non-LEC Resource Element (Tabled January 7, 1997); Issue #0005 - Delivery of Intra-LATA (NPA) 555-XXXX Dialed Calls To A Service Provider (Final Closure January 6, 1997); Issue #0011 - ISDN Information For ESPs (Final Closure February 11, 1998); and Issue #0012 - Identify and Define Specific Mediation Functions For "Create-Call" (Tabled January 6, 1997). See Attachment 4 for

tabled at the request of the ESP issue originator.

As respects the concern with frequency of NIIF meetings and simultaneous standing committee meetings, again, these ESP concerns do not seem to have materialized. The NIIF held seven General Session meetings in 1997. Needs dictated that certain committees hold interim meetings and conference calls. The NIAC held seven meetings in 1997 in conjunction with the NIIF General Session, affording still an additional opportunity for ESPs to not only bring issues to the NIAC, but also to the NIIF General Sessions, if the timing of the NIAC meetings was inconvenient. Efforts are made to coordinate meetings and encourage conference calls where and when possible. In fact, the consensus of the committee determines the need for additional meetings, the agenda for those meetings and the location of the meetings. In addition, the NIIF and the NIAC would consider a special request for a teleconference link into a meeting if it became impossible for an ESP to attend a meeting to introduce or champion an issue.¹⁶ But no such requests have come to the NIIF or the NIAC. If the ESP community has a suggested improvement to the NIIF processes which would assist in ESP participation, the NIIF welcomes such input. The NIIF maintains that its processes must meet the need of its participants and its

these issue statements.

¹⁶ It should be noted that the NIIF would likely support the use of remote-teleconferences more on an exceptional basis rather than as a regular mode of conducting a meeting. This is largely because of the logistics and the ability for the discussions to be conducted easily and clearly, as well as the expenses related to conducting NIIF business in this fashion. However, all requests of this nature would be evaluated and decided based on the merits of the request. Further, the NIIF notes that its Principles and Procedures provides high level guidelines for conducting virtual meetings and would sanction such meetings as “official” NIIF meetings. The NIIF continues to explore this meeting option for its future business.

desired audience for it to be effective.

With regard to the third concern relating to administrative support costs for NIIF meetings and activities, the NIIF has resolved these matters. As correctly noted by the ESPs, the BOCs provided the administrative support for the IILC and covered its related costs through Bellcore. Bellcore did not, however, cover the costs of producing and distributing copies of IILC documentation. In 1996, ATIS administered a subscription fee of \$200.00 annually to cover the costs of producing, distributing, and mailing IILC-generated materials. All IILC participants were required to pay this fee if they wanted to receive the IILC materials.

Since that time and with significant changes in the industry, a larger number of more diverse industry players are benefitting from the NIIF processes. As such, ATIS, as NIIF sponsor, administers a participant fee to cover the administrative and related support costs attendant with the operation of the NIIF and its committees. The intent of this annual fee is to have those who participate in the NIIF activities, and thus generate the costs, assist in paying for a portion of those costs. The size of the fee borne by the participants is tied to the amount of annual revenues that the participating company generates in the provision of telecommunications services. For ESPs, the 1997 NIIF annual participant fee was \$350.00 and in 1998, the fee is \$470.00.¹⁷ This amount is not much more than was charged by the IILC in 1996 for documents, and the scope of the services provided have broadened. To date, neither the NIIF nor ATIS has been in receipt of a complaint from the ESPs regarding this participant fee.

¹⁷ Fees at the upper end of the participant fee scale were \$7,500 in 1997 and \$14,000 in 1998. These fees were paid by the larger participants, including the BOCs, GTE, MCI, Sprint, etc.

With respect to the final concern on the opportunity for the ESPs to hold “ a meaningful level of participation on the body’s governing council,”¹⁸ the NIIF’s processes provide for co-chairs for each committee and that the co-chairs be from different industry segments to afford balanced leadership. The NIIF itself is led by a Moderator and Assistant Moderator, also from different industry segments. As for these leadership positions, they are open to those who have an interest and receive the support of the NIIF. To date, no ESPs have sought these leadership positions. There are no other governing structures within the NIIF or its committees. Consensus of the entire committee and the full NIIF is the vehicle for decision making.

The NIIF continues to encourage the active participation of the ESP community as well as recommendations from ESPs on how the NIIF may improve its processes and operations to instill a renewed ESP interest in the NIIF and the NIAC. The NIIF believes that it has put forth its best effort to transition the work of the IILC to the NIAC while creating processes in the NIIF that continue to allow for the needs of the ESP community to be effectively, efficiently, and openly addressed in the Forum.

III. THE NIIF’S NETWORK INTERCONNECTION ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE PROCESSES IN RELATION TO THE BOC/GTE 120-DAY REQUEST PROCESS

The NIIF specifically notes the Commission’s inquiries with respect to the processes in the NIIF’s NIAC which could substitute for the current regulatory framework that the BOCs and GTE are subject to, such as the 120-day request process,¹⁹ as well as any information collected

¹⁸ See *supra* p. 16, n.14.

¹⁹ Further Notice, at ¶ 88.

and compiled by ATIS and/or the NIIF which may be “duplicative of that required by the Commission.”²⁰ The NIAC processes in support of ESP needs are designed to work in parallel with the current regulatory framework for ONA services. They are not designed, at this time, to act in lieu of these obligations and processes. As stated earlier, the NIIF processes are not intended to take the place of any independent business decisions related to what services a company will offer or whether a company will actually implement the service. However, should the Commission ultimately decide that it would be appropriate for those issues from requesting ESPs which are technical and operational in nature and arise in the context of the BOC/GTE 120-day request process to be addressed within the NIIF, the NIIF would continue to offer its processes consistent with its stated mission.

In this regard, the NIIF submits that it takes no position as to whether the 120-day request process should be eliminated. Nor is it appropriate for the NIIF to comment on whether the BOCs and GTE should continue to be subject to the reporting requirements of Computer III and the ONA regime or the adequacy of the information that the BOCs and GTE provide to the NIIF regarding their ONA services (i.e. the Technical Analysis Group (“TAG”) provides a read-out at the NIAC meetings on the ONA Services User Guide, the Regional BOC (“RBOC”) NIIF/IILC Closed Issues Report Card, and the RBOC Operational Support Systems Matrix). The NIIF dovetails its own activities to the current regulatory framework, including the BOC/GTE reporting requirements. If the regulatory framework and the related BOC/GTE reporting requirements were to change, the NIIF could respond and adapt its processes accordingly and as

²⁰ Further Notice, at ¶ 101(c).

appropriate.

The Commission also seeks comment on the nature of the periodic updates received by the NIIF from the BOCs regarding uniformity issues that have been resolved.²¹ Currently, the NIIF has a standing agenda item at each NIAC meeting for a TAG report on the status of the uniformity issues that have been resolved by the BOCs. The TAG consists of BOC representatives, and its report is the vehicle by which the BOCs provide an update of their activities regarding uniformity issues that have been resolved. The TAG report generally consists of a “report card” on the progress of the BOCs in implementing the ESP-requested service elements and is included in the meeting record of the NIAC.²² This meeting record is posted on the NIIF homepage. Certainly, to the extent that the NIIF/NIAC participants want to discuss the TAG report or have questions regarding its content, the NIAC is the venue where this dialogue occurs.

In terms of other sources of information produced by ATIS or the NIIF that may reasonably substitute for the current ONA reporting requirements,²³ the NIIF posts all of the available information regarding its activities as well as the activities of its five standing committees on its homepage. The NIIF has not, however, assessed whether any information it provides would or could “reasonably substitute for the current ONA reporting requirement.”²⁴ As previously stated, the NIIF takes no position regarding the current regulatory reporting

²¹ Further Notice, at ¶ 106.

²² During the first year of the NIIF/NIAC’s operation, the TAG provided reports at two of the seven NIIF meetings.

²³ Further Notice, at ¶ 106.

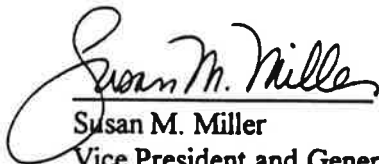
²⁴ Further Notice, at ¶ 106.

requirements of the BOCs and GTE.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the ATIS-sponsored NIIF respectfully submits these comments in CC Docket 98-10 and CC Docket 95-20 in an effort to provide information regarding its structure and processes as well as to clarify its role in the context of the current ONA regulatory framework and in response to enhanced service providers requests. As stated herein, should the Commission ultimately decide that it would be appropriate for those issues from requesting ESPs which are technical and operational in nature and arise in the context of the BOC/GTE 120-day request process to be addressed within the NIIF, the NIIF would continue to offer its processes for those issues consistent with its stated mission. As stated throughout these comments, the NIIF encourages and invites the ESP community to actively participate in the open processes of the NIIF and in particular, in the activities of the NIAC. Only through such participation and active interest will the NIIF processes be able to respond more fully to the ESP community and its needs.

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March 27, 1998

ATTACHMENT 1

Version #1
December 10, 1997

NETWORK INTERCONNECTION & INTEROPERABILITY FORUM (NIIF)

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LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A:	ATIS Board Approved Organizations Chart
Attachment B:	Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) Principles & Procedures
Attachment C:	Enhanced Service Provider (ESP) Service Request - Uniformity Process
Attachment D:	Network Installation and Maintenance Committee (NIMC) Uniqueness
Attachment E:	Network Management Committee (NMC) Uniqueness
Attachment F:	Network Testing Committee (NTC) Uniqueness
Attachment G:	Network Rating and Routing Information Committee (NRRIC) Uniqueness
Attachment H:	Example of Position Paper
Attachment I:	Example of a NIIF Issue Identification Form
Attachment J:	ATIS Fee Schedule

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO OUTLINE THE APPROPRIATE PRINCIPLES, GUIDELINES AND PROCESSES IN A WAY THAT PROVIDES THE NECESSARY GUIDANCE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE NETWORK INTERCONNECTION INTEROPERABILITY FORUM (NIIF) AND ITS SUBTENDING COMMITTEES TO MANAGE THE DELIBERATION OF ISSUES SO THAT TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS AND REGULATORY AGENCIES ARE ASSURED THAT DUE PROCESS IS AFFORDED TO ALL SEGMENTS OF THE INDUSTRY.

1.2 Motivating Premise

With the appropriate Principles and Procedures in place, the NIIF and its standing committees should provide the best possible venue for the deliberation of telecommunications issues under its purview.

1.3 Background

The Network Interconnection Interoperability Forum (NIIF) and its standing committees were formed in 1996 as a result of an Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) Board mandate to consolidate three forums: the Industry Information Liaison Committee (IILC), the Industry Carrier Compatibility Forum (ICCF) and the Network Operations Forum (NOF). This was done to create a more efficient and effective environment to meet the needs of Telecommunications Service Providers, Enhanced Service Providers and Service Customers. The forum consists of five standing committees: the Network Interconnection Architecture Committee (NIAC), the Network Management Committee (NMC), the Network Rating & Routing Information Committee (NRRIC), the Network Testing Committee (NTC) and the Network Installation & Maintenance Committee (NIMC). The first official meeting of the NIIF was held on January 6 - 10, 1997. The leadership of the forum and its standing committees is provided by the participants, subject to meeting the criteria as outlined in the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) Principles and Procedures.

1.3.1 ATIS Organizational Structure

For additional information in regards to the organizational structure of ATIS and its forums please refer to Attachment A.

1.4 Mission Statements

The following mission statements for the NIIF and its standing committees have been developed and adopted by the participants. These mission statements shall be subject to revision under the CLC Principles and Procedures.

1.4.1 NIIF Mission Statement

The Network Interconnection/Interoperability Forum (NIIF) is a forum under the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC). The NIIF provides an open forum to encourage the discussion and resolution, on a voluntary basis, of industry-wide issues associated with telecommunications network interconnection and interoperability which involve network architecture, management, testing and operations and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

1.4.2 NIAC Mission Statement

The Network Interconnection/Architecture Committee provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with telecommunications network architecture and technical interconnection, including Open Network Architecture (ONA) and/or network interaction, and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

1.4.3 NTC Mission Statement

The Network Testing Committee provides the opportunity for participating service providers and vendors/manufacturers of telecommunications equipment to develop test scenarios and scripts, as well as perform tests in a controlled environment. The committee facilitates the exchange of information regarding the interoperability of networks and equipment (hardware and software) and specific applications towards maintaining the highest standards of network reliability and integrity.

1.4.4 NIMC Mission Statement

The Network Installation and Maintenance Committee provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues related to the Installation, Maintenance and Testing guidelines for exchange access, interconnected telecommunications and signaling networks to promote industry progress and network reliability, and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

1.4.5 NMC Mission Statement

The Network Management Committee provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues related to the network management activities associated with interconnected telecommunications and signaling networks to promote industry progress and network reliability, and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

1.4.6 NRRIC Mission Statement

The Network Rating & Routing Information Committee provides an open forum to address and resolve issues associated with local exchange rating and routing mechanisms, including associated data bases, and related topics, to facilitate the exchange of information concerning these topics to support maintaining the highest standards of network rating and routing information and integrity.

1.5 Modifications of this Document

This document is intended to be a living document, therefore subject to revision and upgrading under the CLC Principles and Procedures.

1.6 General Operating Principles

This section outlines the General Operating Principles of the NIIF and its standing committees.

The NIIF and its standing committees operate under the auspices of the CLC and follow its guidelines. All principles and guidelines will be complementary and supportive of the CLC Principles and Procedures as outlined in Attachment B.

The NIIF addresses issues and develops consensus resolutions which become industry agreements. These agreements are not industry standards and implementation of these agreements is entirely voluntary.

The NIIF can work most efficiently and effectively when representatives are knowledgeable on the subject matter and in attendance. Therefore, participants should be well prepared to discuss the agenda topics and to speak authoritatively on behalf of their companies.

Participation is voluntary and will remain open to all interested parties.

NIIF documents are available to all interested parties. These are available on the Internet at the following address (<http://www.atis.org>). In some cases, a fee may be charged for the NIIF documentation as determined by ATIS per the direction of the forum participants.

Meeting attendees are not to produce verbatim meeting records without the advance consensus of the Forum, Committees or sub-committees.

All decisions/resolutions shall be achieved via the consensus process as defined in the CLC Principles and Procedures (Attachment B).

In accordance with the antitrust laws, competitively sensitive information including pricing, market allocation and individual company competitive plans shall not be discussed. However, realizing every issue has business implications (e.g., implementation costs), discussion and resolution shall not be inhibited nor precluded by these business implications. It is recognized that costs may be a factor in implementation decisions.

Committee activation and meeting schedules will be driven by industry interest, as determined by the General Session of the NIIF.

Any participant can request attribution for any statement made during the meeting.

2. MEETING SCHEDULES

This section outlines the guidelines for determining meeting scheduling to facilitate issue resolution as soon as is practical.

Meeting frequency and schedules shall be determined by the participants of each of the standing committees and the General Session participants. For the General Session and each standing committee meeting schedule refer to the sub-sections below.

2.1 General Session

A General Session of the NIIF will be held when the majority of the committees meet to deliberate issues.

The placement of the General Session during the week long deliberations will be based on the consensus of the NIIF participants.

There may be occasions when interim General Sessions need to be held in order to address specific topics.

2.2 Committees Meetings

As much as is practical the NIAC, NMC, and NIMC shall meet in series with the sequence of committee meetings to be determined by participants of the General Session.

The frequency of all meetings will be based on the need to address and reconcile issues in the best interest of the industry. Normally the NIIF General Session, NIAC, NMC, NTC and NIMC will meet six (6) to seven (7) times per year. The NRRIC will meet three (3) or four (4) times per year.

Interim meetings and conference calls can be sanctioned or non-sanctioned and shall be based on the need to address and reconcile issues and shall be at the discretion of the participants of the committee(s). A sanctioned interim meeting or conference call is one that is established and conducted under the NIIF guidelines, requires official secretarial support and agreements reached will be binding as they pertain to the output of the forum. Any other type of meeting or conference call shall be determined to be non-sanctioned.

3. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This section outlines the structure of committees from the following perspectives, Uniqueness, Formation and Disbandment.

3.1 Uniqueness

Each committee has been formed to address and reconcile particular areas of responsibility associated with telecommunications services. The mission statement of each committee identifies the particular area of responsibility for that committee. In addition, there are some specific considerations that need to be taken into account as issues are addressed and reconciled. These considerations are delineated below by committee.

- A. Network Interconnection Architecture Committee
 - Committee documentation uniqueness
 - Enhanced Service Provider (ESP) Service Request - (Uniformity Process, Attachment C)
 - Enhanced Service Provider (ESP) Informational Requests
- B. Network Installation and Maintenance Committee
 - Committee documentation uniqueness (Attachment D)
- C. Network Management Committee
 - Committee documentation uniqueness (Attachment E)
- D. Network Testing Committee
 - Committee documentation uniqueness (Attachment F)
- E. Network Rating and Routing Information Committee
 - Committee documentation uniqueness (Attachment G)

3.2 Committee Formation

The General Session of the NIIF shall have the prerogative to form additional standing committees and the standing committees shall have the prerogative to form sub-committees as they deem necessary to address and reconcile issues. Such formation of a standing committee and or sub-committee shall be subject to approval of the CLC. As a principle, any committee that is formed should complement the current committees that are in place.

In the event that a standing committee is formed, the participants of the committee will generate the appropriate mission statement to identify its uniqueness.

3.3 Disbandment

The disbandment of a standing committee will be based on the consensus of the appropriate committee participants, the consensus of the General Session, and the approval of the CLC. The disbandment of a sub-committee is predicated on the work being completed that they were chartered to perform or they are disbanded by the standing committee based on consensus.

3.4 Issue Review and Facilitation

Each committee is structured to enable Co-chairs or delegates to facilitate the discussion of issues assigned to their committee. The following is a list of items to assist the Co-chairs in this task:

- Review:
 - Issue Identification Form
 - Interim or prior activities, if applicable
 - Action items from previous meetings
 - Overall documentation
 - Existing contributions
 - Ensure the consensus resolution addresses the issue and that the appropriate location for placement in the documentation is identified, prior to initial closure
- Facilitate:
 - Issue and contribution discussion
 - Ask for additional contributions
 - The discussion for issue closure and issue resolution statements
 - Tracking of issues for agreements reached for inclusion in the appropriate documentation
 - Setting up dates, times, conference bridges and locations if the committee determines the need for interim meetings or conference calls

Recap and review action items, including new ones determined in issue discussion

4. NIIF FUNCTIONAL AREAS

4.1. General Session

The General Sessions are designed to move issues to final closure, review and approve issues accepted by committees, accept new issues for assignment to the appropriate committee, and provide administrative support to the committees.

The functions associated with the General Session are as follows:

- Handle general administrative items
- Provide a venue for the acceptance and closure of issues
- Provide an update of committee activities that have taken place since the last General Session
- Review and approve external correspondence prior to remanding to the CLC

- Provide the medium by which the receipt of liaisons from other forums are distributed
- Generate the upcoming schedule for the next NIIF based on input from all committees
- Manage the development and revision of the NIIF Principles and Procedures
- Provide a venue for the management of questions associated with due process or lack thereof for all of the committees
- Identify future hosts for meetings
- Develop the calendar for future meetings

4.2 NIAC Functional Areas

- Interconnection/Internetworking
- Network Functionality to Support Enhanced Services
- IN/AIN
- Signaling/Switching
- Mediation
- Call Triggers
- ISDN
- Unbundled Elements
- Unbundled Services
- Requests for ONA Service Elements
- OSS Access
- Notification (Network Enhancements)
- Protocol

4.3 NIMC Functional Areas

- Trouble Management
- Installation Guidelines
- Installation and Maintenance Testing Guidelines
- Maintenance Guidelines
- Facility Guidelines
- Maintenance Windows
- Notification (Maintenance and Trouble)
- Signaling Operational Issues (e.g. SS7)

4.4 NMC Functional Areas

- Traffic Management
- Notification (Traffic Affecting: Network Outages and Changes)
- Mass Calling

- Emergency Communications
- Security
- Test Line Coordination

4.5 NTC Functional Areas

- Internetwork interoperability testing for network nodes and services
- Test Scenarios
- Test Scripts

4.6 NRRIC Functional Areas

- Local exchange rating and routing mechanisms (e.g., informational sources, data bases)
- Line information data bases

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

This section outlines the responsibilities of the participants and leadership of the NIIF.

5.1 Moderator Responsibilities

This section outlines the responsibilities of the Moderator of the NIIF:

- Facilitate the General Session of each NIIF meeting
- Review with all participants their expected behavior for the meeting
- Work with the NIIF Committee Administrator to develop and publish the agendas for future General Sessions
- Interpret and apply the CLC Principles and Procedures where necessary to assist in maintaining a cohesive, unbiased and constructive environment at NIIF General Sessions as well as at the committee level, as required
- Prepare external correspondence for review and approval by the NIIF participants prior to distribution per the CLC Principles and Procedures
- Adjudicate, as necessary, any procedural situations that cannot be resolved during discussions
- Provide input to ATIS as required on forum activities for public relations purposes
- Provide a progress report to each CLC meeting
- Act as an interface to other ATIS forums (in the absence of an official liaison)
- Attend those standing committee meetings that do not meet on the same schedule as the majority of the forum committees, this specifically addresses the NTC and the NRRIC but may be applicable to other interim meetings

- Develop, when necessary, the appropriate documentation for presentation to the CLC for issues placed in a "No National Agreement" status. This information shall be subject to approval of the General Session
- Develop, when necessary, the appropriate recognition letters for Co-chairs Hosts and participants as required
- Represent the NIIF in the public sector when requested
- Represent the NIIF at the Network Reliability Steering Committee (NRSC) meetings
- Facilitate real time minutes review during NIIF General Session on a regular basis
- Review the requirements of the NIIF to facilitate a smooth and productive meeting
- Start and end the meetings on time
- Test for consensus on issues under discussion at NIIF General Session to determine if further discussion on a subject is required
- When the question arises regarding verbatim records during the monologue if a participant states an intention to take verbatim records, participants should be asked if there are any objections to the identified party/parties taking verbatim records
- Ensure that NIIF documentation is available on the NIIF page within the ATIS web site per the CLC Principles and Procedures
- Work with the Assistant Moderator to develop all external correspondence
- Notify the Assistant Moderator in the event you are unable to attend the NIIF General Session
- Review documentation prior to publication
- Prepare Annual Report

5.2 Assistant Moderator Responsibilities

This section outlines the responsibilities of the Assistant Moderator of the NIIF:

- Assume the responsibilities of the Moderator if the Moderator is absent/unavailable
- Assist the Moderator as necessary
- Interface with ATIS regarding NIIF documentation posted to the NIIF page within the ATIS web site
- Notify the Moderator in the event you are unable to attend the NIIF General Session

5.3 Committee Co-Chairs Responsibilities

This section outlines the shared responsibilities of the NIIF Committee Co-chairs:

- Facilitate discussion of each issue presented for industry deliberations
- Follow suggested items listed in Section 3.4: Issue Review and Facilitation
- Provide an opportunity for every new contribution to be presented and discussed
- Maintain a cohesive and constructive environment during issue discussion
- Ensure that meetings are conducted in a fair and unbiased manner
- Ensure adherence to the guidelines as outlined in this document and the CLC Principles and Procedures
- Develop all necessary correspondences from the committee to the participants or between committees of the forum and obtain approval by all committee participants prior to distribution
- Develop issue related external correspondence, as necessary, and provide it to the Moderator and the Assistant Moderator
- Facilitate the development of issue statements associated with liaisons received, if required
- At the end of each committee meeting request a show of hands of people planning to attend the next meeting of that committee
- Conduct an audit of the meeting effectiveness at the end of each meeting and provide the results as input to the General Session for consideration
- Provide to the Moderator 15 days prior to the date of the publication of the ATIS newsletter key items with the appropriate data to generate the ATIS newsletter
- Generate or provide input for participant recognition letters
- Perform a review of the operating principles as outlined in the pre-meeting monologue
- Work with the NIIF Committee Administrator to develop and publish the agenda for future committee meetings
- Facilitate real time minutes review during committee meeting on a regular basis
- Acknowledge all participants when their hands are raised to solicit their respective input
- Start and end the meetings on time
- Prior to the close of issue discussion ensure that a path forward is developed (action items, requirements for contributions, etc.)
- Review each issue that is on the agenda, even if the issue has not been and will not be discussed during the current meeting
- When sanctioned interim meetings are held, a brief overview of the content of the meeting should be provided at committee and General Session (i.e., agreements reached, and available documentation)

- When the question arises regarding verbatim records during the monologue if a participant states an intention to take verbatim records, participants should be asked if there are any objections to the identified party/parties taking verbatim records
- Coordinates with other company representatives as required
- Notify your Co-chair in the event you are unable to attend a committee meeting

5.4 Participants Responsibilities

This section outlines the responsibilities of the participants of the NIIF:

Participants will:

- Be familiar with, understand, and support the processes and procedures utilized by the CLC and the NIIF
- Be cognizant of, and be prepared to address all issues and assist in helping to reconcile them in the best interest of the industry
- Be recognized by raising one's hand and being acknowledged by the forum Moderator, standing committee Co-chairs, or designee, before speaking
- Refrain from saying anything that could be potentially offensive to any participant
- Refrain from attacking a participant's motives
- Confine one's remarks to the merit of the question or issue under discussion
- Refrain from speaking adversely on prior actions or issues not pending
- Refrain from disturbing the meeting
- Recognize, understand and be sensitive to anti-trust laws
- Provide to the NIIF Committee Administrator contact information to include, telephone number facsimile number, electronic mail address and emergency contact information (name and telephone number)
- Provide a contribution when the participant is the Issue Originator to initiate discussion towards issue resolution
- When required, pay their pro rated meeting costs, when costs are recoured back to meeting attendees and actively seek out the host company representative to ensure that cost obligations are met
- Be prepared to start on time as published in the agenda
- Inform the hosting company, in advance, of their intention not to stay at the hotel of the designated meeting site

5.5 Committee Administrator's Responsibilities

The following is a set of requirements for the Committee Administrator of the NIIF and its sub-tending committees:

- Attend and take real time minutes at all sanctioned meetings and conference calls (NIIF General Session, NIM, NIA, NM, NRRIC and NT)
- Distribute all meeting records with attachments via e-mail, ATIS web page or paper copy, as required
- Update and maintain all NIIF documents based on input from committees, track issues and update issue identification forms
- Update and maintain NIIF pages within the ATIS web site
- Develop, compile and distribute meeting agendas in coordination with committee Co-Chairs
- Publish and distribute future meeting announcements (based on input from host)
- Maintain roster of attendees and participant emergency contact list in a protected file
- Provide documentation upon request
- Maintain historical documentation of all issues (closed, withdrawn, etc.)
- Incorporate all closed issues into the NIIF documentation, where applicable
- Issue standing documents on a yearly basis or as required
- Advise participants of documentation posted to the NIIF page within the ATIS web site via e-mail
- Maintain NIIF calendar of historical and future meetings and conference calls

5.6 ATIS Responsibilities

ATIS to provide semi-annual read-out of expenditures and forecasting of funding. The fee schedule is outlined in Section 14 of this document.

