



## ACT NOW!

Still time to Register for MTA 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

To register, purchase a sponsorship or booth space, [click here.](#)

Register online today!

LNP Workshop Added to Convention Program

Premium Booth Locations & Sponsorships Available

Things to Do While Attending Convention

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Analog Cellular Service Ends This Month

FCC & Regulatory Filings

February 8, 2008

## MTA UPDATE

### LNP Workshop Added to Convention Program

As if you need one, now there is another great reason to attend the MTA Annual Convention. A local number portability workshop has been added to the program on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis Hotel. This addition is very timely with the recent extension of the requirements by the Federal Communications Commission. It will be conducted by Tom Burns, Olsen Thielen & Co., and Cecilia Ray with Moss and Barnett. The workshop will provide an overview of the FCC's decision on number portability and a summary of the most recent order. Attendees will come away with a better understanding of requirements for porting; the issue of wireless number portability and small carriers; and the streamlined porting process for simple ports. The workshop is free to convention attendees.

### Premium Booth Locations & Sponsorships Available

There are still premium booth locations and highly visible sponsorship opportunities available for the 2008 MTA Annual Convention, March 2-5, 2008 in Minneapolis. You can use the new online service to quickly register as an attendee, exhibitor or event sponsor.

Our theme – C3 2008: Competitiveness, Convergence and Consolidation—recognizes the three driving forces shaping today's telecom industry in Minnesota. To register, purchase a sponsorship or booth space, [click here.](#)

### Things to Do While Attending Convention

Looking for interesting events and activities to attend while in the Twin Cities for the convention? Check out the following Web sites: <http://www.minneapolisconventioncenter.com/public/toDo.asp> and [www.visitsaintpaul.com](http://www.visitsaintpaul.com). A good site for making dinner reservations is [www.opentable.com](http://www.opentable.com).

## REGULATORY UPDATE

## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

### PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail ([info@mnta.org](mailto:info@mnta.org)) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

### [Save These Dates](#)

#### **Annual Convention & Trade Show**

**March 2-5, 2008**

#### **MTA Golf Day**

**July 7, 2008**

#### **Fall Conference & Communications Seminar**

**November 18 & 19, 2008**

### [Quote of the Week](#)

"Despite the hard work of broadband providers and the dire need for greater bandwidth, the U.S. continues to slide down virtually every measure of the international rankings of broadband competitiveness. The truth is we're behind, we are falling further, and we pay more per megabit than many of our global competitors."

FCC

**Commissioner  
Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Responds  
To National  
Telecommunications  
Information  
Administration's  
Report On Broadband**

## **Governor Appoints O'Brien To PUC**

Governor Pawlenty has announced the appointment of J. Dennis O'Brien to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. O'Brien is being appointed for a six-year term expiring on January 6, 2014 to replace former Commissioner Marshall Johnson. O'Brien, an attorney, is currently Minnesota's Director of Strategic Planning and has over 30 years of private practice experience specializing in the fields of employment law, labor relations, collective bargaining and education finance and funding. O'Brien began his professional career as a special