- Web Site
- E-mail support
- Legal oversight
- Administrative Infrastructure

6. ISSUE HANDLING

This section provides additional guidelines for the handling of issues above and beyond those articulated by the CLC issue guidelines. CLC Principles and Procedures are provided in Attachment B.

6.1 Issue Acceptance

Issues should, whenever practical, be introduced to the NIIF at the General Session. However, due to particular circumstances, issues may be introduced at the committee level. When issues are introduced and accepted at the committee level, work may commence, however, the issue must be formally accepted at a General Session in order for work to continue.

Issue acceptance procedures will follow those outlined by the CLC (Attachment B).

Upon the presentation of a proposed issue for acceptance, clarification of the issue should take place, however, working the issue should be deferred until the issue has been remanded to the appropriate committee and placed on their agenda for discussion.

For tracking purposes, a newly accepted issue will be assigned the next number available in the NIIF numbering sequence.

When consensus is reached at the committee level to change an Issue Statement, the suffix "Rn" (where "n" equals the revision number) will be added to the assigned issue number. The date of revision shall be noted in the issue discussion section of the issue form. All Issue Statement revisions must be accepted at the next General Session.

The issue number shall remain with the issue throughout the forum process.

6.2 Issue Discussion

This section outlines guidelines for issue discussion.

All points of decorum addressed in this document should be used to facilitate issue discussion in a productive manner.

All points of view shall be solicited and considered in regards to an issue.

Contributions (see Section 7.6 Contributions) should be utilized to the fullest degree possible to assist in issue discussion and may be used as a means to develop a straw proposal.

When a point of contention exists, the consensus process should be used to move the group toward the agreement of a particular point.

All "Agreements Reached" during issue discussion should be recorded in the meeting minutes and updated on the issue form.

Where issue discussions result in a resolution, such resolutions should normally be incorporated in an existing document or a new document.

In the event that diligent efforts to reach issue resolution are unsuccessful, the issue will be placed in a "No National Agreement" status for referral to the CLC (See the CLC Principles and Procedures, Attachment B).

During issue discussion, if it is agreed that the Issue Identification Form should be modified, the modification should have the concurrence of the issue originator and consensus of the standing committee and the General Session. If the issue originator or their company is not present during these discussions, then the originating company will be contacted regarding the proposed modification to the issue.

The leadership of the committee where the issue is being discussed will be responsible for contacting the originating company to determine their perspective on the proposed modification. In the event this perspective cannot be obtained within two meeting cycles, the committee has the prerogative to accept the modification to the Issue Identification Form.

Any participant can request attribution for any statement made during issue discussion.

6.3 Issue Withdrawal

This section outlines additional guidelines and the process for issue withdrawal.

The company that created an issue has the prerogative of withdrawing their issue.

If the originating company is not represented, and the committee has determined that the issue should be withdrawn, then the committee leadership will contact the originating company to determine their perspective on the proposed withdrawal. In the event this perspective cannot be obtained within two meeting cycles the committee has the prerogative to withdraw the issue.

In the event that there is no longer a representative of that company, association etc., in the committee, then the committee as a whole shall have the prerogative of withdrawing the issue. Such withdrawal will be based on the consensus of the committee.

6.4 Issue Closure

This section outlines the processes and guidelines for issue closure.

The standing committee Co-Chairs of the NIIF will submit at General Session any and all issues for final closure by the General Session participants. Prior to being presented for final closure, the participants of the committee that has addressed the issue shall agree upon the content of the resolution statement by the consensus procedure. The resolution statement to the issue will be included on the issue form.

The development issue resolution should include the placement of the information will be in the appropriate NIIF documentation. In the event that a resolution results in the generation of a new document, the committee shall agree on the contents and the format prior to consensus being called. Once consensus is achieved then the issue will be deemed in initial closure for presentation to the General Session.

If during the process of issue closure, the participants of the General Session determine that the issue requires further deliberations, then the issue will be remanded back to the appropriate committee to be addressed prior to the issue being reintroduced to the General Session.

If during the process of issue closure, an objection is raised to the final closure of an issue, then the objecting company has the opportunity to have their objections noted in the meeting minutes with the appropriate attribution (company name).

6.5 Issue Status

This section outlines the different types of "status" that an issue will be placed in for administrative purposes. An issue will be placed in the appropriate status based on the consensus of committee participants.

6.5.1 Active

An issue which has been accepted and is currently being addressed by the NIIF.

6.5.2 Initial Closure

The NIIF has completed its work and is serving notice to the industry that the issue is moving to final closure.

6.5.3 Final Closure

Official notification to the industry that consensus has been reached on the resolution of an issue and the issue is closed.

6.5.4 Tabled

An issue which has been addressed to some degree by the NIIF but is inactive awaiting further information.

When an issue is in a tabled status, and an interested party wishes to provide additional information to the issue, it may be placed on the agenda under old business.

In order for a tabled issue to be worked, the committee will agree to change the status from tabled to active for placement on the agenda for a future meeting.

All tabled issues will be reviewed at the last meeting of the calendar year to ascertain if an issue should remain in a tabled status or should be moved to a different status.

6.5.5 Withdrawn

An issue that was accepted and later withdrawn by the originating company or the consensus of the NIIF in the absence of the originating company (see Section 6.3: Issue Withdrawal).

6.5.6 No National Agreement

National Agreement has not been reached. In such circumstances, the NO NATIONAL AGREEMENT process as outlined in the CLC Principles and Procedures shall be followed.

7. DOCUMENTATION

This section outlines the general requirements for NIIF documentation.

7.1 New Issues

When a new issue is presented, the issue originator should provide a copy of the issue on view graphs, at least fifty (50) paper copies for the participants and a "soft" copy of the issue on a diskette (3 1/2" 1.44Mb) (Microsoft Word 6.0, PC format).

7.2 Issue Resolution

The NIIF Committee Administrator will insert the resolution of an issue into the appropriate documentation when applicable and based on the direction of the committees. The resolution should reflect the agreements reached during the resolution of the issue.

7.3 Minutes

In general the format of the minutes for the NIIF and its sub-tending committees may be in either a summary format, real time or a combination of both. The committee should agree upon which format meets their immediate needs. At present the consensus for all committees of the NIIF are to use real time minutes.

Real time electronic minutes shall be posted to the NIIF page on the NIIF page within the ATIS web site within 10 business days after the conclusion of the meeting as defined in the CLC procedures, with an exception list for those participants to receive paper which will be provided within 20 business days.

Where summary minutes are utilized in the forum process a minutes review committee shall be formed. The minutes review committee shall consist of, at a minimum, the Moderator/Assistant Moderator of the forum and the leadership of the appropriate committee(s), the Committee Administrator and any participants requesting to be included. The minutes review committee function is to agree on draft meeting minutes prior to the secretaries distribution to the full NIIF. In the absence of a committee agreement, the Committee Administrator will insert all input to the meeting minutes received from the minutes review committee members in the sections under dispute. The draft meeting minutes should be distributed to all NIIF participants within 20 business days after the conclusion of the meeting. As a general matter, the meeting minutes should be reviewed at the next meeting of the NIIF for approval. Revised meeting minutes should be included with the record of the meeting at which they were approved. If the revisions to the draft meeting minutes are minimal, only the revised pages will be reissued. The revised pages shall be noted as revisions to the draft meeting minutes.

In the event that ATIS legal counsel, upon review of any minutes should recommend any changes to the minutes, such recommendations should immediately be referred back to the forum for approval by the participants prior to the minutes being changed and issued.

7.4 Draft Documents

This section outlines the requirements associated with draft documents developed by the NIIF General Session and its standing committees.

At a minimum, all draft documents should have the following information clearly displayed for the users' edification:

- A. "This document is considered to be a DRAFT working document and does not represent a consensus agreement by the NIIF."
- B. The above mentioned disclaimer shall be centered at the bottom of each page.
- C. Each page of the draft document shall have a revision number and latest revision date.
- D. All draft documents will also have a header, that should include the following information and be laid out as follows:
 - Network Interconnection Interoperability Forum
 - (Name of Document (Subject))
 - Issue Number
 - Date of Issue
- ** This information shall be at the top right hand side of the document
- E. When a draft document is placed on the NIIF page within the ATIS web site, it may be password protected as determined by committee.

7.5 Final Documents

This section identifies where final documentation of the NIIF can be obtained.

Once consensus has been reached on an issue that results in the publication of a document, these documents are obtainable on the NIIF page within the ATIS web site at <http://atis.org/clc/niif/niifdocs.htm>.

7.6 Contributions

This section covers the submission and use of contributions that are provided to the NIIF General Session or its standing committees.

A contribution may be considered to be a draft proposal containing information pertinent to an issue under discussion as a public document for use by the NIIF. This contribution may be subject to modification by the committee to assist in the reconciliation of an issue.

Participants are encouraged to provide contributions electronically to the NIIF Committee Administrator prior to the committee meeting for electronic distribution.

The person bringing in a contribution to a committee meeting should provide a copy of the contribution on view graphs, at least fifty (50) paper copies for the participants and a "soft" copy of the contribution on a diskette (3 1/2", 1.44Mb, Microsoft Word 6.0, PC format).

Contributors should include their name, company name, date and related issue number with appropriate contact information on their contribution.

Contributions should be identified at the beginning of the meeting whenever possible.

Once a contribution has been submitted to the NIIF, the content may be utilized for what purpose the forum participants deem necessary (e.g., generate additional discussion, stimulate additional contributions, or be used as a straw proposal).

7.7 Position Papers

This section will outline the need for and handling of position papers.

When a document is submitted as a Company Position, such document should be so identified. Position papers are not for upgrading or changing by the forum in any manner, unless authorized by the company representative or designee.

Position papers should be related to an issue currently being worked by the forum and be accepted as related to the topic of the issue discussion by the forum.

An example of the cover page of a position paper is outlined in Attachment H (NIAC specific documentation).

The following disclaimer should be included on all of the pages of a companies position paper:

"This document is a submission to issue (number) by (company name) and does not represent consensus of the NIIF."

7.8 Liaisons

There are three types of liaison correspondence:

1. External liaison, which is information sent to an organization/entity outside of the CLC forum structure
2. Internal liaison which is information sent to a forum or committee under the CLC
3. Referred-in liaison, which may be internal (information sent from inside the CLC) or external (information sent from outside the CLC).

7.8.1 All liaison correspondence that is generated by the committees of the NIIF will be approved by the NIIF General Session and signed by the Moderator and Assistant Moderator prior to being transmitted.

7.8.2 All liaison correspondence received by the NIIF or its sub-tending committees will be treated as input for committee deliberations and is not subject to change in any manner.

7.9 Liaison Representatives

NIIF liaison representatives will act under the direction of the NIIF in terms of providing input to the non-NIIF committees/forums which they attend. Liaison representatives will only act as the medium for the transport of information between the non-NIIF committees/forums.

7.10 Issue Identification Form

An electronic copy of a blank NIIF Issue Identification Form can be found at the NIIF page within the ATIS web site at <http://www.atis.org/clc/niif/niifiss.htm>. An example of the NIIF issue identification form can be found as Attachment I.

8. DOCUMENTATION DISBURSEMENT

This section outlines the requirements for the disbursement of information that is generated in the NIIF General Session and the committee deliberations.

8.1 NIIF Operations Reference Document

The NIIF Operations Reference Document deals primarily with issues handled by the NIM and NM committees of the NIIF.

This document will be published and made available on the NIIF page within the ATIS web site no later than February 1 of the calendar year.

A draft operations document will also be available on the NIIF page within the ATIS web site which will incorporate all pertinent closed issues. The draft document will be considered to be the current working draft.

8.2 Subject Specific Documentation

Subject specific (stand alone) documentation should be published and made available immediately once an issue has gone to final closure.

When a specific issue requires the generation of a separate document, the committee addressing the issue should provide the Committee Administrator with the appropriate guidance for the placement of such information into the appropriate documentation.

9. MEETING HOST REQUIREMENTS

This section outlines the requirements for a company or group of companies when hosting a NIIF week meeting.

The hosting company representative shall contact the Moderator to discuss any questions as to the requirements of a host.

Meeting notification for NIIF meeting weeks: the hosting company should inform the participants at the General Session of their intent of the location of the meeting at least nine months prior to the event. An opportunity shall be provided for the participants to review the proposed location and express any concerns for discussion at the following General Session. If no concerns are expressed at the General Session then the location designated by the host will be accepted.

Meeting room layout shall be in class room style, and sufficient space should be provided.

Audio/video - At a minimum, the General Session and the committees meeting during that week (minus the NRRIC and NTC) will require:

- Three screens
- Two overhead projectors
- Sufficient electrical power strips for participants computers
- Sufficient table space for placement of paper documentation

In the event that committees meet in parallel, additional audio/video equipment will be required.

If equipment requirements differ from those listed above the hosting company should be notified.

Optional equipment:

- Microphones (at the discretion of the hosting company)
- VCR (when required)

Copying: Participants are responsible for providing the necessary number of copies as described in Section 7.6 of this document and absorbing such costs to obtain them. The host company and the secretarial support are not responsible for providing copy support.

Facsimile capability: The hosting company should provide a number for facsimile transmittals. Such number should be announced at the beginning of each meeting. The individual sending and or receiving facsimiles shall absorb such costs.

Emergency Notification: The hosting company shall provide to the participants a telephone number for emergency contact purposes.

Meeting Fees: A host may recouse the fees associated with hosting a meeting back to the participants. The recourse of fees shall be restricted to meeting room charges, audio/video and morning and afternoon refreshments. Fees will be assessed on a daily basis, not on a partial day or hourly rate. If the participant brings a guest, it is the responsibility of the participant to cover the guest's meeting fees or have the guest cover their meeting fees. The hosting company should not be expected to cover the costs of participant's guest(s).

Where costs are being recoused back to participants, the host shall endeavor to have such charges detailed on the participant's hotel bill for accounting requirements.

In the event that a participant of the NIIF does not have accommodations at the hotel where the meeting is being held, the hosting company may determine the appropriate means by which it may recourse the charges to such persons.

In the event that a company wishes to absorb the expenses of the meeting facilities and refreshments, the hosting company is only requested to provide the minimum amount of support as laid out in these guidelines.

Refreshments: It is suggested that the morning refreshments include coffee, fruit juice, sweet rolls, bagels and or fresh fruit. It is suggested that the afternoon refreshments include soft drinks, coffee and a light snack. Refreshments are at the discretion of the hosting company. Should a host wish to go above and beyond this recommendation, it is their prerogative, however such cost incurred should not be recoused to the participants.

Luncheon/Receptions: Should a hosting company wish to provide lunch and or a reception, it shall be at the discretion of the host and charges that are accrued for such an activity shall not be recoused to the participants.

Accommodations: The hosting company should take into consideration the cost associated with the sleeping accommodations when making arrangements for a meeting and should endeavor to negotiate the lowest costs possible. The host company should endeavor to obtain a location where data access is available to participants from their rooms.

Location: The location of a meeting is the prerogative of the hosting company and should take into account accessibility, rental car requirements, transportation provided by hotels and any other costs that can be reduced by the selection of locations. Meeting locations should not preclude the use of company property if the hosting company feels that the location could accommodate all meeting requirements .

Pre Registration: Pre Registration should be stipulated on the meeting announcement, if required.

10. VIRTUAL MEETINGS

This section provides high level concepts for Virtual Meetings. Virtual Meetings are those conducted apart from a face-to-face meeting, utilizing electronic medium. These meetings may be considered as sanctioned meetings with the same consideration with respect to procedures and guidelines as any other NIIF meeting.

Networking

To provide the opportunity for open participation, the following public communications networks should be used for conducting Virtual Meetings:

- The Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) for audio/video conferencing
- The Internet for data conferencing and application sharing, multicasting, and file transfer

It is assumed that NIIF participants in Virtual Meetings have access to these public networks in order to participate in Virtual Meetings.

Protocol

The use of specific protocols supporting Virtual Meetings should take into consideration the fact that participants have diverse computer operating system platforms.

The protocols recommended for use for Virtual Meetings utilize Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP).

11. DUE PROCESS

This section outlines the process to be followed in the event that a participant determines that they have been denied their rights in terms of being afforded Due Process in the forum deliberations.

Due Process is compliance with the CLC Principles and Procedures and the NIIF Principles and Procedures in a fair and unbiased manner.

The appeals process that should be followed in the event that a participant determines that they have been denied due process is as follows:

- Appeal to the appropriate committee Co-chairs for the determination of Due Process
- Appeal to the Moderator and Assistant Moderator for the determination of Due Process
- Appeal to the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) for the determination of Due Process

12. LEADERSHIP SELECTION

This section outlines the process and general principles that should be followed for the selection of leaders for the forum as well as for the Co-chairs of each of the committees.

In order to be considered for any leadership position of the forum or committees, nominees should be current participants of the NIIF. In addition, they should be familiar with the NIIF process and have experience with the specific forum/committee for which they are nominated.

12.1 Moderator Selection

The new Moderator shall be the current Assistant Moderator who shall assume the position of Moderator on January 1st. The term of service for the Moderator shall be for one calendar year.

In the event that the Moderator is unable to complete a term of service the Assistant Moderator shall immediately assume the role of Moderator for the remainder of the un-expired term.

12.2 Assistant Moderator Selection

The current Assistant Moderator shall be responsible for selecting a replacement for affirmation by a representative of each participating company at the last NIIF General Session of the calendar year. The new Assistant Moderator shall be selected from the participants of the forum. The term of service will be for one calendar year starting on January 1st of the year.

In the event that the Assistant Moderator is unable to complete the term of service the Moderator shall select a new Assistant Moderator for affirmation by the forum to complete the un-expired term.

12.3 Committee Co-Chair(s) Selection

Candidates for committee Co-Chair will be nominated by the committee representatives during the last committee meeting of that calendar year.

Co-chair nominees for each committee will be affirmed by a representative of each participating company during the last committee meeting of the calendar year. It is recommended that the Co-chairs come from different industry segments as well as from different corporate entities. The term of service shall be at a minimum of one year at which time a re-nomination shall take place or a new Co-chair shall be selected.

In the event that a committee Co-chair is unable to complete a term of office the affected committee shall select a replacement to serve the remainder of the un-expired term.

13. MEETING NOTIFICATION/AGENDA INFORMATION

Notification as to where and when the next NIIF General Session meeting week will take place shall be distributed no later than the preceding General Session meeting.

Agendas for the next NIIF General Session meeting week shall be distributed to all NIIF participants 10 days after the preceding NIIF General Session meeting and cannot be changed less than 10 days prior to the next NIIF General Session.

Participants wishing to add accepted issues to the next NIIF General Session week committee agendas should contact the Co-chairs of the appropriate committee to request an interim conference call of all participants of the committee to agree on the amendment. Once consensus has been reached to add the appropriate issue to the appropriate committee agenda the Committee Administrator will distribute the revised agenda in accordance with the time frame stated above.

NIIF interim meetings and conference call notification and associated agendas will be distributed no later than 25 and 10 calendar days respectively prior to the scheduled event.

14. FEE SCHEDULE

Cost for secretarial support, document maintenance and distribution, and other required administrative expenses shall be recovered from the participants as outlined in Attachment J.

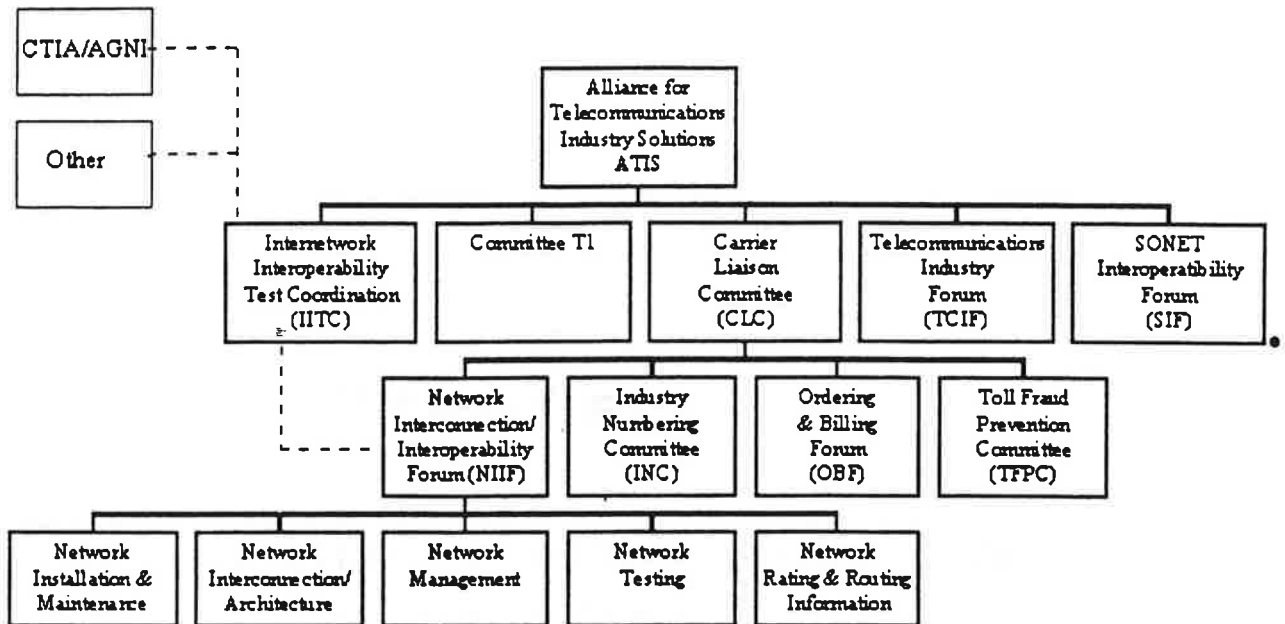
GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ATIS	Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions
CLC	Carrier Liaison Committee
ICCF	Industry Carrier Compatibility Forum
IILC	Information Industry Liaison Committee
INC	Industry Numbering Committee
NANP	North American Numbering Plan
NIAC	Network Interoperability Architecture Committee
NIIF	Network Interconnection Interoperability Forum
NIMC	Network Installation Maintenance Committee
NMC	Network Management Committee
NOF	Network Operations Forum
NRC	Network Reliability Council
NRRIC	Network Rating Routing Information
NRSC	Network Reliability Steering Committee
NTC	Network Testing Committee
ONA	Open Network Architecture

Attachment A

ATIS Board Approved Organization Chart

ATIS Board Approved Reorganization



Attachment B

Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) Policies and Procedures

Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) Policies and Procedures

Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) Principles and Procedures

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Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) Principles and Procedures

1. Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to describe the established principles and procedures which apply to the Carrier Liaison Committee (CLC) and all of its sponsored Forums, Committees/Workshops, Subcommittees (FCS) or any other activity which takes place under the auspices of the CLC.

2. CLC Background and Overview

The following sections provide background information and an overview of the CLC.

2.1 Background

Proposed by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (formerly ECSA) in 1984, and endorsed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1985, the CLC was established in response to an industry need for coordination and resolution of issues for the provision of exchange access and telecommunications network interconnection.

2.2 Overview

The CLC is an executive oversight committee which provides perspective, direction and an appeal process for its subtending Forums, Committees/Workshops and Subcommittees (FCS). The FCS are the primary organizations to address and resolve issues pertinent to their respective missions. The CLC does not typically become directly involved with the ongoing routine operations of the FCS or act as an arbitrator for the "final resolution" of specific issues. When issues are received at the CLC level, they are either referred to the appropriate FCS or worked by the CLC or a new FCS.

In addition, the CLC provides guidance on any and all issues which the various FCS determine warrant review by the CLC due to the complexity of the issue and controversies brought about by differing views of participants. This includes acting expeditiously on any issue declared as "No National Agreement" (NNA) by one of its subtending FCS.

¹ The terms 'industry-wide' and 'national' are used in this document. The terms should be considered interchangeable.

The CLC and its associated FCS provide an arena for discussion and resolution of numerous issues affecting the provision of exchange access and telecommunications network interconnection. The voluntary implementation of resolutions achieved in the forum process fosters consistency which can lead to cost savings for systems, as well as minimize costs for staffing and training efforts. Benefits accrue to telecommunications providers and users from having compatible systems, methods and procedures.

The CLC *Principles and Procedures* are intended to provide a consistent baseline process, so as to permit the CLC itself and the management of any participating entity to understand the status of an issue brought to any FCS regardless of the particular FCS involved. In addition, this process ensures that the principles and operating practices will be consistent. In some situations, the CLC's subtending FCS have established additional procedures to accommodate their own unique needs. However, no such procedure may conflict with these *CLC Principles and Procedures* without explicit review and approval by the CLC.

3. CLC Mission

The CLC provides mechanisms for identification, discussion and voluntary resolution of industry-wide concerns regarding the provision of exchange access and telecommunications network interconnection within the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area.

4. Operating Principles

The CLC and its subtending FCS shall:

1. Afford all parties the right to be heard and to have their views and concerns considered.
2. Be free from dominance by any participant, interest group or industry segment and conduct activities in a fair and unbiased manner.
3. Support the evaluation and acceptance of issues and development of resolutions based on their merit.
4. Reach resolution of issues in a timely, efficient and effective manner and continuously seek to improve on process and/or organizational structure.
5. Recognize that broad and consistent implementation of a consensus resolution is a fundamental expectation and reason for the existence of the CLC. However, resolutions are not binding and any entity's decision to implement a resolution is solely at that entity's discretion.

5. Organizational Structure

The primary means by which the CLC meets its responsibilities is through the following associated Forums. These Forums, as well as any ad-hoc organizations reporting directly to the CLC, are open to all interested parties.

Industry Numbering Committee (INC)

The INC provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with the planning, administration, allocation, assignment and use of numbering resources and related dialing considerations for public telecommunications within the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area.

Network Interconnection/Interoperability Forum (NIIF)

The NIIF provides an open forum to encourage the discussion and resolution, on a voluntary basis, of industry-wide issues association with telecommunications network interconnection and interoperability which involve network architecture, management, testing and operations and facilitates the exchange of information concerning these topics.

Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF)

The OBF provides a Forum for customers and providers in the telecommunications industry to identify, discuss and resolve national issues which affect Ordering, Billing, Provisioning and exchange of information about access services, other connectivity and related matters.

Toll Fraud Prevention Committee (TFPC)

The TFPC provides a working forum to identify issues involving fraud, pertinent to the telecommunications industry and to discuss and develop resolutions for voluntary implementation by the industry.

6. CLC and Forum Administrative Process

The following sections discuss the administrative processes used by the CLC and its associated Forums. This includes meeting schedules, agendas, locations and meeting records (meeting minutes and notes), the responsibilities of the CLC and FCS, issue management and the disposition of issues in a "No National Agreement" status.

6.1 Scheduling

CLC meetings are held three times per year during the January, May and September timeframes. The frequency of FCS meetings shall be at the discretion of the participants.

Appropriate consideration shall be given to scheduling CLC/FCS meetings in order to minimize conflicts with other related industry meeting schedules.

6.2 Location of Meetings

CLC: Two out of the three CLC meetings scheduled during the year must be held in the Washington, D.C. area in order to facilitate FCC attendance. The host company for the meeting held outside of the Washington, D.C. area will be responsible for choosing the meeting location.

FCS: The host company for meetings will be responsible for choosing the location for meetings.

The first choice for CLC/FCS meeting locations should always be in or near a major airport hub city.

6.3 Agenda

Agenda items should be provided to the CLC/FCS Secretary no less than 30 calendar days prior to a scheduled meeting. This will allow sufficient time to distribute the items to industry participants to better ensure appropriate representation at the forthcoming meeting. During agenda setting conference calls (when held), discussion should be limited to the establishment and clarification of agenda items.

6.4 Emergency Meetings

Occasions may arise when normal CLC and FCS schedules will not support urgent business needs. When the need exists, the CLC/FCS leadership shall convene an emergency meeting.

6.5 Meeting Participation

When scheduling CLC/FCS meetings, every attempt should be made to allow maximum attendance by those desiring to participate while balancing the need to address issues in a timely manner. When meetings/conference calls take place, the concept of quorums should not be applied to determine appropriate meeting participation. Since due process is followed by the CLC/FCS, all meeting announcements and related information are provided on a timely basis and there

are minimal, only the revised pages will be re-issued. The revised pages shall be noted as revisions to the draft meeting record (i.e., revision to draft meeting record dated 00/00/00).

6.7 Responsibilities

These sections discuss the responsibilities of the CLC, the FCS and the CLC and FCS participants.

6.7.1 Carrier Liaison Committee Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the CLC to:

- Develop and maintain an appropriate mission statement.
- Provide an effective arena (Forums, Committees, etc.) for the discussion and voluntary resolution of issues affecting the provision of exchange access and telecommunications network interconnection. This includes the establishment, reorganization and dissolution of the aforementioned groups.
- Refer matters to an existing FCS, as appropriate. When an appropriate group does not exist, establish mechanisms to address industry issues.
- Review and confirm recommendations for Forum Moderators. The CLC shall ascertain that candidates have previous forum and industry experience and have the necessary commitments from their respective companies to carry out their duties.
- Monitor Forum activities to verify compliance with CLC Principles and Procedures. This is typically accomplished by the review of Forum reports and external correspondence at CLC meetings.
- Monitor the work and progress of the Forums' issues and facilitate their resolution (e.g., No National Agreement process - Section 6.8).
- Handle appeals from participants who believe they have been or will be adversely affected by an action or inaction by an FCS in accordance with Section 6.7.14.
- Assist Forums with coordination of meeting dates.

6.7.2 FCS Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the FCS to:

- Develop and maintain an appropriate mission statement.
- Develop consensus recommendations and agreements for issues assigned the full CLC or for issues directly raised by participants in the FCS.
- Comply with the principles and procedures of the CLC and conduct their activities within their defined mission and scope.
- Review and approve all meeting records and ensure that they accurately reflect activities, agreements, resolutions and action items which result from FCS meetings, conference calls or other activities.
- Approve reports to the CLC on all activities, recommendations and resolutions.
- Approve internal and external liaisons.
- Establish Committees, Subcommittees, Workshops, Task Forces, etc., as necessary.
- Ensure that all Committees, Subcommittees, Workshops, Task Forces, etc., have the opportunity to be co-chaired by different industry segments.

6.7.3 CLC/FCS Participants Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the CLC/FCS participants to:

- Be familiar with and understand the process and procedures used by the CLC/FCS.
- Be cognizant of and be prepared to address significant issues and help identify areas for possible solutions.
- Be recognized by the Forum Moderator, Committee or Subcommittee Chair or Designates before speaking.
- Refrain from statements, comments or actions that could be potentially offensive to any participant.

- Refrain from attacking a participant's motives.
- Confine remarks to the merits of the pending question or issue.
- Refrain from speaking adversely on a prior action or issue not pending.
- Refrain from disturbing the meeting.
- Recognize and be sensitive to antitrust laws.

6.8 CLC/FCS Issues Management

The following sections address issue introduction, acceptance and implementation of issue resolutions. Also, a discussion concerning business issues, regulatory issues and issues that require expedited handling is included.

6.8.1 Issue Introduction

An issue must be introduced to the CLC or FCS before it can be formally accepted and any substantive discussion and activity can occur. The issue may be introduced through any of the following means:

- Written request to the CLC/FCS Chair/Moderator or Secretary;
- Agenda setting conference call (if used by the CLC or FCS to which the issue would be brought); or
- Raised at a meeting of the CLC or FCS under New Business.

The following information must be provided in order to introduce an issue for consideration by the CLC or any FCS. The submission will contain, at minimum, the following information:

Issue Originator's Input

1. Title
2. Issue statement (a description of the issue to be addressed)
3. Originator's identity and the Forum, task force, committee or subworking group to which the issue is to be presented
4. Proposed resolution or action sought

Originators may provide an expected time frame for resolution of the issue (e.g., 6 months/1 year/2 meetings/3 meetings).

The issue originator is encouraged to include all relevant information which will assist participants in understanding the issue to be considered and the resolution requested. The successful resolution of issues is directly affected by the breadth of the information accompanying the issue and the clarity with which it has been communicated.

6.8.2 Issue Acceptance

All issues that meet the CLC/FCS mission statement and issue acceptance criteria (Attachment 1) should be accepted. The following input may be added to the issue form, when available, once an issue has been accepted.

1. Date on which the issue was accepted by the FCS
2. Issue number assigned by the Forum, task force, committee or subworking group for issue identification and tracking.

An issue will not be accepted, worked and placed in final closure at the same meeting.

6.8.3 Issue Prioritization

The order by which issues are prioritized and worked will be determined by CLC/FCS consensus.

6.8.4 Issue Category Definitions

An issue category will be assigned and kept current by the CLC, Forum, task force, committee or working group in order to track the status of the issue. The categories that may be used are listed below.

Active: An issue which has been accepted and is currently being addressed by the CLC/FCS.

Initial Closure: The CLC/FCS has completed its work and is serving notice to the industry that the issue is moving to final closure.

Tabled: An issue which has been addressed to some degree by the CLC/FCS but is inactive awaiting further information.

Referred: An issue which was considered by the CLC/FCS to be more appropriately addressed by another body and was therefore referred to that body.

Resolved: An issue which has been resolved through the consensus process at the CLC/FCS. Resolved issues shall not be addressed further unless a new issue is originated.

Final Closure: Official notification to the industry that consensus has been reached on the resolution of an issue and the issue is closed.

Withdrawn: An issue which has been accepted and later withdrawn by the originator or the consensus of the FCS in the absence of the originator.

**No National:
Agreement** National Agreement has not been reached (see Section 6.8).

6.8.5 Issue Closure Process

This section identifies the process for the closure of issues by the CLC and the FCS.

6.8.5.1 Initial Closure (If Used)

Upon completion of deliberations of an active issue and based on consensus reached by the CLC/FCS participants, the issue under question will be placed in initial closure.

A period of at least one meeting cycle or no less than a period of six weeks must pass before an issue will be moved to final closure. This period of time provides the opportunity for interested parties to review a proposed resolution and, should the need arise, the opportunity to request that an issue not be moved to final closure. In the event an issue is not moved to final closure, such an issue shall be reviewed by the CLC/FCS.

6.8.5.2 Final Closure

An issue will be presented to the General Session of the Forum for acceptance of final closure. A consensus of the participants shall be necessary for an issue to be resolved.

6.8.6 Timely Resolution of Issues

Every effort will be made to work toward rapid and timely resolution of issues. However, this need must be balanced against the need to ensure that resolutions for all involved parties are fair and practical.

The ability of any FCS to attain timely resolution is dependent in part on how the issue has been defined, described and documented by the issue originator for presentation to the FCS for consideration.

6.8.7 Consensus

Consensus is established when substantial agreement has been reached among interest groups participating in the consideration of the subject at hand. Interest groups are those materially affected by the outcome or result. Substantial agreement means more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Recommendations of all participants will be considered carefully and in good faith in seeking and in reaching consensus recommendations and resolutions.

The consensus process is to be free from interest group dominance, requiring that all views and objections be considered. This requires that a concerted effort be made toward issue resolution. Under some circumstances, consensus is achieved when the minority no longer wishes to articulate its objection.

6.8.8 Implementation of Resolutions

CLC/FCS resolutions reflect the consensus views of the participants. While it is recognized and understood that such resolutions are not binding upon any CLC/FCS participant, and that it is solely within the independent and voluntary discretion of each participating company as to whether it will or will not implement any specific resolution, broad and consistent implementation of CLC/FCS consensus resolutions is a fundamental goal of the CLC.

For this reason, when a consensus resolution is adopted, a poll may be taken of the CLC/FCS participants regarding their company's present intent to implement the resolution. The information solicited may include whether implementation is intended. If the information is not available, it may be solicited or provided at a later time. Each participating company polled shall provide the information as it deems appropriate and is under no obligation to provide the information requested. Competitively sensitive information, including implementation timing and geographic location, marketing, pricing or similar information, specifically should not be requested or disclosed. Any responses made to the poll shall be recorded in the record of the meeting at which the poll is conducted.

A participating company's statement of intention in response to a CLC/FCS poll shall not be considered binding. To the extent any company or interested party relies upon the information provided in response to a poll, it shall be at the company's risk. Statements of intentions by CLC/FCS participants are not intended to circumvent nor replace direct discussions or negotiations concerning the commercial implementation of CLC/FCS resolutions. The CLC and the Alliance For Telecommunications Industry Solutions disclaim any responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any information provided in response to a CLC/FCS poll.

6.8.9 Issues Requiring Expedited Handling

Issues requiring expedited handling are normally directed to the CLC or FCS leadership. When an issue is referred to an FCS by a public body (e.g., the FCC or a court) that requires expedited handling, the FCS leadership shall inform the CLC Chair of such a referral.

An issue requiring expedited handling may be accepted by the CLC/FCS but may not be brought to resolution unless notification to the participants of the intent to move the issue to such resolution has occurred. The CLC Chairperson shall be notified immediately and be kept informed of the issue status by the FCS working the issue.

6.8.10 Liaison with Other Industry Bodies

Where certain facets of an issue are outside of the scope of the CLC/FCS' activities, the CLC/FCS shall communicate the issue, in total, or those facets of an issue outside the scope of the CLC/FCS' activities, to an appropriate body for deliberation and action.

6.8.11 Issues with Business Implications

In accordance with the antitrust laws, competitively sensitive information including pricing, market allocation and individual company competitive plans shall not be discussed. However, realizing every issue has business implications (e.g., implementation costs), discussion and resolution shall not be inhibited nor precluded by these business implications. It is recognized that costs may be a factor in implementation decisions.

6.8.12 Regulatory/Public Policy Issues

Some issues may be associated with a pending regulatory/public policy ruling. This shall not preclude the CLC or FCS from working such issues. However, no resolution dependent upon a specific ruling shall be adopted until such ruling has been made.

Discussion and resolution of issues should not be withheld because it might lead to the need for a tariff filing.

6.8.13 Issue Tracking System

An issue tracking system shall be devised so that all interested parties, whether or not in attendance at a FCS, shall be able to adequately ascertain the status of issues before any of the committees. The issues shall be appropriately formatted and assigned an issue number.

6.8.14 FCS Appeal Process

Participants in the CLC/FCS shall be afforded due process. When a participant believes that he/she has been denied due process and that he/she has been or will be adversely affected by a procedural action or inaction, a statement from the participant should be recorded in the meeting record. The statement should include the nature of the participant's objection, any details regarding the objection, and the action/outcome which would satisfy the participant's objection. Efforts to address and resolve the participant's objection and the outcome of these efforts should also be noted .

If the objection occurred within the FCS, the Moderator/Chair should be notified as soon as is reasonably possible and efforts to resolve the objection should proceed within the FCS. If after a reasonable period of time and the exhaust of all available opportunities and procedures at the FCS to resolve the objection, and if the participant still wishes to maintain the objection, the Moderator/Chair shall advise the CLC Chair and Vice Chair of the objection and provide the documentation of the FCS efforts to the CLC leadership. The CLC leadership shall distribute the documentation to the full CLC. The matter should be addressed before the full CLC at the next available meeting unless circumstances warrant more immediate attention to the objection, and thus, the need for an emergency CLC meeting. The participant shall be invited to the CLC meeting for a presentation of his/her objection. The Moderator/Chair shall present the meeting record as it was established within the FCS. The full CLC shall address the objection and reach consensus on an appropriate resolution.

6.9 No National Agreement (NNA) Issue Disposition

The following sections address the declaration of issues in a NNA status, procedures for referring these issues to the CLC, issue documentation and presentation and the CLC action alternatives.

6.9.1 Declaration of NNA Status

A state of initial No National Agreement (NNA) shall be declared when a lack of consensus exists to continue the work toward resolution of an issue. Additionally, the Chairs or committee leaders may declare a state of initial NNA unless there is FCS consensus to continue working the issue. Further work on an initial NNA issue is suspended except for review of new contributions which could lead to changing the status from initial NNA to active.

The FCS will treat initial NNAs on an urgent basis with due consideration for other issues being addressed at the FCS, which may include calling special meetings, conference calls, etc. The leadership shall confirm the initial NNA status at the next meeting (the confirmation meeting) at which discussion would occur. Thereafter, development of the documentation required in Section 6.8.3 will proceed expeditiously. An initial NNA issue shall be changed back to active status in order for work to continue.

6.9.2 Procedures for Reference to the CLC

Issues initially declared NNA shall be expeditiously presented to the CLC in accordance with these procedures. Documentation shall be prepared to summarize the issue as accurately and completely as possible as specified below to provide a basis for subsequent CLC action. With due consideration for other issues being addressed at the FCS, the required documentation should be prepared and forwarded to CLC on a priority basis, but in no case later than 60 days from the confirmation meeting.

Upon receipt of the documentation, CLC should act on the issue in an expeditious manner. The first stage of CLC action should occur within 4 weeks of receipt and distribution of the documentation. When necessary, CLC meetings should be convened by conference call in accordance with the procedures for calling emergency meetings.

6.9.3 Documentation & Presentation

The documentation package shall provide a fair and unbiased representation of the initial NNA issue. It will include the issue statement, related meeting records, the various positions as recorded in the meeting records, and a summary which highlights the major points of the discussions. The documentation package shall

include additional input if provided by individual participants or groups of participants which reflect their positions. These individual inputs are not subject to consensus review of the FCS.

The Chairs/Co-Chairs are responsible for compiling the documentation package. This package shall be made available for review by the FCS participants for completeness prior to submission to the CLC for discussion. Individual participants or groups of participants are responsible for providing their additional input directly to the Chair.

Based on the documentation package, the Forum Moderator shall present this issue to the CLC as well as any additional activity which has occurred since the documentation package was prepared.

6.9.4 CLC Action Alternatives

Upon receipt of documentation and presentation of the issue, the CLC shall check for completeness of the material presented. The CLC must review the documentation regarding whether initial NNA process sequence, as outlined above, has been met. After the review, CLC has two options. First is a remand to the Forum for further action - the second is a declaration of final NNA in which the issue is closed. Prior to a final decision, the CLC may conduct a maximum of two meetings on the issue.

6.9.4.1 Remand to Originating Forum

In order for CLC to return an issue for further work at the FCS level, CLC must have provided some new insight or information that has a reasonable chance of changing the outcome. In the event that remand is under consideration, CLC shall develop the basis for remand, and at its option, may 1) return the issue to the Forum at the same meeting, or 2) may elect to provide an opportunity for further consideration and schedule another meeting. A second meeting shall be scheduled in accordance with procedures for calling meetings. At the second meeting, CLC shall remand the issue or declare NNA status. In order that CLC remand an issue to the originating Forum, one or more of the following conditions must apply:

1. CLC identifies a possible compromise or solution that has not been considered by the FCS. This must be stated and provided as a part of the remand.
2. CLC participants have gained a new perspective or information that could change the outcome of the issue, which they will share with their FCS representatives.

6.9.4.2 Declaration of Final NNA

In this case, the CLC affirms that the issue under dispute has been thoroughly worked in accordance with established procedures, that there is no likelihood that further work in the FCS will result in a resolution and there is no basis for remand.

Reaching NNA on an issue shall not preclude the subject matter or portions thereof from being submitted to the appropriate FCS as a new issue.

7. CLC and Forum Leadership

This section defines the CLC and Forum leadership selection process and leadership responsibilities.

7.1 Selection Process and Terms of Office

The following sections address the process used to select both the CLC and Forum leadership and their terms of office.

7.1.1 CLC Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair and Vice Chair of the CLC shall be representatives from companies which are members of ATIS and shall be confirmed by a majority of the entire ATIS Board of Directors.

The Vice Chair will normally succeed the Chair. The incoming Chair shall recommend the CLC Vice Chair candidate. The CLC Vice Chair shall come from an interest group and company different from the Chair's and requires consensus approval by the full CLC and confirmation by the ATIS Board of Directors. It is recommended that the candidate have previous CLC/FCS and industry experience.

In the event the Vice Chair cannot assume the responsibilities of the Chair, the CLC will select, via consensus, a new CLC Chair and Vice Chair, subject to the confirmation of the ATIS Board of Directors.

The CLC Chair should be prepared to serve a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years to begin on the date that the individual assumes the role of Chair.

The CLC Vice Chair's term will generally be concurrent with the CLC Chair's term.

7.1.2 Forum Moderators and Assistant Moderators

The Moderators of the CLC sponsored Forums shall be selected from the Forum participants. It is recommended that the selected individuals have previous forum and industry experience.

The Assistant Moderator will normally succeed the Moderator. The incoming Moderator shall recommend an Assistant Moderator candidate from an interest group and corporate affiliation different from the Moderator's for acceptance by the Forum participants and confirmation by the CLC.

In the event the Assistant Moderator cannot assume the responsibilities of the Moderator, the outgoing Forum Moderator, with input from the Forum, shall recommend a new Forum Moderator, subject to the confirmation of the CLC.

A Forum Moderator and Assistant Moderator typically serve a one year term in each position.

When there is no current leadership for a Forum (i.e., the formation of a new Forum under the CLC), an election of the Forum Moderator and Assistant Moderator will be held. Announcement of this meeting where the election will be held shall follow CLC guidelines for meeting notifications. Each participating entity present at an election meeting will have one vote per entity. This includes consortiums and associations. An entity is defined as a firm or group of firms under common ownership or control. No proxy votes will be permitted and individuals cannot act as more than one entity during a leadership selection process. Before the selection process begins, each representative voting will declare their entity affiliation.

7.2 Leadership Responsibilities and Attributes

The person in a leadership role is expected to facilitate resolution of issues by the group. This includes conducting meetings in an unbiased, efficient and orderly manner. Leaders will remain neutral in all discussions and will not interject any biases or company positions into issue discussions. Individuals in a leadership role may state a company position only after formally stating that they are speaking as a company representative and not as the leader. Therefore, it is suggested that the leader not attempt to serve in the dual capacity of participant and leader. Leaders are not empowered to influence or change any output or decision agreed to by their FCS.

Skills in communication, presentation, facilitation, negotiation and conflict resolution are recommended attributes for a leadership position.

7.2.1 CLC Chairperson Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the CLC Chairperson to:

- Facilitate adherence to CLC principles and procedures.
- Ensure that FCS either adopt and/or develop principles and procedures that are consistent with those of the CLC.
- Preside at CLC meetings.
- In expedited situations, approve external communications related to CLC/FCS activities to entities outside the CLC structure (e.g., the FCC, other regulatory bodies and media) after review with the Vice Chair.
- Develop and deliver liaison reports in cooperation with the Vice Chair.
- Receive notification from Forum leaders of general information exchanged among and between subtending Forums.
- Establish CLC meeting agendas (usually via conference call) with CLC participants.
- Call emergency meetings of the CLC.

7.2.2 CLC Vice Chairperson Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the CLC Vice Chairperson to:

- Perform the duties of the Chairperson when the CLC Chairperson is absent.
- Review and comment on draft CLC/FCS external correspondence.
- Review and comment on internal CLC correspondence and distributions.
- Assist the Chairperson with other duties as required.

7.2.3 Forum Moderator Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Forum Moderator to:

- Facilitate adherence to CLC and Forum principles and procedures.

- Preside at Forum meetings.
- Obtain approval for external correspondence per Section 8.2.
- Inform CLC Chair, Vice Chair and ATIS General Counsel of inquiries from external organizations.
- Communicate to the CLC Chair within five (5) working days any allegation by an FCS participant that due process has not been followed.
- Provide appropriate approved reports and liaisons to the CLC and other organizations on all activities, recommendations, and resolutions. Forum Moderator reports to the CLC shall include both a written and oral report of what transpired during the general session and committee meetings. Identification shall be made of new issues, resolved issues, issues with rationale where no national agreement was reached and issues that have been active beyond twelve (12) months. Reports on the latter two items shall be more than just a statement of the issue. They shall include a summary description which objectively captures FCS efforts expended to reach resolution.
- Develop and deliver liaison reports in cooperation with the Assistant Moderator (when one exists).
- Receive notification from committee co-leaders of general information exchanged among and between subtending FCS.
- Establish Forum meeting agendas (usually via conference call) with Forum participants.
- Call an emergency meeting of the Forum and notify the Forum participants and the CLC leadership when there is an emergency meeting of the Forum.

7.2.4 Forum Assistant Moderator Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Forum Assistant Moderator to:

- Perform the duties of the Moderator when the Forum Moderator is absent.
- Review and comment on draft FCS external correspondence.
- Assist Moderator with other duties as required.

7.2.5 Secretary Responsibilities

Each CLC/FCS will have designated personnel who will act as secretary with primary responsibility for administrative and operational support for CLC/FCS meetings. The secretary may make statements provided they are impartial and do not attempt to influence the outcome of the issues.

The secretariat function for the CLC/FCS is provided by ATIS or Bellcore. The CLC/FCS shall separately determine whether a real time or summary meeting record will be used. If the real time meeting record process is used, the meeting record is generally considered final at the conclusion of the meeting.

Following are the responsibilities of the secretary:

- Maintain a current and accurate roster which includes the following:
 - Title of the FCS and its designation
 - Mission and scope of the FCS
 - Secretariat - name of organization, name of secretary and address
 - Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Forum Moderators and Assistant Moderators, Chairs, Committee Co-Chairs
 - Participants - names of organization or agency, addresses and business affiliations of representatives and alternates as applicable.
- Publish and distribute draft meeting records, pursuant to approval as appropriate.
- Maintain and make available upon request documentation on all CLC/FCS business.
- Include meeting record corrections with the meeting record of the meeting at which they were approved.
- Record the action of the CLC/FCS in regards to approval for initial and final closure of issues.
- Provide services such as clerical, meeting arrangements and logistics in conjunction with the meeting host, preparation and distribution of meeting notices and reports.
- Publish and distribute schedules and agendas. In addition, the CLC Secretary will maintain a master calendar of activities that will be published to the Forum membership on a quarterly basis.

- Devise a system, subject to approval of the CLC/FCS participants, to track the status of all issues before the full CLC or any of the FCS.

8. Communications

The following sections discuss the requirements for CLC/FCS internal and external communications.

8.1 CLC/FCS Internal Communications

Correspondence which involves issues or decisions affecting other FCS shall be sent to all affected FCS leadership and placed on the record in the following meeting record.

8.2 CLC/FCS External Communications

External communication is defined as CLC/FCS correspondence being directed to any entity outside the CLC sponsored organization. External communication from all FCS shall be reviewed and approved by the CLC when time permits. When time constraints do not permit review by the CLC, the CLC Chair and/or Vice Chair shall review the communications and shall have approval authority. The Chair and/or Vice Chair should coordinate with other CLC members to ensure a balanced view is represented in the external liaisons and communications. Consideration should be given to requests from other participants to provide input directly in the external communication.

When the need should arise for the direct interaction between a CLC sponsored forum or one of its subtending committees with an external source (non CLC sponsored forum or committee), the forum/committee required to perform that direct interaction, whether it be in written form or oral form, shall seek approval from the CLC, time permitting. If time does not permit, the subtending committee should interact directly with the external body upon receiving approval of the CLC or the CLC Chair and Vice Chair.

A time frame shall be determined for which the interaction(s) may take place (i.e., one month, two months). In the event that the initially approved time frame proves to be insufficient, then the CLC Chair and Vice Chair shall determine if an extension is necessary and for what length of time.

In the event that approval is provided, the forum/committee shall provide to the CLC Chair and Vice Chair a copy of the information/presentation for approval prior to the interaction taking place. If the interaction is to be of more than one occurrence, then subsequent information shall be provided on an ongoing basis to the Chair and Vice Chair of the CLC for approval prior to the interaction with the external organization.

External communication of CLC positions and resolutions shall be limited to matters reflected in duly approved meeting records and issue identification forms.

As a matter of principle, any external communication shall present a balanced view of any items discussed. Dissenting opinions must be included as part of the communication. Participants shall have the opportunity to attach written opinions or comments as part of external communications regarding specific issues.

Communication regarding general information about the CLC will go through the CLC Chairperson for approval.

Copies of the correspondence shall be provided to CLC participants and the involved FCS participants.

All such external communications shall include a disclaimer which states that the contents of the response may not necessarily represent the views of all industry segments and participants since not all may have participated in the development of the issue.

The ATIS General Counsel will review and provide input to all CLC/FCS external communications.

8.3 Press Releases/Media Relations

CLC/FCS press releases and relations with media should be developed by consensus and follow the external communications process.

9. Documentation

The following identifies documentation that is maintained by the CLC.

9.1 CLC Procedures

The *CLC Principles and Procedures* is a living document subject to changes by consensus of the CLC. These procedures are applicable to all CLC activities.

9.2 CLC Forums New Participant Training Package

A CLC Forums New Participant Training Package shall be maintained and published which will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Mission statements for the CLC and each FCS;
- General concepts of CLC and Forum administrative process;
- Forum organization and relationships;
- Reference material for and expectation of participants.

9.3 CLC Brochure

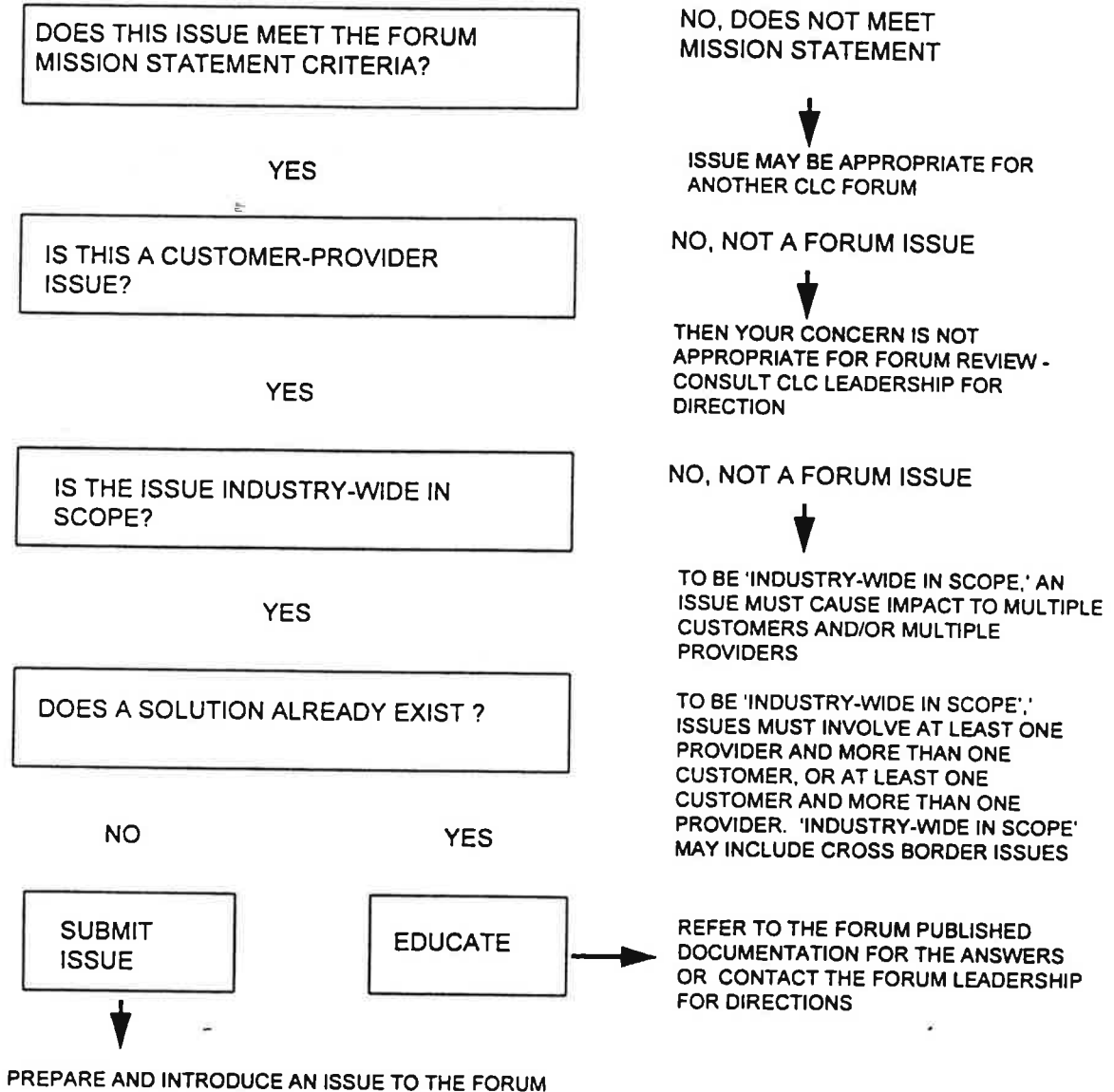
A CLC Brochure containing information about the CLC and its subtending Forums shall be maintained and made available to any interested party.

ATTACHMENT 1

NEW ISSUE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

NEW ISSUE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

WHEN A NEW ISSUE IS PROPOSED, ASK:



Attachment C

A Systematic Approach to Uniformity of ONA Services

NIAC

**A Report of the
Network Interconnection and Architecture Committee (NIAC)
a sub-committee of the Network Interconnection and Interoperability Forum (NIIF)***

**A Systematic Approach
to Uniformity of
ONA Services**

September 1997

Sponsored by the Association of Telecommunication Industry Solutions

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INTRODUCTION

MOTIVATION

The purpose of this document is to address the need for a systematic process to facilitate the continued and uniform development and deployment of Open Network Architecture (ONA) services. In addition, it constitutes a response to the FCC directive that the BOCs "...demonstrate how they will address in a systematic fashion uniformity issues involving specific ONA services of particular interest to the ESP industry" and documents in particular the role and responsibilities of NIAC in affecting uniformity.

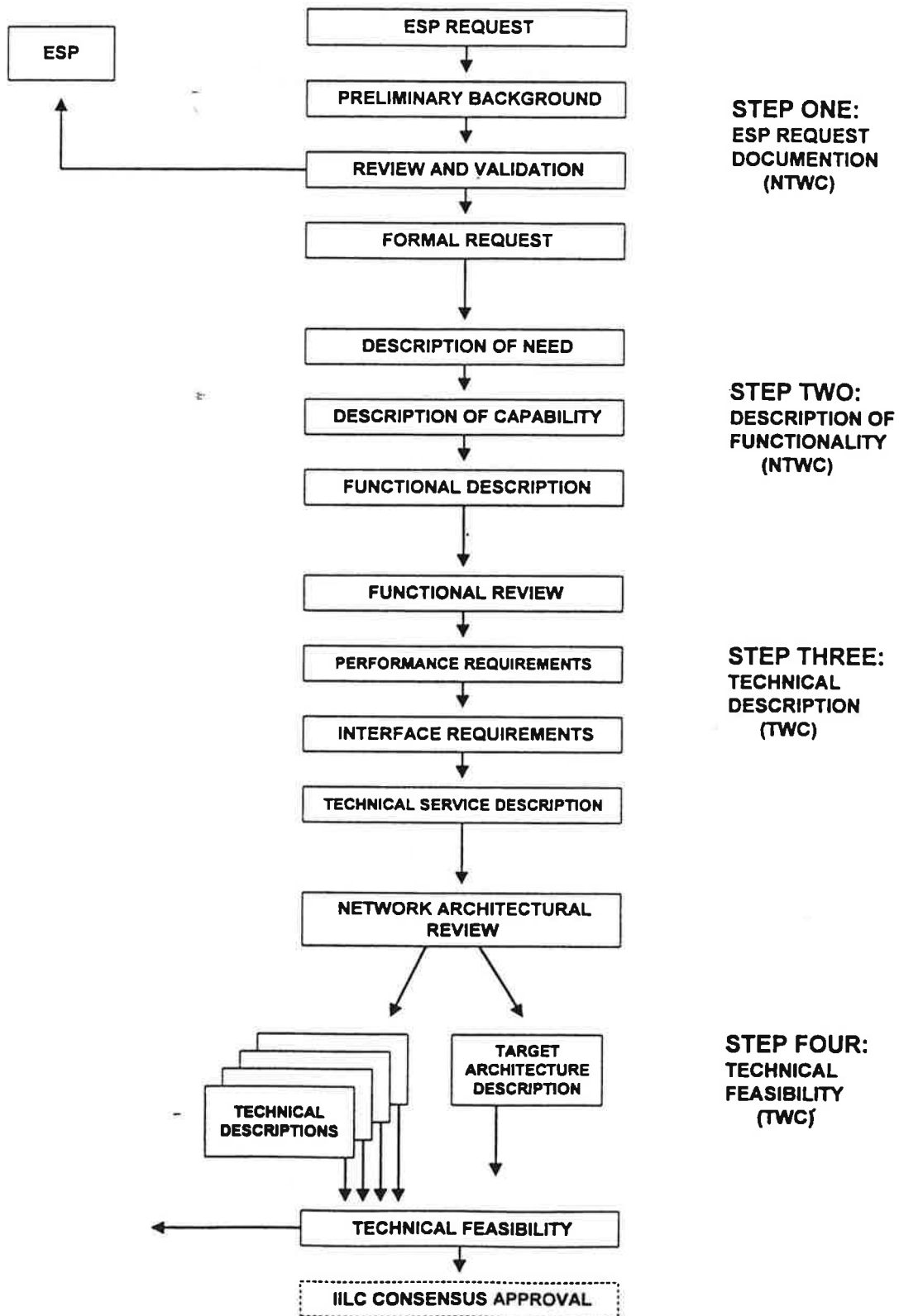
Participation in the systematic uniformity process, as in the NIAC generally, is voluntary. The fullest level of participation is encouraged.

THE SYSTEMATIC UNIFORMITY PROCESS

The systematic approach to uniformity is described herein by a four step process which is initiated by an **ESP Request (NIIF Issue statement)**, thereafter substantiated by a **Description of Functionality**, documented by a **Technical Description**, and considered for **Technical Feasibility**.

Once candidate services have been defined through the Systematic Uniformity process, a number of useful activities can be pursued within the NIAC which will encourage the broad dissemination of information on network needs and capabilities and increase the probability of the candidate service(s) eventual deployment and availability.

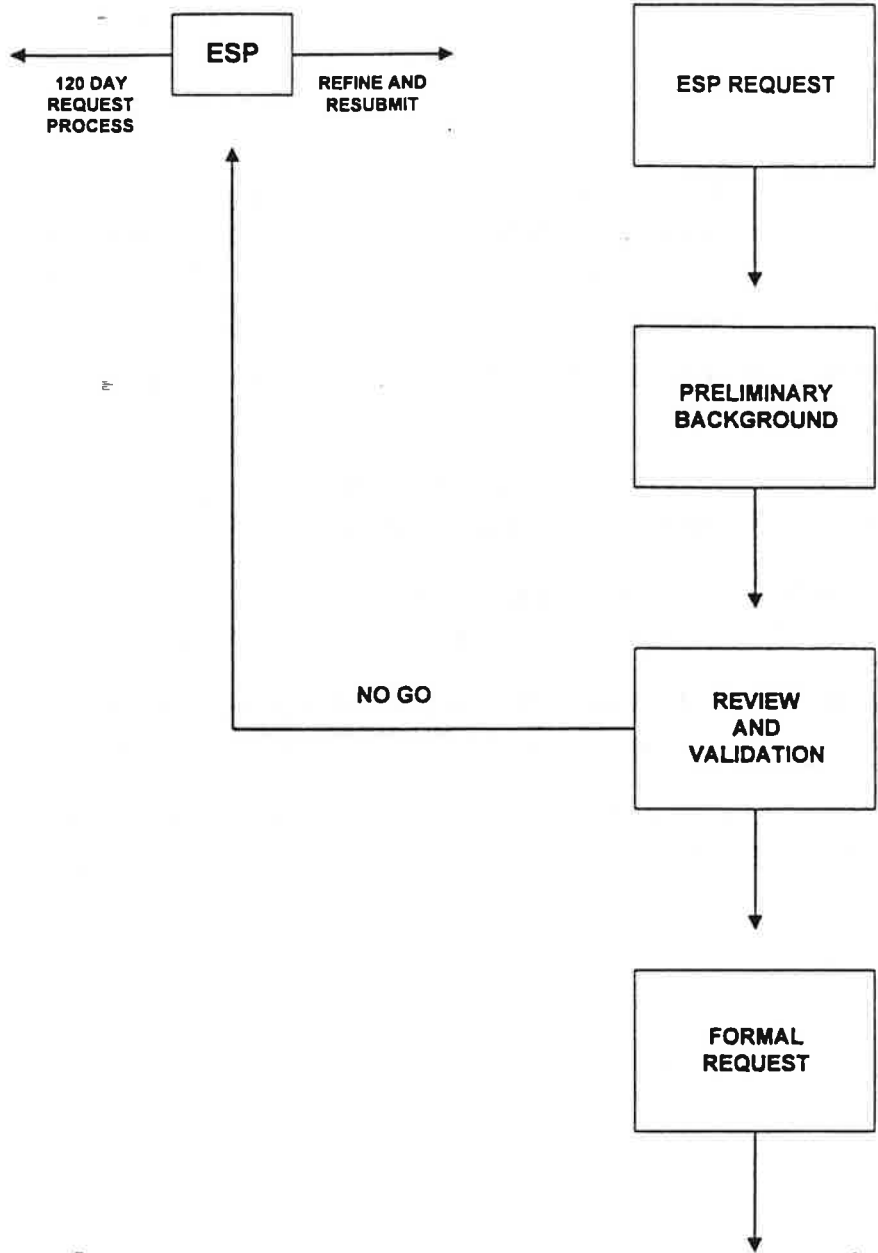
As a candidate service moves through the process each step is monitored and documented for completeness. This documentation also serves as a "hand-off" mechanism as each step is completed thereby providing appropriate inputs to each successive step. Furthermore, while the process is designed to provide every opportunity for the uniform development and deployment of an ONA service, a mechanism has been incorporated at appropriate points in the process to allow for future reconsideration of any service request that does not complete the entire process.



STEP ONE

ESP Request Documentation

STEP ONE : ESP REQUEST DOCUMENTATION



**STEP TWO:
Description of Functionality**

STEP 1.00

ESP REQUEST DOCUMENTATION

OVERVIEW

The steps included in the ESP Request Documentation phase provide the means to formally initiate a request and begin the NIAC Systematic Approach to Uniformity of ONA service or feature involves the four steps outlined below. These steps are designed to provide every opportunity for the NIAC participants to consider each request fully.

Step 1.10: ESP REQUEST NOTIFICATION. The process begins when a request is presented to the NIAC or the NIIF.

Step 1.20: PRELIMINARY BACKGROUND. In this step, the working committee reaches a common understanding of the general request and its associated requirements and implications.

Step 1.30: REVIEW AND VALIDATION. The working committee considers the originality of the request and its relationship to other requests in progress.

Step 1.40: FORMAL REQUEST DOCUMENTATION. Comprehensive documentation of all information on the request generated throughout Step 1.00 occurs at this point.

Activities associated with Step 1.00 in the systematic uniformity process are the responsibility of the Issue Co-champions.

are no CLC/FCS membership requirements, the use of quorums is not appropriate. However, there shall be some discretion on the part of CLC/FCS leadership and attendees on whether to proceed with an activity in circumstances where there may be insufficient attendance or representation at such activity.

6.6 CLC/FCS Meeting Records

The CLC/FCS shall publish fair, objective and unbiased meeting records and ensure they accurately reflect the activities, resolutions and action items which resulted from meetings.

During the meeting, any participant shall have the right to have specific comments included in the meeting record which are related to the discussion of the issue, consistent with Section 6.6.3. In like manner, any participant may include other submitted material related to the issue under discussion in the meeting record. Dissenting opinions provided in writing from any participant shall be included as attachments to the meeting record. The meeting record is available from the CLC/FCS secretary to all interested parties in accordance with established procedures. The secretary shall add any interested party's name to the appropriate mailing list upon request. The use of real time process to produce the meeting record is optional but encouraged.

6.6.1 Meeting Record Guidelines

The meeting record should include at a minimum:

- Corrections from the previous meeting record;
- Points noted/alternatives discussed including opposing viewpoints;
- Agreements reached;
- Identification of issues moving to initial/final closure or "No National Agreement" status;
- Action items;
- If not available at the meeting, participant reports (may include participants' implementation plans, if provided); participants' contributions, statements, documents, activities specifically requested to be recorded by any participant and other reference material relevant to the issues discussed.

Additional administrative data to be included:

- Date(s), location, Forum Moderators, Co-Chairpersons, secretary, hour of meeting opening and adjournment
- Attendance list
- Approved agenda
- Future meeting schedule

6.6.2 Review of Secretary Notes

At the conclusion of a major topic and/or during breaks, any participant shall be granted 'real time' review of the secretary's notes (e.g., view graphs, recap, review of secretary's notes, one-on-one). Copies made of notes, etc., will be made at the expense of the requestor.

6.6.3 Meeting Information Dissemination

Information relevant to forthcoming meetings shall be disseminated prior to meetings using one or more of the following:

- Electronic bulletin board
- Electronic mail
- US Mail or commercial express mail
- Facsimile
- Other electronic medium

6.6.4 Recording of Meeting Proceedings by Attendees

Meeting attendees are not to produce verbatim meeting records without the advance consensus of the CLC/FCS.

6.6.5 Minutes Committee

The need for a minutes committee shall be determined by the CLC/FCS. When a minutes committee is formed, it shall be comprised of the leadership (CLC and/or the FCS), secretary and any participant requesting to be included in the meeting record review. The minutes committee's function is to agree on draft meeting record prior to the secretary's distribution to the respective CLC/FCS.

In the absence of the minutes committee agreement, the secretary will insert all input to the meeting record received from the minutes committee members in the sections under dispute.

6.6.6 Meeting Record Distribution

The draft meeting record should be distributed to the CLC/FCS within 20 business days after the conclusion of a meeting. As a general matter, the meeting record should be reviewed at the next meeting of the CLC/FCS for approval. Revised meeting records should be included with the record of the meeting at which they were approved. If the revisions to the draft meeting record

STEP 1.10

ESP REQUEST NOTIFICATION

A request from or on behalf of an ESP for a new feature or function initiates the Systematic Approach for Uniformity process. The introduction of a request will be facilitated of the following is taken into consideration:

Part 1.11: Introduction of the Request. A clear and concise presentation of the request will allow NIAC participants and service request initiators latitude for informal discussion about the request.

Part 1.12: Characteristics of the Request. Materials documenting the initial service request do not need to be extensively detailed at the original presentation, but should present the source of the request, a description of the motivating problem, a brief description of the capability being requested and an indication of whether or not the request represents an enhancement of an existing service or is a new initiative.

Part 1.13: Opportunities for presenting the Request. In the interest of convenience, individuals introducing new requests may do so at any regular meeting of the NIAC or the NIIF. As a matter of practicality and in order to expedite the process, requests are encouraged to take place at a regular meeting of the NIAC.

Part 1.14: Disclosure of the ESP Request. To encourage broad-based consideration of the request, it is advisable to include materials describing the request in the pre-meeting package for the meeting where the request is to be presented. Doing so gives participants due notice and opportunities for review of the request materials. Supporting materials distributed at the meeting will become part of the meeting record and attached to the minutes.

STEP 1.20

PRELIMINARY BACKGROUND

The Preliminary Background step is vital in providing NIAC participants with sufficient information to achieve a common understanding of each request and its associated requirements and implications. The three parts of this step are outlined below.

Part 1.21: Develop an understanding of the segment background. In this part, information is provided to give NIAC participants background information on how the industry segment from which the request originated generally operates. This information can contribute to establishing a common perspective from which to view the request.

Part 1.22: Develop a general description of need. The description of the desired capability should begin as non-technical and should describe the request in terms of the functional need(s) to be satisfied.

Part 1.23: Consideration of Cross-Segment Interests and Impacts. There may be other NIAC participants who have an interest in the request. If possible, these other NIAC participants should be identified at this stage.

STEP 1.30

REVIEW AND VALIDATION

In the Review and Validation step, the NIAC considers the originality of the request and its relationship to other requests in progress. The step consists of three parts, each described below.

Part 1.31: Relationship to Other Requests. The request that is submitted may not be totally new or may present overlaps or conflicts with active requests, existing services or those soon to be implemented. Requests that were deferred at an earlier time will need to indicate the changed circumstances that warrant further work at this time. If the request is not sufficiently different from others, the NIAC may choose to sufficiently different with other requests and/or services should be carefully addressed.

Part 1.32: Assessment of the suitability of the Request to the NIAC Process. The NIAC systematic uniformity process addresses requests that are directed at more than one Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier or have long term uniformity considerations. Accordingly, if a request is directed at only one ILEC or does not have uniformity implications, and ESP may find that ILEC-specific “120 day” service request processes are a more appropriate vehicle for pursuing his or her need.

Part 1.33: Acceptance of the Request. Based on Parts 1.31 - 1.32, the NIAC will formally accept or defer the request. Accepted requests will receive a issue request tracking number (e.g.: NIIF-Issue #xxxx). Deferred requests may be resubmitted by the originator at such time as changed circumstances warrant further effort by the NIAC.

STEP 1.40

FORMAL REQUEST DOCUMENTATION

Comprehensive documentation of all information on the request generated throughout Step 1.00 occurs in Step 1.40. This information is intended to provide the basis for the remaining steps of the systematic uniformity process. This step consists of three parts.

Part 1.41: Recording of Detailed Request. The information on the Documentation Form should include a description of the detailed request, its source and originator, and a summary of the background associated with the request. Any information pertinent to the industry segment initiating the request should also be included.

Part 1.42: Basic Operating Description. This information is expected to provide direct input into Step 2.00, "Description of Functionality" and should include a description of the need, operating attributes, and any general requirements considered essential to describing the service.

Part 1.43: Allocation of Resources. Formal request documentation is complete when it includes a list of the individuals who will, at least initially, constitute the task group devoted to the progress of the request through the systematic uniformity process. At a minimum, the task group should include a service request champion from both the ILEC and non-ILEC communities.

STEP 1.00 OUTPUT FORM

Originator: _____	Tracking No. ESPR-xxx
Company: _____	Date Accepted _____
Phone: _____	(From Step 1.33)

DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED SERVICE & BACKGROUND

(1 40)

BASIC OPERATING DESCRIPTION

(1 40)

TASK GROUP:

Name

Company

Phone

FAX

*

**

(1 40)

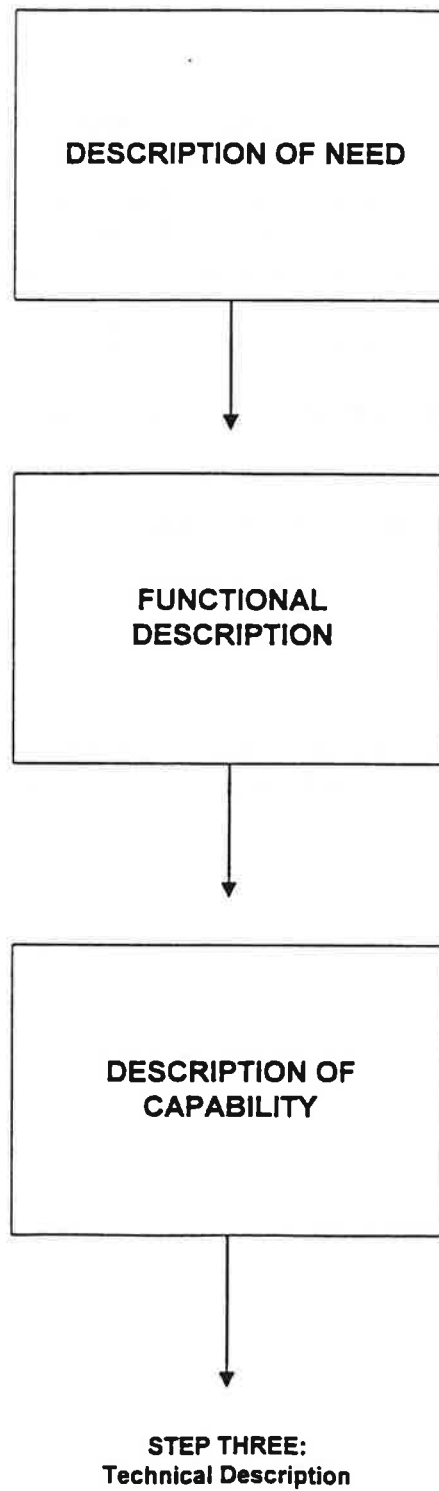
* Non-LEC Co-Champion

** LEC Co-Champion

STEP TWO

Description of Functionality

STEP TWO: DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONALITY



STEP 2.00

DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONALITY

OVERVIEW

Once a service request has been formally accepted, the general information gathered in Step 1.00 needs to be expanded into a clear, detailed description of the functional need. The objectives of this step are to: achieve a common understanding of the need; establish a generic name for the functionality; and create sufficiently detailed and unambiguous service description and operational requirements to allow for technical development.

This phase of the process consists of three steps:

Step 2.10: DESCRIPTION OF NEED. Define fully the problem or function the request is intended to address.

Step 2.20: DESCRIPTION OF CAPABILITY. Define fully what the request needs to do to meet the need.

Step 2.30: FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION. Define fully how the request is intended to operate.

Activities associated with Step 2.00 of the systematic uniformity process fall under the responsibility of the Issue Co-Champions.

STEP 2.10

DESCRIPTION OF NEED

To enable subsequent steps of the process to unfold, additional information about the request will usually be necessary, and is collected in Step 2.10. Each part of the step is described below.

Part 2.11: Elaborate Upon the Preliminary Background for the Request, using the material in Step 1.4. What problem would be addressed if the request were fulfilled?

Part 2.12: Scope of Need. What are the general parameters of the request? For example, is the request useful only if it operates on an inter-switch basis or is single switch capacity adequate? Is the request unique to a particular community of interest?

Part 2.13: ESP Interest Level. Identification of ESP interest level and/or utility of the request will facilitate each individual ILEC's analysis of the request. Appropriate activity in the NIAC to explore the utility of the requested capability could include:

- promotional workshops presenting information on a particular requested service in order to cultivate a better understanding of its utility and stimulate interest in that service;
- formal or informal surveys of interest and/or utility to ESPs; and
- identifying the range of information services that would benefit from the availability of the requested capability.

Part 2.14 Pertinent Operational Environment. Are there existing technologies or capabilities with which the request must interact?

Part 2.15: Final Delineation of Unique Requests. It is possible that the elaboration of needs and requirements during this step will result in significantly different forms of the functionality being requested. For example, consideration of a call forwarding select feature might generate requests from one community of participants for a feature in which only calls originating from a list of pre-designated numbers are forwarded and requests from other participants for a feature in which all calls except those originating from a list of pre-designated numbers are forwarded. To avoid confusion during the technical development process, any request which appears to include functionally distinct variants should be documented as separate service requests.

Part 2.16: Document the Description of Need. A summary of the information gathered in Parts 2.11 - 2.14 should be recorded on the Step 2.00 output documentation form.

Step 2.20

DESCRIPTION OF CAPABILITY

In this step, more complete information is gathered about the requested capability. The four parts of this step are outlined below.

Part 2.21: Describe the Requested Capability. Provide a description of what the requested capability is expected to accomplish.

Part 2.22: Establish a Generic Name for the Requested Capability. Preliminary determination of the classification of the service (e.g., as a BSE or CNS) is also made at this point.

Part 2.23: Comparison of Described Capability with Identified Need. Does the capability match the need described in Step 2.10? Have all essential aspects of the requested capability been identified and addressed? Adjustments may be required in the description of capability, the description of need, or both in order to secure a match.

Part 2.24: Documentation of Described Capability. Space for a concise summary of the description of capability is provided on the Step 2.00 output documentation form.

Step 2.30

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

In this step, the results of steps 2.10 and 2.20 can be used to produce greater detail on the requested functionality. The two parts of the step are presented below.

Part 2.31: Develop Description of the Function Operation of the Request. The functional characteristics of the request would include the manner of information transfer, the point in the network that provides the requested functionality, the associated functionality's that should tie into the request, etc.

Part 3.32: Documentation of Functional Description. In the appropriate portion of the Step 2.00 Output Form, a concise summary of the Functional Description should be recorded.

STEP 2.00 OUTPUT FORM

ESPR-xxx

GENERIC NAME:

DESCRIPTION OF NEED

(2.10)

DESCRIPTION OF CAPABILITY

(2.20)

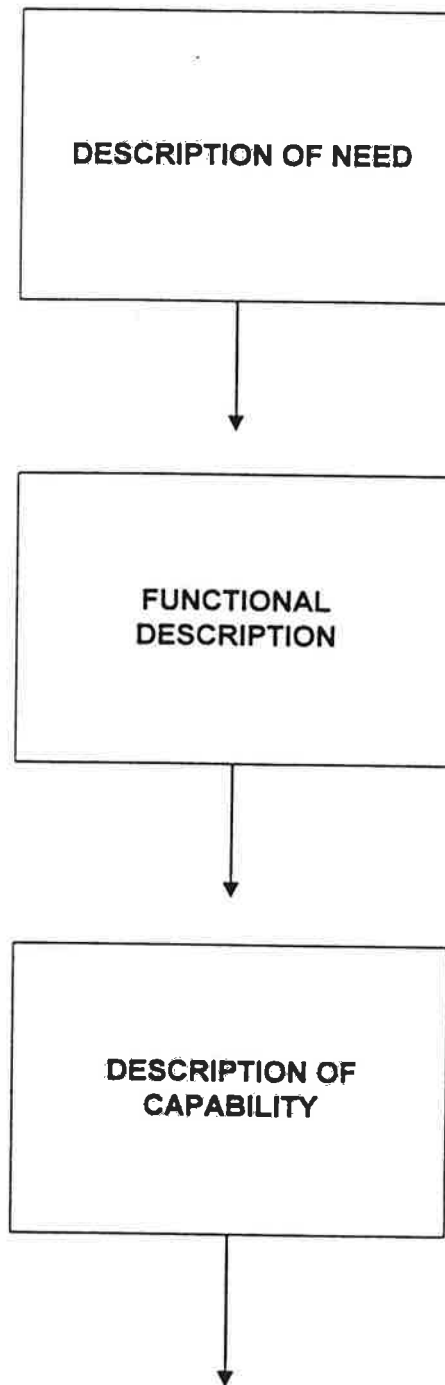
FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTION

(2.30)

STEP THREE

Technical Description

STEP TWO: DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONALITY



STEP THREE:
Technical Description

STEP 3.00

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW

The third step of the Systematic Approach to Uniformity process details the technical description of the request. This part of the process consists of four steps.

Step 3.10: FUNCTIONAL REVIEW. The functional parameters of the request that were developed in step 2.00 will be reviewed so that additional technical description of the request can be developed.

Step 3.20: PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS. In this step, the specific technical performance requirements are identified and documented.

Step 3.30: INTERFACE REQUIREMENTS. The manner in which the requested capability must interact with existing and planned interfaces is defined.

Step 3.40: DOCUMENTATION OF TECHNICAL SERVICE DESCRIPTION. On the step 3.00 Output Form, the information gathered in the foregoing steps will be summarized.

Activities associated with Step 3.00 of the systematic uniformity process fall under the responsibility of the Issue Co-Champions.

STEP 3.10

FUNCTIONAL REVIEW

The functional parameters of the request that were developed in Step 2.00 will be reviewed so that additional technical description of the request can be developed. This is to ensure that the necessary information is available and in a format that will facilitate further work.

Part 3.11: Review of Functional Description. Using technical expertise as appropriate, the output documentation from Step 2.00 will be reviewed to ensure that sufficient detail exists to facilitate adequate technical specification.

Part 3.12: Clarification of Functional Description by Request Champion. Should additional information be required concerning the need or expected capabilities of the request, clarification from the request champion should be sought.

Part 3.13: Solicit Technical Input. Additional expert technical input into the technical description may be needed at this stage, including input from technical subject matter experts (SMEs).

STEP 3.20

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Any performance requirements associated with a request must be clearly defined before the technical description can be completed. This work occurs in Step 3.20, Performance Requirements. There are two parts to this step, as listed below.

Part 3.21: Consideration of Technical Details. In this part, all associated operational requirements will be examined to identify the necessary technical parameters of the requested capability. These include, but are not limited necessarily to:

- Bandwidth for transmission
- Real time requirements
- Associated features or functions with which the request should be compatible
- Feature interactions to be avoided
- Requirements for customer-based equipment/architectures with which the request will interact, and how the interaction is to occur
- Necessary or desired interfaces with operational support systems

Part 3.22: Establish Classification of Service. Final classification of service as a BSE, CNS, BSA or ancillary service occurs at this stage.

Part 3.23: Documentation of Technical Performance Requirements. A summary of the performance requirements is prepared and included in the Step 3.00 output document.

STEP 3.30

INTERFACE REQUIREMENTS

The manner in which the requested capability must interact with the existing and/or planned interfaces is defined in Step 3.30, Interface Requirements. The step will also be useful in developing the information needed to fulfill network disclosure obligations, if applicable.

Part 3.31: Determine the Physical Interface Requirements. The physical interface provides the mechanical and electrical characteristics to connect, maintain, and disconnect customer premises equipment and the network point of interface. That means, for example, that it should be determined whether the request can be met by current connector arrangements such as RJ11 or RJ48, whether line powering by the network is needed, or whether a new line coding format is needed to ensure proper pulse shapes are received at the point of interface.

Part 3.32: Determine the Logical Interface Requirements. With input from end users, standards bodies, equipment manufacturers and others, determine the logical interface requirements with existing and planned network components.

Part 3.33: Identify Areas where Standards Work May be Necessary. If the request appears to be feasible dependent upon additional standards specifications being developed, these requirements should be identified and noted.

STEP 3.40

TECHNICAL SERVICE DESCRIPTION

The information that was identified in Step 3.10 through 3.30 is consolidated into a Technical Service Description in Step 3.40. Using the Output Form for Step 3.00, the description will include, but not be limited to the following factors: tracking number and genetic name for the functionality (carried over from steps 1.30 and 2.20, respectively); performance requirements (3.20); classification of service (2.20, 3.20); and necessary interface requirements (3.30).

Citations to technical references/standards in general distribution should also be identified and catalogued.

STEP 3.00 OUTPUT FORM

ESPR-xxx

GENERIC NAME:

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

(3.20)

CLASSIFICATION OF SERVICE (e.g. BSE, CNS, BSA):

(3.20)

INTERFACE REQUIREMENTS

(3.30)

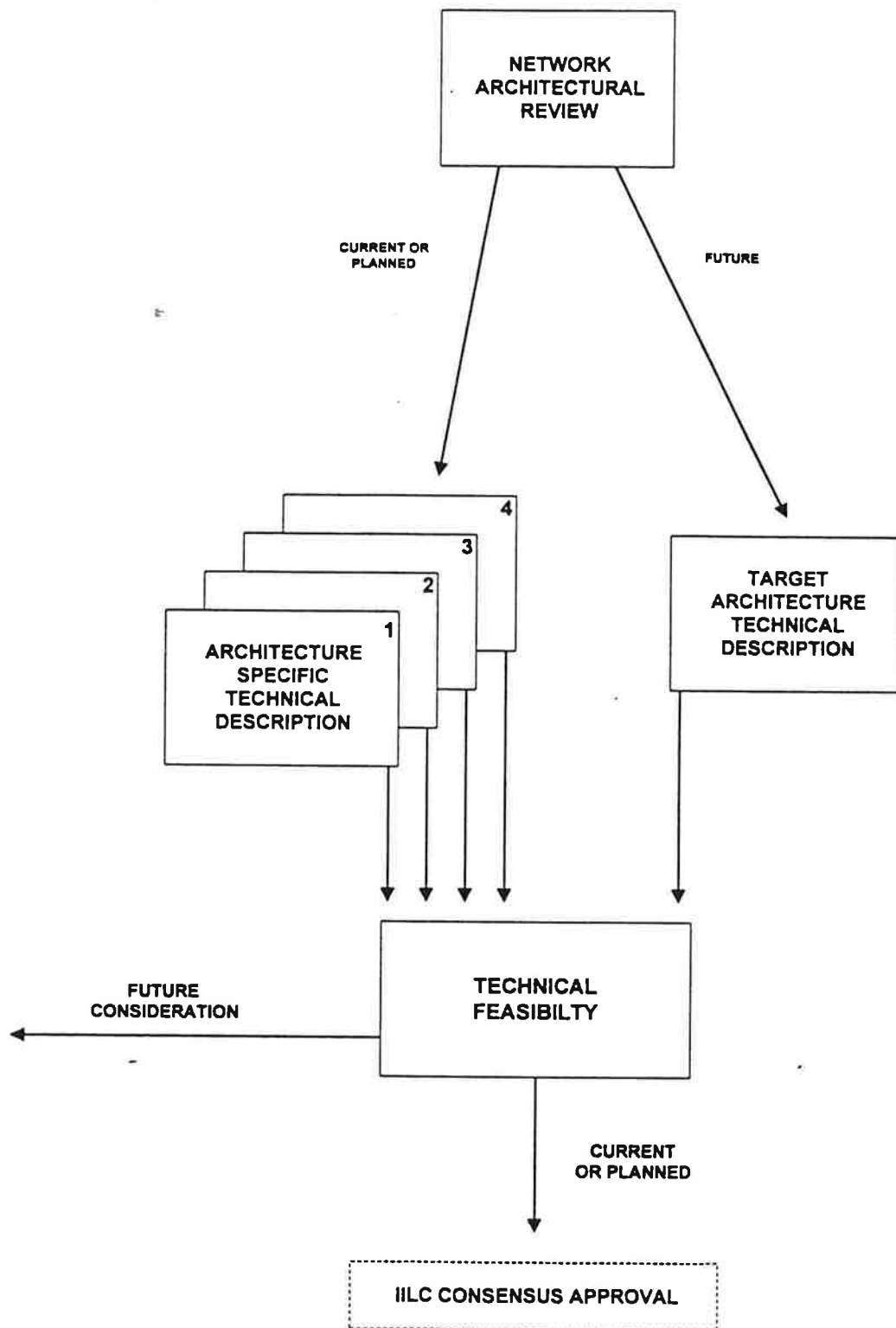
EXISTING & ANTICIPATED STANDARDS/TECHNICAL REFERENCES

(3.30)

OTHER TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

STEP FOUR
Technical Feasibility

STEP FOUR: TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY



STEP 4.00

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

OVERVIEW

This step determines the technical feasibility of meeting the request documented in Step 3.00.

Step 4.10: NETWORK ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW. The first step is to evaluate whether the request can be addressed with current/planned or future network technologies.

Step 4.20: ARCHITECTURE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION(S). Descriptions of all current/planned technology solutions (if any) are captured in this phase.

Step 4.30: TARGET ARCHITECTURE TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION. If no uniform solution is available utilizing current/planned network capabilities, this step determines what future network capability or capabilities will best meet the request and achieve ONA's uniformity objectives.

Step 4.40: TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY. Completion of this step results in a detailed report describing a set of current, planned and/or future solutions to the requested need.

The activities associated with Step 4.00 of the systematic uniformity process fall under the responsibility of the Issue Co-Champions. At the conclusion of Step 4.00, NIAC consensus approval is sought for the fully documented service request.

STEP 4.10

NETWORK ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

The first step in assessing the technical feasibility of a requested functionality is to evaluate whether current, planned or future network capabilities are needed to implement the Technical Description reached in Step 3.00.

Part 4.11: Current or Planned Network Capabilities. A network capability is considered to be a current capability if it is generally available from switch vendors and/or a capability of the embedded network. A network capability is considered to be a planned capability if it is included in a vendor announced generic release. All current or planned network solutions to the functional request are fed into Step 4.20: Architecture Specific Technical Descriptions.

Part 4.12: Future Network Capabilities. The utility of more long term, future technologies in supporting the functionality should be considered. These are passed forward to Step 4.30: Target Architecture Technical Description.

All possible methods of providing the functionality should be identified, prior to the specific technical review processes of Steps 4.20 and 4.30. For example, in the case of the ESP request for Calling Number Identification Delivery, the following features were identified as providing the requested feature functionality; Feature Group D, ANI delivery via ISDN primary rate interface (Q.931), Common Channel Signaling, ICLID, BCLID and SMDI all of varying utility and via individual interfaces.

STEP 4.20

ARCHITECTURE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL DESCRIPTIONS

If current or planned network capabilities meet the request, the next step in the process is preparation of the set of architecture-specific technical descriptions. In order to distinguish between the alternatives, each technical description/response should contain the following information:

Part 4.21: Service Operation. How does the service operate, both functionally and technically?

Part 4.22: Technological and Feature Interaction Considerations. What types of equipment can provide the functionality and how does it interact with other features (e.g. call waiting interactions with call forwarding)?

Part 4.23: Network Architecture. How and where in the ILEC network architecture is the functionality provided?

Part 4.24: Physical and Logical Interface. Citations should be made to the relevant sections of technical reference/standards which specify the physical and logical interfaces for each alternative.

STEP 4.30

TARGET ARCHITECTURE TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Where more than one technical solution is available, or if no solution is available utilizing current or planned network capabilities, the next step in the process is to determine what future network capabilities will best meet the request and achieve ONA's uniformity objectives. These are incorporated into a technical description of the "Target Architecture."

In order to clarify how the need can be met with future network capabilities, the output of the target architecture step should be a service concept definition which contains:

Part 4.31: Service Concept Operation. This describes how the service is envisioned to operate, both functionally and technically.

Part 4.32: Network Architecture. This defines how and where within the future ILEC network configurations the functionality would be provided.

Part 4.33: Technological Issues. Any architectural features/components issues which need to be resolved before the service concept can be implemented (e.g. future technology, standards, or performance issues) are identified in this step.

By identifying a target architecture, this step promotes the development of a long term, uniform technical solution.

STEP 4.40

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

In this step, the resulting architecture-specific technical description(s) and/or the target architecture description are assessed for their technical feasibility. These are “on paper” verification, **not** technical trials.

The completion of this step results in a detailed report describing a set of current, planned and/or future solutions to the requested need.

The Step 4.00 Output Form provides the ONA Services User Guide information for those ONA Services which can meet the need with current or planned network capabilities.

If the requested functionality can be provided through current or planned network capabilities, the process moves forward to Step 5.00; otherwise the request is deferred. Included in the final documentation of deferred requests will be a description of those activities needed to overcome identified obstacles and current plans to address these obstacles. Overcoming the technical issues (Steps 4.33 and 3.33) associated with deferral of a request may be pursued through the processes identified in Issue 016-TWC, “ESP Input to ILEC Network Planning Processes.”

STEP 4.00 OUTPUT FORM

ESPR-xxx

GENERIC NAME:

Current/Planned

☐

Future

☐

Description XX
of YY.

SERVICE OPERATION

(4.20)

TECHNOLOGICAL AND FEATURE INTERACTIONS

(3.20)

NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

(4.20/4.30)

PHYSICAL AND LOGICAL INTERFACES

(4.20)

OTHER

(For deferred request, include technological issues to be resolved,
as identified in 4.30)

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Once candidate services have been defined through the Systematic Uniformity process, a number of useful activities can be pursued within the NIAC which will encourage the broad dissemination of information on network needs and capabilities and increase the probability of the candidate service(s) eventual deployment and availability.

Such activities include:

Industry Interest Group Activities, such as promotional workshops presenting information collected in steps 1 through 4 on a particular requested service in order to cultivate a better understanding of its utility and stimulate interest in that service; formal or informal surveys of the interest in, or utility of, a defined capability. This process can generate industry discussion and feedback on the issues using the Systematic Uniformity process's output documentation.

Information Dissemination, through such activities as tariff filing notification; deployment notification through updating of the ONA Services User Guide deployment database, the circulation of ESP-outreach publications or informal announcements; sharing results of technical trial experiences; and, possibly, in the form of an NIAC newsletter.

External Liaison Activities, such as interaction with standards development bodies where actions by such outside agencies may be necessary in order to move forward on the uniform development and deployment of ONA services.

Encouraging Direct, One-on One Exchange of Information Between Individual ILECs and ESPs. This has been facilitated by the creation of guidelines for nondisclosure agreements. The NIAC can also encourage participation in technical trials by offering the opportunity for an ILEC anticipating such trial to invite interested ESPs to contact them directly. The NIAC can also encourage ESPs to develop illustrative material or information on the utility of a service and to make that material available to interested ILECs (subject to non-disclosure agreements, where appropriate).

Initiating Future NIAC Activities, such as spin-off service requests which are identified in the course of a requested service's definition; issues to improve upon or update the Systematic Uniformity Process itself; and issues which create new processes or mechanisms to facilitate the effective functioning of the NIAC generally.

These post-Systematic Uniformity Process activities are not formal "steps" or rigidly structured processes. Rather, regular NIAC meetings should provide the opportunity to address these, or similar activities, as needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEMATIC UNIFORMITY PROCESS

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The implementation of systematic uniformity process for new ONA services will require new approaches to existing NIAC procedures.

Normally, specific ONA issues are designed as either technical or non-technical and the consideration of each issue takes place in the initial discussion of the issue. The pervasive nature of the systematic uniformity process will stimulate activities in both the technical and non-technical issues; but this process is primarily for the technical ONA issues.

Furthermore, the ongoing involvement of the Interindustry Advisory Group (NIIF), responsible for procedural fairness and the administration of NIAC activities, will be required to facilitate the effective and timely execution and monitoring of NIAC activities associated with systematic uniformity.

The recommended procedures for the implementation of systematic uniformity are based on the following observations:

- 1 – The ongoing nature of the systematic uniformity process will require coordination by a standing coalition of NIAC expertise to monitor activities and procedures associated with systematic uniformity.
- 2 – Subject matter expertise related to specific ONA services and associated matters resides primarily in the working committees.
- 3 – NIAC administrative and procedural responsibilities reside with the NIIF.
- 4 – The timely and efficient execution and monitoring of the systematic uniformity process requires the concerted and objective application of recourses from both of the two NIAC working committees as well as the NIIF.

The following recommendations for the implementation of the systematic uniformity process reflect the above considerations.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEMATIC UNIFORMITY PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION #1

TASK GROUPS WORKING ESP ONA SERVICE REQUESTS

Each ESP request introduced into and accepted by the NIAC will be assigned a request tracking number and worked through the systematic uniformity process by a task group of interested NIAC participants as described in Steps 1.3 and 1.4 of the process.

The introduction of this joint task group concept is intended to facilitate concurrent activities in each of the working committees and eliminate any untimely delays associated with the iterative “hand-off” of action items between those committees. Task group activities associated with systematic uniformity and the process thereof will be reviewed by the Service Request Coordination Team (SRCT), described in Recommendation #2.

In all other respects, task groups working ESP ONA requests should operate as typical NIAC issue focused task groups.

NOTE: While the concept of “joint” task groups is specific to the process of systematic uniformity and new to the NIAC process in general, its introduction in association with the systematic uniformity process provides an opportunity to examine its potential applicability to the resolution of other NIAC ONA issues as they arise.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEMATIC UNIFORMITY PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION #2

NIAC SERVICE REQUEST COORDINATION

The timely and efficient execution and monitoring of the systematic uniformity process will require the concerted and objective application of resources from both NIAC working committees and the NIIF. This is likely to require timely and efficient dialogues among the NIAC leadership.

These requirements can best be served by the designation of a Service Request Coordination Team responsible for the progress of all ESP ONA service requests through the systematic uniformity process. This team should be responsible for the ongoing coordination, tracking, and monitoring of this process.

The Service Request Coordination Team should be made up of the two Co-Chairs of the NIIF and the Working Committee Co-Moderators. This group should provide both the necessary coordination within the NIAC organization and the NIAC management expertise and objectivity needed to facilitate the activities associated with systematic uniformity.

The Service Request Coordination Team (SRCT) would be responsible for:

Coordination – The SRCT will act as coordinator between the NIIF, the two working committees and each task group to maintain a timely dialogue among those bodies with respect to systematic uniformity process issues.

Tracking – The SRCT will track the progress of all ESP ONA requests to ensure the timely and comprehensive completion of each step of the process.

Monitoring – The SRCT will monitor the overall effectiveness of the systematic uniformity process in handling a wide variety of ESP ONA request.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEMATIC UNIFORMITY PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION #3

PROCESS OF SERVICE REQUESTS THROUGH NIAC WORKING COMMITTEES

The progress of the work on an ESP service request, as noted on the overview diagram of the Systematic Uniformity Process (page 6 of this document) is recommended to be as follows:

A service request may be initiated at any regular meeting of the NIAC or its subtending working committees.

The subsequent workflow on the service request would be as follows:

STEP ONE:	ESP Request Documentation
STEP TWO:	Description of Functionality
STEP THREE:	Technical Description
STEP FOUR:	Technical Feasibility

NIAC Consensus on fully documented service request

Readouts of the status of all active service requests at each step should be made as a part of regular Working Committee meetings.

- * The original document for the Systematic Approach to Iniformity of ONA Services was written by the people listed below as members to the Information Industry Liaison Committee. Their original document has been updated and adapted to be used by the NIAC as a subcommittee of the NIIF.

ILIAC Task Force Members:

John Fence, NYNEX Service Company

Mark J. Golden, Association of Telemessaging Services International

Laurie Eide Ihle, US WEST

Carmen Marin, BellSouth Services

William P. McDonough, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company

Macke Raymond, Rochester Telephone

Lance Wilson, AT&T Bell Laboratories

Attachment D

Network Installation and Maintenance Committee (NIMC) Uniqueness

Network Installation and Maintenance Committee (NIMC) Committee Documentat Uniqueness

1. Issue Closure - When an Issue is closed from the NIMC, a Resolution Statement must be stated on the Issue Form. When the resolution pertains to any changes to stated references in the Operations Reference Document, the changes must be added, deleted or corrected within the Reference Document. The resolution statement should identify the placement of the changes within the Reference Document.
2. New Issues - As the Reference Document is a living document, whenever Standards are changed and the Reference Document requires such changes to be corrected, a new Issue is required to identify the changes and a resolution statement be generated.

Any services and/or specifications that affects the telecommunication industry pertaining to interconnection / operations that are not identified in the Reference Document, should be introduced in the NIMC as a new Issue.

3. All NIMC issues should be logged and listed in numerical order, list title of the issue, date accepted, status of the issue, date of closure; date withdrawn; on hold, or no national agreements, etc.

Attachment E

Network Management Committee (NMC) Uniqueness

NETWORK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (NMC) COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION UNIQUENESS

1. Issue Closure - When an Issue is closed from the NMC, a Resolution Statement must be stated on the Issue Form. When the resolution pertains to any changes to stated references in the Operations Reference Document, the changes must be added, deleted or corrected within the Reference Document. The resolution statement should identify the placement of the changes within the Reference Document.
2. New Issues - Whenever Standards are changed, requiring an update to the Reference Document, a new Issue must be generated. The new Issue must identify the required changes and contain a resolution statement.

Any services and/or specifications that affects the telecommunication industry pertaining to interconnection / operations that are not identified in the Reference Document, should be introduced in the NMC as a new Issue.

3. All NMC issues should be logged and listed in numerical order, list title of the issue, date accepted, status of the issue, date of closure; date with-drawn; on hold, or no national agreements, etc.

Attachment F

Network Testing Committee (NTC) Uniqueness

NETWORK TESTING COMMITTEE REFERENCE DOCUMENT

1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO DEFINE THE EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPROPRIATE PARTIES RELATIVE TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NETWORK TESTING COMMITTEE AND TEST PHASES.

1.2 APPLICABILITY

This document is intended to be a living document, therefore subject to revision and upgrading under the Carrier Liaison Committee guidelines.

This document does not replace or supersede any existing Contracts, tariffs or any other legally binding document.

1.3 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this document the following definitions shall apply:

a. NTC; Network Testing Committee

b. NTC Participant;

An interested party, representing an Access Service Provider, Access Service Customer or Vendor/Manufacturer of telecommunications equipment.

c. Primary Participant;

The Primary Participant is an ASP or ASC who takes Primary responsibility for a portion of the test network representing an ASP or ASC's network. Primary Participants facilitate network interconnection testing using network elements which they may or may not supply. In the absence of an ASP/ASC, a Vendor/Manufacturer may elect to be a Primary Participant.

d. Secondary Participant;

The Secondary Participant provides to the Primary Participant(s) network element(s) for the ASP and/or ASC's network configuration. The network element(s) may be provided at the request of the Primary Participant or offered for consideration to the Network Testing Committee.

6. MISSION OF THE NTC

The Network Testing Committee provides the opportunity for participating service providers and vendors/manufacturers of telecommunications equipment to develop test scenarios and scripts, as well as perform tests in a controlled environment. The committee facilitates the exchange of information regarding the interoperability of networks and equipment (hardware/software) and specific applications towards maintaining the highest standards of network reliability and integrity.

7. NETWORK TESTING COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES

This section defines the responsibilities of the NT Committee participants.

7.1 - The Network Testing Committee members are responsible for:

- a.** Identification of the testing focus for each test phase.
- b.** Development of the Tests scripts for each phase of testing.
- c.** Identifying the participants for each phase of testing under development.
- d.** Determining the network configuration for the test phase under development.
- e.** Identifying all of the nodes associated with the network configuration under development.
- f.** Overall scheduling of the NTC Test Phases (see section 15).

7.2 - The NTC will agree by consensus on test cases which are to be executed for a given testing phase. Test cases selected for execution must be completely defined and sanctioned by the NTC prior to selection of participants for a given test phase.

7.3 - Letters of intent from the selected participants will be included in the testing document for the appropriate phase for which they are intended and handed over to the Overall Coordinator (Appendix 1).

7.4 - The NT Committee shall receive volunteers for the Overall Coordinator role. The Overall Coordinator must be approved by the Primary and Secondary Participants.

7.5 The test scripts shall be reviewed and edited by the NT Committee as well as between the test script authors with testers that will be executing the test scripts.

7.6 - The NT Committee members shall assign a number to the test script in accordance with the methodology outlined and agreed upon (e.g., phase number and test script number).

7.7 - The NTC members shall identify the minimum criteria and test scripts to satisfy the Baseline test requirements

7.8 - NTC members may review anomalies identified in NTC Test Phase Final Reports and determine which, if any, of the identified anomalies should be tracked to their resolution by the NTC. For any and all such identified anomalies, the NTC shall select a date at which a status update is desired. In addition, they shall request that the Primary Participants provide this update to the Overall Coordinator in advance of the scheduled date. Discussion of the anomaly and its current status will be included in the agenda of the NTC meeting to be held on or after the requested date, if necessary. Following the review of any such update, the NTC may request and schedule a subsequent update.

8. PRIMARY PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the responsibilities of the Primary Participants.

8.1 - The Primary Participant will provide a Letter of Intent in accordance with the NTC schedule, to the NT Committee to formalize their commitment to participate in the NTC test phase. The Letter of Intent should identify all resources that a given participant expects to provide for the test phase (see sect 18 appendix 1).

8.2 - A Primary participant's commitment must extend for the entire scope of a given testing phase, from the preliminary planning stages until the issuance of the final report.

8.3 - The Primary Participants will perform the tests by working with the other Primary Participants, Secondary Participants, Contributing Participants, Overall Coordinator, and HUB Administrator, as agreed upon by the NT Committee for the particular test phase that they have committed to participate in.

8.4 - At the beginning of the test program (i.e., Baseline) and thereafter prior to resumption of testing, each participant will inform all the other participants of the operating condition of its connected equipment.

8.5 - The Primary Participants will adhere to the NTC Information Sharing Guidelines (see section 14).

8.6 - The Primary Participant knowing the date of the NTC phase in which they wish to participate, will, PRIOR to delivering their Letter of Intent complete the following:

- a. Secure commitments for their own test labs, facilities and personnel for the entire NTC test phase.
- b. Identify a single point of contact including telephone number to represent and stand as a main communications channel for their network.

- c. Secure commitments from Secondary and/or Contributing Participants relative to their support requirements which may include:
 - 1. Equipment (e.g., Network Elements, Test Units, T1 facilities, etc.).
 - 2. Personnel to support the equipment for test set up and during testing.
 - 3. Personnel to participate in test execution, data collection and data analysis.
- d. Ensure that all equipment and facilities, whether owned or supplied by secondary or contributing participants is capable of executing the tests for a given phase.

8.7 - Primary Participants, together with the Overall Coordinator, are responsible for determining what the process and responsibilities are for the analysis of the data prior to commencement of testing.

8.8 - The Primary Participant is responsible for:

- a. Assuring that they are represented on all conference calls and/or meetings dealing with that NTC phase tests and environment. This includes their Secondary and Contributing Participants if so requested.
- b. Working with other Primary Participants to determine data-fill details (e.g., point code assignments, routing numbers) to be used in the tests.
- c. Setting up their testbed. This includes supplying their secondary participant(s) with the information needed to build and/or integrate their equipment into the ASP/ASC testbed.
- d. Ordering, testing, and trouble shooting of facilities associated with the configuration setup for any facilities offered from their lab.
- e. Executing the test scripts with the other Primary Participants, Secondary Participants, Overall Coordinator, Contributing Participants and HUB Provider/Administrator, either alone or with Vendor assistance.
- f. Changing the order in which the test scripts are run where necessary based upon time, network availability and/or test equipment with the agreement of the Overall Coordinator and other Primary Participants.
- g. Modifying the test scripts where necessary in order to meet the purpose of the test with the agreement of all participants.
- h. Mutually determining, along with the other Primary Participants, Secondary Participants, Contributing Participants HUB Provider/Administrator and Overall Coordinator, the start and stop time of testing and any days or periods of time where testing will not be performed prior to the actual test where possible.

- i. Coordinating data collection of their network node logs, message data, hard copies of datafill, and other necessary information required in the test scripts and/or required for data analysis, as it pertains to their network.
- j. Performing detailed analysis of data generated within the Interconnected Network during and after the test phase.
- k. Working with other Primary Participants and the Overall Coordinator to determine and document anomalies for their network node(s) and/or other network nodes as agreed upon in 8.7 above.
- l. Resolving anomalies identified within their network or between their network and an adjoining network.
- m. Obtaining vendor response/concurrence on any vendor related anomalies identified. When anomalies are determined to be associated with a vendor's product, the Primary Participant shall ensure that all data gathered pertinent to the anomaly is provided to the vendor to assist in its resolution. Anomalies identified during a test phase associated with a non-participating vendor/manufacture's equipment/software shall be referred to the affected vendor/manufacture via their respective NTC representative and in accordance with the NTC Information Sharing Guidelines (Section 14). When no NTC representative has been identified, any vendor related anomaly will be reported to the vendor through a trouble referral process that has been agreed upon by the Primary Participant and Vendor.
- n. Working with the Vendor in resolving any Vendor related anomalies and/or developing and publishing a resolution action plan as defined in the NTC Information Sharing Guidelines.
- o. Compiling and delivering a list of anomaly resolutions, for their ASP/ASC, to the overall coordinator.
- p. Developing where necessary, issues and contributions to the NIIF for resolution of anomalies identified.
- q. Pretesting equipment that will be needed to perform certain tests (if any) in the environment that will be used for the NTC test phase.
- r. Preparing a Press Release that will be made available at the time that the Final Report is released to the industry. At a minimum, the Press Release should include the following information:
 - 1. Time Frames of Test Phase
 - 2. Quantity of Troubles Found
 - 3. Names of Participating Companies
 - 4. Significant Findings (e.g., critical, major, customer affecting)

Note: Attribution For Troubles Found Should "Not" be Included

8.9 - The Primary Participant is responsible for ensuring that when a Secondary Participant and Contributing Participant is being utilized their involvement is managed to meet the Primary Participant's needs.

8.10 - The Primary Participant shall keep a log of lessons learned during their participation in the testing phase.

8.11 - Primary Participants shall ensure that information shared with employees of their company is handled in accordance with the NTC and NIIF Information Sharing Guidelines. Except for employees of the primary participants having a need to know, no other person or entity should have access to the testing operations or should be permitted to participate in any way in the test program, including communications conducted between any of the participants, except as the affected participants have been given prior notification.

8.12 - The Primary Participant is responsible for retaining all test results associated with their network, such results should be archived in accordance with their companies guidelines for document retention, for a minimum of one (1) year or until all problems have been processed to the satisfaction of all participants.

8.13 - The Primary Participants should identify any additional requirements above and beyond those identified by the NTC for Baseline testing, taking into account the network under test and the test scripts to be applied.

8.14 - Primary participants shall, at the request of the NTC, provide status updates for anomalies which are deemed to be of particular interest. Updates will be provided to the Overall Coordinator on or before dates identified by the NTC.

9. SECONDARY PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the responsibilities of the Secondary Participant.

9.1 - At the beginning of the test program (i.e., Baseline) and thereafter prior to resumption of testing, each participant will inform all the other parties of the operating condition of its connected equipment.

9.2 - The Secondary Participants knowing the dates and times of the NTC phase that they agreed to support will, prior to the start of that NTC Phase complete the following:

- a. Secure all equipment to be used and populate it with the data received from the Primary Participant (e.g., switches data filled, T1 channels cross connected, test scripts built and applied to test boxes, etc.).
- b. Pretesting of equipment that will be needed to perform certain tests (if any) in the environment that will be used for the NTC test phase.
- c. Identify a single point of contact including telephone number to stand as a main communications channel for their role.

9.3 - Personnel, if they are requested to participate, will:

- a. Have reviewed and be familiar with the test scripts;
- b. Adhere to the NTC Information sharing Guidelines;
- c. Attend all appropriate conference calls and/or meetings dealing with that NTC Phase tests and environment;
- d. Participate in test execution and data analysis.

9.4 - The Secondary Participant will be responsible for:

- a. The ordering, testing, and trouble shooting of facilities associated with the configuration setup for any facilities offered from their lab.
- b. Mutually determining, along with the Primary Participants other Secondary Participants HUB Provider/Administrator and Overall Coordinator, the start and stop time of testing and any days or periods of time where testing will not be performed prior to the actual test where possible.
- c. Executing test scripts with the other Secondary Participants, Overall Coordinator, Hub Provider/Administrator, and Primary Participants on behalf of the Primary Participant or with the Primary Participant who has requested these services, as directed by the Overall Coordinator.
- d. Collecting any data necessary for analysis as required by the test scripts and Primary Participant, and forwarding the data to the Primary Participant.
- e. Reviewing any anomalies given to them from the initial data analysis with the Primary Participant.
- f. Resolving their anomalies (if any).
- g. Responding in writing to the Primary Participant with the anomaly resolution, time frame for resolution and action plan and if applicable any reason for not being a resolved.

9.5 - The Secondary Participant and supporting organizations must be aware that they are under the responsibility of the designated Primary Participant.

9.6 - The Secondary Participant shall keep a log of lessons learned during their participation in the testing phase.

9.7 - Where equipment is being provided such equipment should be pretested in an environment that will be used for the NTC test phase.

9.8 - Secondary Participants shall ensure that information shared with employees of their company is handled in accordance with NTC and NIIF Information Sharing Guidelines. Except for employees of the participants having a need to know, no other person or entity should have access to the testing operations or should be permitted to participate in any way in the test program, including

communications conducted between any of the participants, except as the affected participants have been given prior notification.

9.9 - The Secondary Participant is responsible for retaining all test results associated with their network, such results should be archived in accordance with their companies guidelines for document retention, for a period of one (1) year or until all problems have been processed to the satisfaction of all participants.

9.10 - The Secondary Participants should identify any additional requirements above and beyond those identified by the NTC for Baseline testing, taking into account the network under test and the test scripts to be applied.

10. CONTRIBUTING PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the responsibilities of a Contributing Participant.

10.1 - Active participation by a contributor personnel (excluding facility access) must be approved by all Primary and Secondary Participants, where not covered in a Letter of Intent.

10.2 - The Contributing Participant shall commit to provide personnel, facilities, equipment, software and/or support as requested by the Primary and/or Secondary Participant for the time required.

10.3 - The Contributing Participant shall identify a single point of contact including telephone number to stand as the main communications channel for their role.

10.4 - The Contributing Participant shall inform the NT Committee via a Letter of Intent when requesting participation by contributing personnel, equipment and/or support. The Letter of Intent should identify all resources that a given contributor may provide for the NTC test phase.

10.5 - Contributing Participants shall adhere to the Information Sharing Guidelines of the NTC, under the direction of the sponsoring Primary Participant(s).

10.5.1 - Where a contributing participant's equipment and or personnel are to be located at the hub or a lab other than one or more of the sponsoring Primary Participant's lab, the contributing participant shall request in writing permission to locate their equipment and/or personnel at the proposed location from the Primary Participant and the operator of the site where the equipment is to be located..

10.5.2 - The contributing participant will only connect their equipment under the direction of the Primary or Secondary Participant who they are representing.

10.5.3 - The contributing participant shall be bound by all restrictions applied by such lab(s) owner/operator(s) in addition to such restrictions under the NTC guidelines.

10.6 - Where equipment is being provided such equipment should be pretested in an environment that will be used for the NTC test phase.

10.7 - All test scripts that the Contributing Participant is involved with should be reviewed prior to commencement of the testing phase.

10.8 - Attendance at conference calls and/or meetings associated with the test phase shall be at the discretion of and under the direction of the Primary and/or Secondary Participant who they are representing.

10.9 - Participation in the execution of tests and data collection/analysis shall be at the discretion of and under the direction of the Primary and or Secondary Participant who they are representing.

10.10 - The Contributing Participant shall provide the appropriate level of support for any equipment and/or software that they are contributing to the test phase.

10.11 - The Contributing Participant shall keep a log of lessons learned during their participation in the testing phase.

10.12 - The Contributing Participant is responsible for the ordering, testing, and trouble shooting of their facilities associated with the configuration setup offered from their lab.

10.13 - At the beginning of the test program (i.e., Baseline) and thereafter prior to resumption of testing, each participant will inform all the other parties of the operating condition of its connected equipment.

10.14 - The contributing Participant is responsible for securing all equipment to be used, populated with the data received from the Primary Participant (e.g., switches data filled, T1 channels cross connected, test scripts built and applied to test boxes, etc.).

10.15 - Contributing Participants shall ensure that information shared with employees of their company is handled in accordance with NTC and NIIF Information Sharing Guidelines. Except for employees of the participants having a need to know, no other person or entity should have access to the testing operations or should be permitted to participate in any way in the test program, including communications conducted between any of the participants, except as the affected participants have been given prior notification.

10.16 - The Contributing Participant is responsible for retaining all test results associated with their network, such results should be archived in accordance with their companies guidelines for document retention, for a period of one (1) year and until all problems have been processed to the satisfaction of all participants.

11. TEST SCRIPT AUTHOR RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the responsibilities of the Test Script Author and a Test Script Template.

11.1 - Develop test scripts/scenarios that ensure that the capability of the network is being validated.

11.2 - Provide test scenarios to the NT Committee in the format as developed/outlined by the participants of the NT Committee (see 11.7).

11.3 - Submit all test scripts to the NTC for acceptance, modification and approval by the appointed due date.

11.4 - Incorporate any upgrades to the proposed test scripts and provide modified copies to the NTC for finalization by the appointed due date.

11.5 - Participate with the personnel applying the test in the review of the test scripts for understanding and modification where required.

11.6 - The Test Script Authors may have access to all test configurations and results of the tests for which they have provided the scripts, and to the extent that it does not conflict with the NTC and NIIF Information Sharing Guidelines.

11.7 TEST SCRIPT TEMPLATE

This template provides the basic requirements for data to develop and submit a test script for consideration to the NTC.

1. TEST SCRIPT NUMBER _____ (assigned by the NTC)

2. TEST SCRIPT TITLE _____

3. AUTHORS NAME _____

COMPANY _____

CONTACT NUMBER _____

4. PURPOSE OF THE TEST

Features or functions being tested

Target areas of network being tested (physical, message type, traffic)

ANSI reference or equal

5. HIGH LEVEL DESCRIPTION

Primary Components (focus)

High level walk through

6. TEST SETUP

Reference standard setup

Special equipment

Special requirements

7. TEST PROCEDURE

Action

High level response

Detailed response

On-line analysis

Off-line analysis

12. HUB PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the responsibilities of the Hub Provider.

12.1 - The HUB Provider/Administrator is responsible for:

- a. Providing the channel assignments for the interconnection of the participants' labs.
- b. Assuring that data collection and monitoring are adequately performed where requested.
- c. Providing the test participants with updates on the interconnection status and data monitored where requested.
- d. Providing the physical interconnection for the participants' labs.

12.2 - The HUB Provider/Administrator will adhere to the NTC Information Sharing Guidelines.

12.3 - HUB Provider shall ensure that information shared with employees of their company is handled in accordance with NTC and NIIF Information Sharing Guidelines. Except for employees of the HUB Provider/Administrator having a need to know, no other person or entity should have access to the testing operations or should be permitted to participate in any way in the test program, including to communications between any of the participants, except as the affected parties have been given prior notification.

12.4 - The HUB Provider/Administrator shall keep a log of lessons learned during their participation in the testing phase.

12.5 - The HUB Provider/Administrator is responsible for retaining test results associated with their network, such results should be archived in accordance with their companies guidelines for document retention, for a period of one (1) year or until all problems have been processed to the satisfaction of all participants.

13. OVERALL COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the responsibilities of the Overall Coordinator.

13.1 - The Overall Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing all activities within a given test phase, which shall include but not be limited to:

- a. Coordinating and Overseeing testing activities.
 - coordinating test script walk-throughs prior to implementation with script author
 - compiling test phase plan (including the dial plan and call through test plan)
 - responsible for overall management
 - taking test notes for use during analysis
- b. Ensuring that the provisioning and interconnection of laboratories for testing purpose is completed by the due date.
- c. Securing conference bridges and any necessary communications to facilitate testing from beginning to end.
- d. Ensuring that signalling and participant Operation, Administration, Maintenance and Provisioning (OAM&P) data collection and analysis are conducted appropriately.
- e. Coordinating the generation, editing and issuing of test reports from individual participants based on input and analysis from all participants; compile and publish final report.
- f. Provide feedback to the NTC.
- g. Ensuring that activities of the given phase are conducted in the most technically efficient, effective, unbiased and equitable manner as possible.
- h. Appendix 5 is a checklist to be utilized by the Overall Coordinator to ensure that all testing requirements are addressed.

13.2 - Overall Coordinator shall ensure that information shared with employees of their company is handled in accordance with NTC and NIIF Information Sharing Guidelines. Except for employees of the Overall Coordinator having a need to know, no other person or entity shall have access to the testing operations or shall be permitted to participate in any way in the test program, including communications conducted between any of the participants, except as the affected participants have been given prior notification.

13.3 - The Overall Coordinator upon assumption of the responsibility of overseeing the phase under test, shall review with all identified participants their respective responsibilities.

13.4 - The Overall Coordinator shall review the past list of lessons learned with the current participants to ensure that the same experiences that have caused problems are not replicated and that those experiences that have aided the process are reviewed.

13.5 - The Overall Coordinator shall keep a log of lessons learned during their participation in the testing phase. On completion of the testing phase those lessons learned by all participants shall be coalesced into one document. The lessons learned shall be shared with the NTC for consideration for inclusion in expectations of the appropriate roles etc.

13.6 - The Overall Coordinator is responsible for retaining all test results associated with their participation in the NTC phase, such results should be archived in accordance with their companies guidelines for document retention, for a period of one (1) year or until all problems have been processed to the satisfaction of all participants.

13.7 - The Overall Coordinator shall ensure that all Baseline tests and criteria are met prior to application of the Phase test scripts under test.

13.8 - The Overall Coordinator, together with the Primary Participants, are responsible for determining what the process and responsibilities are for the analysis of the data prior to commencement of testing.

13.9 - Any anomalies identified during Baseline testing should be reconciled prior to proceeding with the test scripts for the current phase testing.

13.10 - Where it has been determined that the anomalies will not have a significant effect on the application of test scripts, the Participants shall determine whether to continue the test. The rationale for continuance shall be included in the appropriate Reports on the phase testing.

13.11 - The Overall Coordinator should identify any additional requirements above and beyond those identified by the NTC for Baseline testing, taking into account the network under test and the test scripts to be applied.

13.12 - For reference purposes, the Overall Coordinator for each test phase shall maintain a record identifying the Primary Participant(s) and Vendor(s), if any, associated with each reported anomaly. This information will be used solely to respond to Participants and / or Vendors seeking to determine whether their network / product was the subject of the reported anomaly. In the event that the NTC seeks information on the status of an anomaly, the Overall Coordinator may confidentially notify the Primary Participant in whose test network the anomaly was identified.

13.13 - The Overall Coordinator shall provide anomaly status updates requested by the NTC. The Overall Coordinator shall further notify the NTC when requested information has not been supplied.

14. CO-CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the selection criteria and responsibilities for the NTC Co-chairs

The NTC will have two co-chairs who will act as facilitators of the meeting.

The two Co-chairs will be selected from the body of current regular (at least four consecutive meetings) committee attendees

The NTC co-chairs are solicited on a voluntary basis and are approved by the NT Committee.

The term of office for the NTC Co-chairs will be a minimum of one year, with the opportunity to continue to serve for a longer period of time based on the purview of the NT Committee membership. It is suggested that leadership changes within the Committee be staggered by at least two meetings, if possible, to provide for leadership continuity.

Anyone volunteering to serve as an NTC co-chair must agree to carry out the responsibilities associated with this leadership role as stated in this document.

An NTC participant's first responsibility is to represent his/her company. However, when acting as Co-chair, the primary responsibility is to facilitate the committee meetings. This includes:

- calling the meeting to order,
- making sure the agenda is followed,
- keeping the discussion pertinent and on track,
- interacting with other committee Co-chairs

The Co-chairs should remain neutral in all discussions and try not to interject any biases or company position into discussions or issue resolutions. If the Co-chair is their company's only representative at the meeting, then the Co-chair may state a company position only after formally stating that he/she is speaking as a company representative and not as a committee Co-leader.

The Committee Co-chairs should provide direction to the committee secretary on performing the administrative duties for the committee. All NTC meeting minutes must be reviewed and approved by the committee Co-chairs before they are distributed by the secretary.

The Committee co-chairs should also keep the Forum Moderator informed of any pending changes in the committee leadership.

The Committee Co-chairs must be familiar with the **CLC Principles and Procedures** and conduct the meeting in accordance with such principles and guidelines.

15. INFORMATION SHARING GUIDELINES

The following are the Network Interconnection/Interoperability Forum (NIIF) approved guidelines for the sharing of information gleaned during the testing phases conducted under the auspices of the NTC.

15.1 - Results of all Internetwork Interoperability tests performed will be made available to those parties (Access Service Providers/Access Service Customers) engaged in the actual testing under non-disclosure agreements. In addition, test results will be made available only to those companies that have been identified by any of the Access Service Providers/Access Service Customers as being allowed to receive such information under express written non-disclosure agreements (existing or future).

15.2 - Test results should be shared at a protocol message exchange level where EXPECTED results differ from ACTUAL results or where there are any anomalies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHARED SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Test number
- Product/Vendor(s) name
- Hardware/Software release utilized including identification of patches/updates/options
- Configurations and relevant administrative data
- Action plan to address anomalies

In addition, where expected results equal observed results, the following information should be shared:

- Test number

15.3 - The Access Service Provider/Access Service Customers engaged in the testing will be responsible for retaining all test results.

15.4 - The Access Service Provider/Access Service Customer will be responsible for performing Interim/Final analysis. No results, analysis, or reports, except these detailed in Paragraph "A", concerning the internetwork interoperability testing will be disclosed to parties other than Access Service Providers/Access Service Customers engaged in the actual testing, without express written permission of the Access Service Providers, Access Service Customers and the Vendors who are involved in the testing and about whom the information is being disclosed.

a. All principal Access Service Providers/Access Service Customers involved in internetwork interoperability testing shall collectively prepare a Final analysis Report for disclosure to include:

- Test description
- Test configuration
- Internetwork - oriented test results

It shall not include proprietary information.

15.5 - Prior to release, all Access Service Providers/Access Service Customers and Vendors are to be provided with an opportunity to provide technical comment on the accuracy of the contents and assurance of proprietary information protection.

15.6 - Where analysis identifies an issue associated with interoperability the participating Access Service Providers/Access service Customers and or Vendors who are experiencing the problem will proactively resolve such issues and communicate such resolutions or action plans to their respective Access Service Customers/Access Service Providers customers or appropriate interconnected carriers.

15.7 - No Access Service Provider/Access Service Customer/Vendor shall utilize any information gleaned during Internetwork Interoperability testing for competitive advantage or disadvantage purposes.

15.8 - During the term of the test program and prior to public release of the final document by the NTC, participants; hub Provider or Overall Coordinator shall not conduct public discussions nor publish any article about the NTC testing results without full knowledge and agreement of the participants of that particular phase.

15.9 TESTING PHASE PARTICIPANTS ANALYSIS MEETINGS

15.9.1 - During the testing and analysis phase of a particular test phase there is a need to discuss/share information that may be of a sensitive nature and/or is deemed proprietary.

15.9.2 - The following guidelines should be adhered to in order to facilitate the discussion and sharing of such information in an analysis meeting.

- A.** Where companies already have in existence a non-disclosure agreement and the contents of the agreement pertain to the NTC, such agreements/guidelines should be adhered to by the parties affected by the agreement.
- B.** Where a non-disclosure agreement is not in existence between interacting parties of the phase under discussion, the following guidelines should be adhered to:
 - All supplier or network specific information disclosed shall be utilized solely for the purpose of facilitating the analysis of the data and development of the final report.
 - Recipients of any and all data or information should utilize the same degree of care in the protection of such data or information that they would use in the protection of their own proprietary data or information.
 - For purposes of analyzing NTC test phase data, recipients may share this data with certain parties who agree to adhere to these guidelines and the information sharing guidelines outlined in Section 14 of the NTC Reference Document. These parties may be employees of participating companies with a need to know or affiliates who have been identified to the test phase participants prior to the sharing of data.
- C.** Proprietary restrictions do not apply under the following circumstances:
 - Information already in the possession or control of the recipient, obtained outside NTC test phase prior to the interaction. In such case any existing proprietary restrictions shall prevail.
 - Information that is publicly known.
 - Information that is received from an external source (i.e. those not attending the meeting) who is free to disclose it without obligation to the information owner.

16. TESTING PLAN TIMELINE TEMPLATE

This section provides the generic outline for the planning, implementation and auditing of the Phase under test.

Proposed
Phase Testing Schedule/Requirements

Dates
Obj _____ Act

OBJECTIVE TEST START DATE IDENTIFIED:

- * Pre-determined Milestone Set by NTC.
- * Date in Which Test Script Execution Begins.

IDENTIFY OVERALL COORDINATOR:

IDENTIFY TESTING FOCUS:

- * Specific Testing Category (e.g. congestion, link failure)

TESTS SCENARIOS IDENTIFIED:

- * Specific Test Scenarios That Apply to and Support the Focus of the Test Phase.
- * Driven by Contribution to the NTC.

TEST SCRIPT AUTHORS:

- * NTC participant Volunteers who will Author Test Script for Submission to NTC for Review and Approval.

DEVELOP NETWORK CONFIGURATION:

- * Specify Network Architecture, Elements and Connectivity to Support Defined Test Scenarios.
- * Network Configuration is Developed by NTC.

TEST PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED:

- * NTC Primary and Secondary Participant Volunteers.

TEST SCRIPTS SUBMITTED TO NTC:

- * Formal Contributions to the NTC Supporting Identified Test Scenarios.
- * Detail Document Providing Sufficient Information To Testers to Execute Intended Test.
- * Test Script will Comply to Format Established by NTC.

TEST SCRIPT REVIEW:

- * Detail Analysis for Content and Intent by NTC.
- * Modifications of Test Script(s) Upon Recommendations of NTC.
- * Baseline Test Scripts Identified and Criteria Established.

TEST SCRIPT FINAL APPROVAL BY THE NTC:

- * Approval of Test Script(s) by NTC After Final Modification Has Been Completed.

FINALIZE TEST DATES:

- * All Applicable Phase Schedule Test Dates Finalized by NTC.

HAND OVER TO OVERALL COORDINATOR:

- * NTC Hands Off Test phase package to Overall Coordinator under the Guidelines of Responsibilities and Definitions.
- * Process Review Lists

TEST SCRIPT REVIEW BY TESTER:

- * Detailed Line by Line Review of the Finalized Test Script(s) between the Author, Coordinator, and Testers for Clarification of Content and Intent.
- * Individual Lab Requirements may Dictate Minor Tailoring to Execute Test Script. Tailoring Should Not Modify Intent of Test Script.

NETWORK CONFIGURATION PREPARATION**1. Facility Installation Complete**

- * Identify T1 Contact
- * T1 Installed/Verified/Tested
- * T1 Facility Burn In Period
- * End to End T1 Channel Connected to HUB

2. Network Element Preparation Complete

- * Datafill (Elements/Simulators)

3. Network Element Interconnection Completed

- * Interconnect Elements (cross connect) and Simulators
- * Links Aligned
- * Monitor Points Installed and Tested

4. Pre Baseline Preparation

- * End to End Call Thru
- * Background Traffic
- * Verification of Routing, Gateway Screening Translations, e.g. at least 1a, 1c, Script Excerpts

5. Baseline Test Complete

- * Three (3) Hour Soak
- * The date by which all baseline testing has been completed successfully, the network under test is stable and the tests identified by the NTC can be applied to the network.

NOTE: Objective of call completion rated higher than 99.9%

	<u>Dates</u>	
<u>Obj</u>		<u>Act</u>

TEST START:

* The date that the application of the test scripts developed by the NTC commences.

TEST PHASE COMPLETION:

* Committed tests completion date.

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS COMPLETED:

ACTION RESPONSE ISSUED:

GENERATE PROCESS IMPROVEMENT LIST:

DRAFT FINAL REPORT ISSUED TO NTC:

FINAL REPORT ISSUED:

17. REPORTS

This section outline the reports to be generated by the participants in the phase under test.

17.1 STATUS REPORT

The status is a high level progress report of the individual test scenarios. This report shall contain no proprietary information, per the Information Sharing guidelines. This report will be compiled by the individual testing participants and presented to the NTC and NIIF, consistent with the Information Sharing Guidelines.

The Status Report shall be issued one (1) week following the completion of testing and shall contain the following information:

- a. Configuration and participation
- b. Number of tests scheduled/completed
- c. Reasons for any tests not executed
- d. Justification for any test cases added, deleted or modified
- e. Any anomalies observed
- f. Date due
- g. General comments on test activity

17.2 PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

The Preliminary Analysis is an internal report developed by the test participants. This is the initial evaluation of the results of the test suite. This will not be disseminated beyond the confines of the participant organization without compliance to the NTC Information Sharing Guidelines.

The Preliminary Analysis shall be issued within 4-6 weeks following completion of the tests. The Analysis shall contain the following information:

- a. Items A-D of the Status Report
- b. Detailed test case results
- c. All issues, abnormalities and ambiguities identified with the associated Action items
- d. Date action items responses are due
- e. Date Final Report due

17.3 FINAL REPORT

Per the NTC Information Sharing Guidelines, the Final Report will be developed by the participants. Prior to issuance of the final report for general distribution, the participants of the test phase for which the final report reflects the outcome shall provide the NTC the opportunity to review such report. The intent of the review shall not be to change content in regards to the findings but where necessary provide for clarification and understanding. The report will be forwarded to the NIIF for distribution.

The Final Report shall be issued within 10-13 weeks following completion of testing. this report shall contain the following information:

- a. Items A-C of Preliminary Report
- b. Disposition of all action items
- c. Conclusion/Comments of test
- d. Recommendations for future test activities
- e. Results of requested retests from previous test Phases

To the extent applicable, each anomaly / anomaly / finding / observation will be reported in the following manner:

- a. Anomaly number:
- b. Anomaly title:
- c. Test #:
- d. Scope:
- e. Likelihood of Occurrence / Trigger:
- f. Potential Impact:
- g. Severity:
- h. Interconnect notification recommended? y/n:
- i. Interconnect notification priority:
- j. Anomaly description: (including supporting signaling as required)
- k. Anomaly verification/status:

1. References to applicable standards/requirements

These items can be further described as follows:

- a. Anomaly number: Each anomaly will be given a unique number of the format p-n where p is the number of the NTC test phase and n is a sequence number which is unique within the phase. In general, the most significant results will be assigned lower sequence numbers and will appear first in the Final Report
- b. Anomaly title: The title briefly identifies the essential point of the item.
- c. Test Number: The number of the test(s) during which the anomaly was observed.
- d. Scope: Scope identifies where the item might be expected to be observed (e.g., all switches using a particular software capability, switches translated in a particular manner, etc.) Identify the network(s) affected: Local; interconnected or both.
- e. Likelihood of occurrence / Trigger: This indicates the likelihood of observing this item in the live network, and / or the triggering event(s) which can lead to its manifestation.
- f. Potential Impact: This indicates the potential consequences of this anomaly (e.g., abnormal termination of calls, compromised redundancy, excessive signaling traffic, loss of a particular service) to the affected networks and their subscribers including the extent of the impact.
- g. Severity: Based on the above, this gives the primary participants' assessment of the severity of the item (e.g., critical - requires immediate attention and corrective measures, major - poses a serious but unlikely threat, etc.).
- h. Interconnect notification recommended? y/n: Indicates whether the participants believe that a network experiencing this anomaly is obligated to notify its interconnected networks per the NIIF Information Sharing Guidelines
- i. Interconnection notification priority: The priority with which such notification (if applicable), should take place (e.g., Urgent, Timely)
- j. Anomaly Description: (including supporting signaling as required): This gives a detailed description of the item including the circumstances under which it was observed, relevant standards and requirements, and any remaining questions regarding the anomaly.

- k. Anomaly verification / resolution status:** This gives the current status of efforts to resolve the item (e.g., cause under investigation, cause identified - resolution scheduled, fix delivered retest performed).
- l. References to applicable standards/requirements:** The sections of applicable Standards/Requirements which define proper behavior under the observed conditions. Should include Standard/Requirement number, title and issue number as well as the section numbers and headings of the applicable sections

17.4 - All reports will be generated and distributed in accordance with agreed upon NTC Information Sharing Guidelines.

18. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Example of Letter of Intent

Issuing Company's Address

Date

NTC Members,

(Company), a participant in the Network Testing Committee (NTC), intends to participate in the Phase (Test Number) testing configuration. it is our intention to offer up for interconnection our (nodes, i.e., Signaling Transfer Point STP) laboratory located in (City, State, the XXXX) to act as an Access Tandem and the YYYY to be the End Office located in (City, State).

It is our understanding that the testing period is from (Date through Date) with an expected start date for interconnection and pre testing to start (Date) to facilitate baseline testing.

We reserve the right at all times based on the needs of our Customers and business to interrupt testing at any time with a minimum (24) twenty four notification to all participants.

Should you have any questions in regards to this subject please feel free to contact me at (NPA) NXX-XXXX.

Name of Author
Title

cc:

Appendix 2 - NTC Hourly Log

NTC HOURLY LOG

Phase Number: _____

Quantity of Tests: _____

ACTIVITY	Primary Participant	Secondary Participant	Contributing Participant	Test Author	Equipment Hours
Phase Development					
Test Script Preparation					
Test Script Review					
Pretest					
Actual Test					
Test Data Analysis					
Retest/Verification					
Total					

All person hours will be accounted for in one hour increments.

Phase Development: All administrative hours associated with NTC.

Test Script Development: All hours associated with test script development.

Test Script Review: All

Appendix 3 - NTC List of Primary Contacts

NTC List of Primary Contacts

Name	Company	Tel. No.	FAX No.	E-Mail Address
Bradshaw, Randy	AT&T Wireless	206-702-2663	206-580-5020	randy.bradshaw@attws
Currie, Dan	Bell Atlantic	215-466-2732	215-564-2540	daniel.a.currie@bell-atl.com
DeMarco, Dan	SNET	203-420-7228	203-686-0223	dande@snet.com
Eby, Steve	DSC	972-519-2173	972-519-3855	seby@spd.dsc.com
Egas, Peter	Siemens	407-955-6889	407-955-6245	peter.egas@ssc.siemens.com
Faff, Frank	General Signal Networks	609-866-1100	609-439-3004	frank.faff@gsnetworks.gensig.com
Goodwin, Craig	EIT	613-342-9652	613-342-4134	operations@eit.ca
Gregory, Randall	NORTEL	919-905-8664	919-905-3918	rgregory@nortel.ca
Haben, Ken	Lucent Tech	630-224-7124	630-224 7043	kgh@ihgp.ih.lucent.com
Hastie, Stan	Stentor	613-228-4078	613-224-8544	hastiesd@stentor.ca
Hlavacek, Ken	SCP (Bellcore)	908-699-4626	908-336-2861	khlavace@notes.cc.bellcore.com
Jones, Allan	Pacific Bell	510-823-7672	510-866-2036	adjones@pacbell.com
Kuna, Luanne	MCI	770-971-6923	Call for FAX#	luanne.kuna@mci.com
Melvin, Jim	U S WEST	303-707-8193	303-707-9330	jmelvin@uswest.com
Morris, Ellina	Ameritech	847-248-5495	847-248-6746	ellina.morris@ameritech.com
Mui, Mark	AT&T	908-949-4586	908-949-0629	markslm@hogpa.att.com
Murphy, John	NYNEX	508-580-6065	508-580-2510	murphyj@nynexst.com
Questore, Joe	Overall Coord (Bellcore)	908-758-2125	908-758-4060	jgq@notes.cc.bellcore.com
Sanders, Toni	SWBT	972-454-6476	972-454-6296	ts9475@txmail.sbc.com
Shelton, William	Sprint	415-375-3843	415-375-3454	shelton@sprint.network.com
Sprague, Beth	ATIS	202-434-8849	202-393-5453	bsprague@atis.org
Tacker, Ken	Ericsson Inc	972-583-5599	972-583-7806	euskta@exu.ericsson.se
Stith, Dave	AirTouch Cellular	510-279-6791	510-279-6606	david.stith@airtouch.com
Theret, Gerry	MFS-Intelenet	201-938-7407	201-938-7335	
Willett, Gary	GTE Telops	972-718-3416	972-718-1405	gary.willett@telops.gte.com
Yazdani, David	Tekelec	919-460-2118	919-460-0877	david.yazdani@tekelec.com

Note: ATIS Home Page address is [http:// www.atis.org](http://www.atis.org)

April 1997

Appendix 4 - Issue Status

Issue Status

Test Phase Number & Previous Phase	Test Number	Anomaly Number	Anomaly Title	Status ¹	Resolution Date

¹ OPEN: Under investigation, no resolution identified at this time.
PENDING: Resolution identified, awaiting retest and/or approval of Primary Participants
REFERRED: Anomaly referred to a forum outside NTC for an industry solution (i.e., NIIF, T1)
CLOSED: Resolved to the satisfaction of affected parties

- * To be used only by the NTC for administrative purposes.
- * Not for publication or use outside of the NTC.

Appendix 5 - Participant Responsibility List**1. Test Plan Information**

- A. Order of tests
- B. Manual call requirements
- C. Data collection points identified
- D. Scheduled tester review of scripts

2. Network Configuration/Facilities Information

- A. Identify network elements, point codes
- B. Identify capabilities of network elements (Software releases, EO, AT, SCP, STP)
- C. Identify timing sources
- D. Provide datafill details
 - a. ISUP Trunks
 - Quantity of real and virtual
 - CIC assignments
 - Glare control and what method
 - COT requirements and distance issues
 - CLLI codes and circuit layout records for links and trunks (i.e., T1 Channel, MUX, Cross-connect assignments)
 - b. Routing
 - Full point code or cluster routing
 - Combined or non-combined linksets
 - Single or multiple link linksets
 - Primary and /or alternate routing schemes for trunks (real office live, load box calls and simulated office)
 - CCS routing definitions for network element to network element; primary, alternate and final routes
 - GTT information for 800 and/or LIDB
 - Network Management responses (alternate routing versus call failure)
 - c. Screening
 - For Gateway screening, what and who are to be screened
 - d. Traffic
 - Type of traffic and amount generated for real and virtual ISUP trunks
 - 800 numbers for inter and intra-exchange traffic
 - POTS numbers for inter and intra-exchange, direct and indirect
 - LIDB card numbers, translation type
 - Line assignments for routing over real trunks
 - Line assignments for routing over virtual trunks

3. Simulators Information

- A. Number of-simulated SSP's
- B. Type and amount of traffic being generated
- C. Call load boxes (EO) originating/terminating capacity, call hold time, intercall delay, glare control

4. Data Collection/Analysis Information

- A. Types of reports being generated from network elements and at what interval (information within each report)
- B. Detail of analysis of data involved
- C. Participant role during analysis
- D. Identify procedure for synchronizing clocks, this should be done at least once a day
- E. Required data exchange formats, decode or analysis programs file sizes, disk storage space requirements

5. Miscellaneous Information

- A. Lab contacts names, phone numbers, fax numbers, pager phone numbers
- B. Testing hours and conference bridge number(s)
- C. Baseline traffic (amount, type, description, amount of time for baseline)

Appendix 6 - Baseline Definition and Objectives

The NTC has developed a draft definition for "baseline testing" that reads as follows:

A suite of tests that establishes a level of performance that enables call processing and the transmit and receiving of network management signaling messages, to maintain the stability and integrity of the interconnected network; this includes network monitoring and data gathering equipment.

A set of baseline test objectives was proposed as follows:

- End to end Call Thru (for each call type)
- Ability to capture data
- Verify ability of network to carry the traffic load (determined by the participants)
- Verify signaling routes
- Verify trunking routes
 - * Expected results need to be in the test script
- Verify Global Title Translations
- Verify Gateway Screening

Call Through tests noted in the test objectives should include; 1) live call through, 2) simulator traffic, and 3) virtual traffic, to verify that routing and translations are correct.

Next steps/action items are as follows:

1. Determine what tests should be performed by each individual primary participant in their network prior to the commencement of "baseline testing" pre-baseline
2. Develop test scripts where applicable for baseline and pre-baseline
3. Prior to development of tests, we need to identify what we are trying to validate or invalidate

Tests that have been suggested as "baseline" include:

Test n.0.5 - Multiple A, B/D, C Link Failures
Test n.11 - MTP Compatibility Tests
Test n.12 - Intrusive ISUP Compatibility Tests - Non-ISDN
Test n.4 - TFC Message Verification

STATUS REPORT NTC DOCUMENT

THIS PAGE SHALL BE USED FOR THE TRACKING/STATUS OF ALL AGREED
UPON SECTIONS AND PARAGRAPHS.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Allen, Lonnie	GTE	214-718-7544	214-718-7875
Ash, Dale	U S WEST	303-707-8194	303-707-9330
Doskow, Art	NYNEX	212-967-3713	212-564-5629
Faff, Frank	Telenex	703-644-9158	703-644-9011
Gregory, Randall	NorTel	919-481-8664	919-481-8892
Haben, Ken	AT&T-NS	708-224-7124	708-224 7043
Haullotte	SWBT	214-454-6410	214-454-6497
Hwang, Howard	DSC	214-519-2713	214-519-4565
Johns, Alan	BellSouth	404-529-2901	404-529-6922
Jones, Allan	Pacific Bell	510-823-7672	510-866-2036
Kuna, Luanne	MCI	404-971-6923	Call for FAX#
Morris, Ellina	Ameritech	708-248-5495	708-248-6746
Mui, Mark	AT&T	908-949-4586	908-949-0629
Questore, Joe	Bellcore	908-758-2125	908-758-4389
Rice, Patrick	Tekelec	919-460-5554	919-460-0877
Russo, Karl	SNET	203-420-7221	203-686-0223
Scott, Thomas	Bellcore (SCP)	908-699-6021	908-336-2861
Shelton, William	Sprint	415-375-3843	415-375-3454
Sullivan, Mark	Stentor	613-228-4108	613-224-8544
Tacker, Ken	Ericsson	214-907-5911	214-997-4994
Walsh, Brian	MFS	703-391-5782	703-620-8961
Whisler, Jay	Bell Atlantic	215-466-2972	215-563-0961

Attachment G

Network Rating and Routing Information Committee (NRRIC) Uniqueness

**NETWORK RATING & ROUTING INFORMATION COMMITTEE (NRRIC)
UNIQUENESS DOCUMENTATION**

1. Issues concerning rating are referred to the Ordering and Billing Forum's Message Processing Committee (OBF/MSG) for resolution.
2. Issues concerning the LIDB Access Routing Guide (LARG) require extra time because additional expertise are needed to resolve them.
3. Meetings of the NRRIC are held outside the normal NIIF week. Support is shared with the Network Testing Committee and the other Committees of the NIIF.
4. Meeting dates are usually selected to coincide with the meeting of a non-ATIS users group whose members usually contribute to an NRRIC meeting.

Attachment H

Example of a Position Paper
(NIAC specific documentation)

SUBMISSION OF (COMPANY NAME)

TO THE

ISSUE (NUMBER) OF THE

(SUB-COMMITTEE ACRONYM)

ON

(ISSUE NAME)

(DATE SUBMITTED)

THIS (COMPANY NAME) POSITION PAPER IS A SUBMISSION TO THE ISSUE (NUMBER)
OF THE (ACRONYM) SUB-COMMITTEE AND DOES NOT REPRESENT CONSENSUS
OF THAT SUB COMMITTEE OR THE NIIF

Attachment I

Example of a NIIF Issue Identification Form

NIIF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ISSUE TITLE:

ISSUE ORIGINATOR:

COMPANY:

TELEPHONE #:

FAX#:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

REQUESTED RESOLUTION DATE:

Is this an ESP Request (Y/N)

ISSUE #:

FORMER ISSUE#:

DATE ACCEPTED:

COMMITTEE ASSIGNED:

CURRENT STATUS:

RESOLUTION DATE:

ISSUE CHAMPIONS:

(optional)

ISSUE STATEMENT:

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

OTHER IMPACTS (if any):

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

RESOLUTION:

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT:

(optional)

UPDATED:

Attachment J

ATIS Fee Schedule

NIIF Participation Fees for 1998

Companies and individuals interested in participating in the NIIF are required to pay an annual fee that covers the administrative and support costs to maintain the NIIF. Payment of the participation fees will enable the company to be identified as a participating company and attend the NIIF General Session and the meetings of the five standing committees – the Network Interconnection Architecture Committee, the Network Installation and Maintenance Committee, the Network Management Committee, the Network Rating and Routing Committee and the Network Testing Committee. The fees are based on the company's annual corporate revenues (a company is defined as the entity operating under a single Board of Directors). The fee schedule is as follows:

<u>Corporate Revenues</u>	<u>NIIF Participation Fee</u>
Greater than \$5B	\$14,000
\$1B - \$5B	10,300
\$250M - \$1B	7,500
\$50M - \$250M	4,700
\$5M - \$50M	930
\$1 - \$5M	470

A company interested in participating in the NIIF may attend one or two meetings on an auditing basis to evaluate the value of NIIF participation to their company. After a company has attended its second meeting, it is expected the company will either pay their participation fees or discontinue their attendance.

A participating company may send as many representatives as they desire to the NIIF meetings.

ATTACHMENT 2



NIIF Issue Index

Issue Identification Form

NIIF Issue Index in Word Format

Issue	Title	Committee	Status
<u>0001</u> NOF 201	SS7 Cause Code Treatment	NIM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0002</u> NOF 202	SS7 Cause Code Uniformity Treatment	NIM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0003</u> NOF 203	SS7 Cause Code Standard Tone and Announcement Wording	NIM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0004</u> IILC 044H	Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) Access by Non-LEC Resource Element	NIA	Tabled 1/07/97
<u>0005</u> IILC 046H	Delivery of Intra-LATA (NPA) 555-NXXX Dialed Calls to a Service Provider	NIA	Final Closure 1/06/97
<u>0006</u> IILC 049	AIN/IN Trigger Usage in a Multi-Provider Environment	NIA	Active
<u>0007</u> IILC 050	AIN/IN Trigger Provisioning in a Multi-Provider Environment	NIA	Tabled 5/01/97
<u>0008</u> IILC 051	Guidelines for Access to OAM&P Functionalities in a Multi-Provider Environment	NIA	Withdrawn 1/06/97
<u>0009</u> IILC 052	Definition and Criteria for Placement of Logical Interconnection Mediation Functions	NIA	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0010</u> IILC 053	Guidelines for Mediation Among Multiple Service and Network Providers	NIA	Withdrawn 6/23/97
<u>0011</u> IILC 55H	ISDN Information for ESPs	NIA	Final Closure 2/11/98

<u>0012</u> IILC 56PH	Identify and Define Specific Mediation Functions for "Create Call"	NIA	Tabled 1/06/97
<u>0013</u> ICCF 288	Call Rating Mechanisms in a Competitive Local Environment	NIA	Final Closure 12/20/96
<u>0014</u> NOF 240	Interconnection Templates	NM	Active
<u>0015</u> NOF 242	NOF Document Clarification (Specials- FG-A, FG-B, C & D)	NIM	Initial Closure 2/09/98
<u>0016</u> NOF 243	Call Through Testing	NIM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0017</u> ICCF 292	Competitive LEC Specialized Routing Requirements	NIA	Final Closure 12/09/97
<u>0018</u> NOF 249	Elimination of 800-NXX References	NIM/NM/NIA	Final Closure 4/30/97
<u>0019</u> NOF 252	877 Toll Free Implementation Test Plan	NIM	Final Closure 12/09/97
<u>0020</u> NOF 253	SS7 Linkset Capacity Augmentation Threshold	NIM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0021</u> NOF 254	Clarification of Emergency Communication System Diagram in NOF Reference Document	NM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0022</u> NOF 256	Definition of Network Modification	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0023</u> NOF 258	Interconnection Between LECs - FG-A and Specials	NIM	Final Closure 4/30/97
<u>0024</u> NOF 259	LNP Test Plan	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0025</u> NOF 260	Update Testline Guidelines	NIM	Final Closure 8/19/97
<u>0026</u> NOF 261	AMI/B8ZS Mismatch Testing	NIM	Final Closure 12/09/97
<u>0027</u> NOF 262	LEC A-Link Concentrator Interconnection	NIM	Final Closure 12/09/97

<u>0028</u> ICCF 293	CO NXX LNP Timeframe Notification	NIA	Initial Closure 12/08/97
<u>0029</u> ICCF 294	Data Resource for Service Provider Identification	NIA	Final Closure 12/10/97
<u>0030</u> ICCF 295	Identification, Routing and Rating for Non-Dialable Toll Points	NIA	Initial Closure 2/12/98
<u>0031</u> DIG 005	Terminating Digit Expansion	NRRI	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0032</u> DIG 010R1	Request for Frame Relay Information	NRRI	Active
<u>0033</u> DIG 011R1	Request for ATM Information	NRRI	Active
<u>0034</u> DIG 023	Download Capabilities for LERG Data	NRRI	Active
<u>0035</u> DIG 025	DIG Administrative Guidelines	NRRI	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0036</u> DIG 028	Local Number Portability Routing Requirements	NRRI	Final Closure 6/24/97
<u>0037</u> DIG 031	OCNs for Subassigned Line Ranges Without CLLI	NRRI	Final Closure 6/24/97
<u>0038</u> DIG 032	OCNs for Line Ranges in CLLI	NRRI	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0039</u> DIG 033	True Switch CLLIs	NRRI	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0040</u> DIG 034	Geographic Scope of Switch Information	NRRI	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0041</u> DIG 035	LERG/CLONES Comparison	NRRI	Active
<u>0042</u> NOF 247	Interconnected Company Responsibilities	NIM	Initial Closure 2/09/98
<u>0043</u> ICCF 296	500/900 Technical Feasibility	NIA	Final Closure 6/24/97

<u>0044</u> NOF 244	Media Stimulated Mass Calling (MSMC) Notification	NM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0045</u>	Routine Maintenance Activities	NIM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0046</u>	Testing of Services	NIM	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0047</u>	SAS Trunk Restoral Procedures	NIM	Final Closure 6/24/97
<u>0048</u>	Trunk Make Busy Procedures	NIM	Final Closure 4/30/97
<u>0049</u>	Maintenance Responsibilities for SAS Toll Free Database Services and Resellers	NIM	Withdrawn 8/21/97
<u>0050</u> ICCF 280	Use of Electronic Document Distribution and Communication	NIA	Final Closure 3/05/97
<u>0051</u>	CCS7 Referential Integrity	NRRI	Active
<u>0052</u>	Year 2000 Presentation in Rating and Routing Products	NRRI	Final Closure 6/24/97
<u>0053</u>	Test Number Guidelines for Switches with End Office/Tandem Functionality	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0054</u>	Interconnection Between LECs Operations Handbook Updates	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0055</u>	Third Party Switch Access to ILEC IN Service Platform (Old)	NIA	Withdrawn 5/01/97
<u>0055-R1</u>	Third Party Switch Access to ILEC IN Service Platform <u>schematic</u>	NIA	Withdrawn 12/08/97
<u>0056</u>	Update Testline Information	NM	Final Closure 8/20/97
<u>0057</u>	Additional Testline Information	NM	Withdrawn 6/25/97

<u>0058</u>	Obsolete Telephone Line Number (TLN) Calling Cards	NRRI	Initial Closure (withdrawn) 1/13/98
<u>0059</u>	LNP Recorded Announcement	NIM	Final Closure 8/19/97
<u>0060</u>	Update TSP Language in FG A-D and Interconnection Between LECs Documents	NIM	Withdrawn 6/26/97
<u>0061</u>	LNP Test Number Guidelines	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0062</u>	Documentation of Cause Code Treatment	NIM	Final Closure 8/19/97
<u>0063</u>	LEC-LEC Network Security Guidelines	NIM	Final Closure 12/09/97
<u>0064</u>	MSMC Notification Agreement Dissemination	NM	Final Closure 2/11/98
<u>0065</u>	Discontinuance of ICCF Industry Notification of NPA Relief Activities Document	NIA	Final Closure 6/24/97
<u>0066</u>	Portable Indicator for the LASS Database	NRRI	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0067</u>	Network Capabilities Supporting Line Level LSP Identification	NIA	Active
<u>0068</u>	Reference Document Part V & VI Updates	NM	Active
<u>0069</u>	Frame Relay Trouble Ticket Circuit ID	NIM	Final Closure 2/11/98
<u>0070</u>	Add New SS7 Cause Code to the "SS7 Cause Code & Tones and Announcements Document"	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0071</u>	SS7 Translation Types (TT) Assignments	NIM	Final Closure 2/12/98
<u>0072</u>	SS7 Subsystem Numbering (SSN) Assignments	NIM	Withdrawn 10/21/97

<u>0073</u>	Update Section D on SS7 Link and Trunk Document	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0074</u>	Update Section 10 and 11 of SS7 Link & Trunk Document	NIM	Final Closure 10/22/97
<u>0075</u>	Routing 011-800 International Freephone Service (IFS) Calls	NIA	Active
<u>0076</u>	Technical Feasibility of 7 and 10-digit Dialing for the 555 and 950 NXXs, Wherever 10-digit dialing May Be Required	NIA	Active
<u>0077</u>	Technical Feasibility of the Use of LNP or Like-Methods for 555 NXX Line Number Translations and Routing	NIA	Tabled 12/10/97
<u>0078</u>	3 Digit CIC (5 Digit CAC) Announcement	NM	Final Closure 2/11/98
<u>0079</u>	End of Transition Period for CIC Expansion - CIC Expansion Indicator	NIM	Final Closure 12/09/97
<u>0080</u>	Automatic Number Identification Announcement Circuit (ANAC)	NIM	Final Closure 12/09/97
<u>0081</u>	TSP Inconsistencies with NSEP In FG A-D & Interconnection Between LECs Documents	NIM	Final Closure 12/09/97
<u>0082</u>	CIP/CSP Availability Information	NRRI	Initial Closure 2/11/98
<u>0083</u>	Originating and Terminating Service Provider Identification Information	NRRI	Active
<u>0084</u>	Unresolved LNP Issues	NRRI	Active
<u>0085</u>	Alias STP Point Code	NRRI	Initial Closure 2/11/98
<u>0086</u>	10D SCP Flag and SCP pointcodes	NRRI	Initial Closure 2/11/98
<u>0087</u>	STP to ISCP Relationships	NRRI	Initial Closure 2/11/98

<u>0088</u>	LERG12 Insert	NRRI	Initial Closure 2/11/98
<u>0089</u>	NXX Code Openings	NIM	Initial Closure 2/09/98
<u>0090</u>	NPA Code Openings	NIM	Active
<u>0091</u>	E-911 Test Calls for the NIIF Local Number Portability Interconnection Testing Document	NIM	Active
<u>0092</u>	Updates To "Recommended Notification Procedures To Industry" Document	NIA	Active
<u>0093</u>	Service Provider Identification (SPI) Requirements	NIA	Final Closure 03/09/98
<u>0094</u>	Gateway Screening for Reliability	NIM	Active
<u>0095</u>	Implementing POTS IAM Priority Level 0	NIM	Active
<u>0096</u>	LEC to LEC General Subject Agreements	NIM	Active
<u>0097</u>	Embedded OCN Inaccuracy	NRRI	Active
<u>0098</u>	1000s Block Number Pooling - Impact on RDBS/BRIDS	NRRI	Active
<u>0099</u>	Toll Free NPA Implementation	NIMC	Active
<u>0100</u>	Vacant Number Announcement - Ported Numbers	NIMC	Active
<u>0101</u>	Send and Receive 10 Digits	NIAC	Active
<u>0102</u>	64Kb Services - Inadvertent Loopbacks	NIMC	Active

[\[NIIF Home\]](#) [\[About NIIF\]](#) [\[Calendar\]](#)
[\[Meeting Records\]](#) [\[Documents\]](#) [\[Contributions\]](#)

For more information on the Network Interconnection Interoperability Forum, please contact [Nancy](#)

Pierce, Director - Industry Forums, Beth Sprague, or Germaine Waluk

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Last update 03/18/98

ATTACHMENT 3

NIIF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FORM
ISSUE TITLE:

ISSUE ORIGINATOR:

COMPANY:

TELEPHONE #:

FAX#:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

REQUESTED RESOLUTION DATE:

Is this an ESP Request (Y/N)

ISSUE #:

FORMER ISSUE#:

DATE ACCEPTED:

COMMITTEE ASSIGNED:

CURRENT STATUS:

RESOLUTION DATE:

ISSUE CHAMPIONS:

(optional)

ISSUE STATEMENT:

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

OTHER IMPACTS (if any):

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

RESOLUTION:

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT:

(optional)

ATTACHMENT 4

NIIF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FORM
**ISSUE TITLE: Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) Access by Non-LEC
Resource Element**

ISSUE ORIGINATOR: Don Berteau
COMPANY: GeoNet Limited, L.P.
TELEPHONE #:
FAX#:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

ISSUE #: 0004
FORMER ISSUE#: IILC 044H
DATE ACCEPTED: 12/02/93
COMMITTEE ASSIGNED: NIA
CURRENT STATUS: Tabled
RESOLUTION DATE:
ISSUE CHAMPIONS: Randy Grosvenor
Ameritech Services

REQUESTED RESOLUTION DATE:
Is this an ESP Request (Y/N) Y

ISSUE STATEMENT:

The ability to access the Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) to establish a series of LEC network connections which are determined and initiated by a non-LEC Resource Element.

An end user initiates an information request which is forwarded to the Non-LEC Resource Element (NLRE). The NLRE determines where the requested data are located and that a series of data transport connections are required to collect the data. The NLRE sends messages via the SS7 network to the sites where the data are located ordering the requested data to be extracted. The NLRE causes data connections to be established between each of the sites where the data are located and a site where the data is to be assembled, specifying the bandwidth required in the data transport connection. The NLRE monitors the status of the call setup for each call. After each data transfer is completed, the NLRE causes teardown of the connection.

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

- \$ Document ESP requirements.
- \$ Identify existing or planned LEC services that meet ESP requirements.
- \$ Identify alternative solutions.
- \$ Identify any issues associated with implementation.

OTHER IMPACTS (if any):

In order to do service planning for new networked computer application oriented services, market planning cannot begin until "Systematic Uniformity" of access is accomplished.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

- 01-07-97** It was agreed to mark Issue 0004 (IILC 044H): Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) Access by Non-LEC Resource Element as "Tabled" and modify the acceptance date to 12/02/93. Further discussion will occur when the issue champion is present.

NIIF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ISSUE TITLE: Delivery of Intra-LATA (NPA) 555-XXXX Dialed Calls to a Service Provider

ISSUE ORIGINATOR: Kelly Daniels
COMPANY: GST Telecom
TELEPHONE #:
FAX#:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

REQUESTED RESOLUTION DATE:
Is this an ESP Request (Y/N) Y

ISSUE #: 0005
FORMER ISSUE#: IILC 046
DATE ACCEPTED: 2/10/94
COMMITTEE ASSIGNED: NIA
CURRENT STATUS: Resolved
RESOLUTION DATE:
ISSUE CHAMPIONS: Carey Caldwell
SWBT

ISSUE STATEMENT:

ESPs (including directory assistance information service providers) have a need for the delivery of calls from their end-users using an intra-LATA (NPA) 555-XXXX (i.e., NPA optional depending on local dial plans) dialing arrangement. There is a need to develop uniform delivery services for both line-side and trunk-side service provider arrangements that would include optional features and recording arrangements identified by the service providers. No such services exist today.

A workshop of the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) has developed guidelines for the assignment of "555" numbers to service providers for national and local use. Number assignment(s) could be made as early as May 1994, at which time the service providers will need the above described delivery service(s).

- The service provider's end-users would dial the service provider's assigned intra-LATA (NPA) 555-XXXX number.
- The LEC would deliver the call to the service provider's line-side or trunk-side arrangement, as appropriate.
- Optional features such as, but not limited to, ICLID, ANI, Dialed Number, should be available to the service provider, depending on the arrangement chosen.
- Optional recording and/or billing features should be available depending on the service provider and LEC needs for their services (pay-per-call or non pay-per-call, etc.).

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

- Identify technical issues related with provisioning services.
- Clarify service provider needs utilizing IILC Systematic Uniformity Process.
- Identify and document existing or planned LEC services that meet needs.
- Recommend additional solutions, if necessary, through uniformity process.
- Identify any issues pertaining to recommended solutions.

OTHER IMPACTS (if any):

NIIF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FORM
ISSUE TITLE: ISDN Information For ESPs

ISSUE ORIGINATOR:

COMPANY: GeoNet
 BellSouth

TELEPHONE #:

FAX#:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

REQUESTED RESOLUTION DATE:

Is this an ESP Request (Y/N): Y

ISSUE STATEMENT:

ISSUE #: 0011

FORMER ISSUE#: IILC 055

DATE ACCEPTED: 2/16/95

COMMITTEE ASSIGNED: NIA

CURRENT STATUS: Final Closure

RESOLUTION DATE: 12/08/97

ISSUE CHAMPIONS:

Don Berteau, GeoNet

Don Davis, BellSouth

The continuing development and deployment of ISDN has created a need on the part of ISDN users (including ESPs) to track ISDN services and/or feature/function availability. As consensus is reached on national ISDN interoperability agreements, availability of applicable ISDN services/features data will become increasingly critical to ESPs since deployment and availability vary greatly on a local basis. ESPs need ISDN information in order to incorporate ISDN services/features within their future provisioning mix.

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

- Determine ESP information needs relative to ISDN services/features and/or service/feature categories (e.g., end office information, forecasted deployment dates, tariff references, or technical references).
- Identify types of ISDN information/data currently available from any source and compare to LSP needs.
- Develop recommendations concerning mechanisms to supply ESPs with information concerning identified ISDN services/features and/or service/feature categories.

OTHER IMPACTS (if any):

The North American ISDN User's Forum has expressed concerns relative to the availability of information (e.g., descriptions and/or deployment data) concerning LEC ISDN features. Input from this organization may be of particular value in identifying ESP needs relative to ISDN features.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

- ATIS will research archives for previous contributions for ISDN information.

Agreements Reached:

- Participants agreed to keep Issue #0011: ISDN Information for ESPS, in active status.

10/23/97: Status - Active

Action item:

- NIAC Co-Chairs are to contact the Issue Originator for Issue #0011, Don Berteau, and advise him of the discussion surrounding the concerns of the committee relating to the status of this issue.

Agreement Reached:

- Pending a response from the NIAC Co-Chairs as to their Issue #0011 action item, participants of the committee agreed to keep Issue #00011 in active status.

12/08/97: Status - Initial Closure

Action Item:

- NIIF Secretary will add Issue #0011 to the NIIF #8 General Session under Issues for Closure.

Agreements Reached

- Participants agreed on the following resolution to Issue #0011:

The NIIF participants have deliberated the issue and have provided the means as to how information can be obtained relating to ISDN. Such documentation can be obtained by contacting the NIIF Secretary or by contacting the affected company directly, however, it must be understood that historical documentation may have changed and therefore, a direct contact is preferable.

ISDN Information can be found electronically through the following web sites:

Ameritech:	http://www.ameritech.com
BellSouth:	http://www.bellsouth.com
Pacific Bell:	http://www.pacbell.com
BellAtlantic:	http://www.bellatlantic.com
Cincinnati Bell:	http://www.cincinnati-bell.com
US West:	http://www.uswest.com
SouthwesternBell:	http://www.sbc.com

- Participants agreed to move Issue #0011 to initial closure.

NIIF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION FORM
ISSUE TITLE: Identify and Define Specific Mediation Functions for
"Create-Call"

ISSUE ORIGINATOR: Don Berteau
COMPANY: GeoNet, Ltd.
TELEPHONE #:
FAX#:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

REQUESTED RESOLUTION DATE: 1/97
Is this an ESP Request (Y/N): Y

ISSUE #: 0012
FORMER ISSUE#: IILC 56PH
DATE ACCEPTED: 6/28/95
COMMITTEE ASSIGNED: NIA
CURRENT STATUS: Tabled
RESOLUTION DATE:
ISSUE CHAMPIONS:
(optional)

ISSUE STATEMENT:

Some parties have recognized the need for mediation in an environment of logical interconnection with Non-LEC SCPs and IPs which initiate, monitor the status of, and terminate calls using the "Create-Call" functional capabilities of AIN.

SUGGESTED RESOLUTION:

- Identify and document typical functions which are candidates for inclusion in mediation.

OTHER IMPACTS (if any):

Related proceedings at state and federal levels (e.g., CC 91-346) acknowledge the need to define mediation and determine the feasibility and cost to develop and implement it. Output from this issue may be valuable input to such efforts. This issue further enables the industry participants to shape the definition and determine the criteria for design and development of mediation platforms, operational support systems and procedures.

CURRENT ACTIVITY:

01-07-97 The group reviewed the issue and agreed to place it in "Tabled" status. Randy Grosvenor will contact the issue originator regarding Issue 0012 (IILC056PH): Identify and Define Specific Mediation Functions for "Create Call".

RESOLUTION:

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT:
(optional)

e. Contributing Participant;

A Contributing Participant is any party other than the Primary Participant or Secondary Participant who provides facilities, personnel, equipment, software and/or support (at their cost) at the Primary or Secondary Participant request.

f. Test Script Author;

Test Script Authors are those parties that have taken responsibility for the generation of the test scripts for application in the NTC phase under test.

g. Hub Provider;

The HUB Provider/Administrator provides technical, administrative support and data collection associated with physical interconnections through the testing HUB.

h. Overall Coordinator;

The Coordinator takes responsibility for the overall management of an entire NTC phase, including assignment of responsibilities to phase test participants and following up with these participants to ensure that those assigned responsibilities have been discharged.

1.4 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The remainder of this document is organized into the following sections:

- Section 2 - Basic Premises
- Section 3 - Criteria
- Section 4 - Network Testing Committee Operating Principles
- Section 5 - Scope of Document
- Section 6 - Mission of the Network Testing Committee
- Section 7 - NTC Committee Participant Responsibilities
- Section 8 - Primary Participant Responsibilities
- Section 9 - Secondary Participant Responsibilities
- Section 10 - Contributing Participant Responsibilities
- Section 11 - Test Script Author Responsibilities
- Section 12 - Hub Provider Responsibilities
- Section 13 - Overall Coordinator Responsibilities
- Section 14 - Co-Chair Responsibilities
- Section 15 - Information Sharing Guidelines
- Section 16 - Test Plan Timeline Template
- Section 17 - Reports
- Section 18 - Appendices

2. BASIC PREMISES

2.1 - Telecommunications Service Providers have an obligation to their collective customers to cooperatively provide assurance for the integrity of the Public Switched Telephone Network.

2.2 - Enhancing the integrity of our collective telecommunications network is the primary driving force behind the activities of the Network Testing Committee.

3. CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THIS DOCUMENT

The information included in this document pertains to the operation and administration of the NTC and is a result of industry agreements.

4. NETWORK TESTING COMMITTEE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

4.1 - Provide a national mechanism for all service providers, Vendors and Manufacturers to jointly develop, approve and execute test scenarios in an off-line environment that will enhance the reliability, stability and survivability of the interconnected SS7 based networks.

4.2 - All reports and results of testing disseminated in accordance with the procedures documented here (see section 14) and in accordance with the Network Interconnection/Interoperability Forum Information Sharing Guidelines.

4.3 - All testing is performed in a cooperative and supportive atmosphere.

4.4 - Anomalies requiring referral to the appropriate standards body, or public forums for resolution would be via contribution through the NIIF.

4.5 - Resolutions to referred anomalies will be appended to the final report.

4.6 - All testing information/results are archived and made available to all industry participants and are subject to the Information Sharing Guidelines.

4.7 - The NTC can work efficiently and effectively only when representatives knowledgeable of the subject matter are in attendance. Therefore participants should be well prepared to discuss agenda topics and to speak authoritatively on behalf of their company.

4.8 - At the discretion of the testing parties, the NTC can be used as a forum for the presentation and discussion of test results.

4.9 - Once the test phase has been defined the overall coordinator shall assume responsibility for the implementation of the plan.

4.10 - Where contact between the NTC and a non-attending NTC participant is required, the appropriate industry Co-Chair shall be responsible for making that contact.

5. SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

The scope of this document includes the activities of the Network Testing Committee and the expectations of the participants in the testing phases of the NTC.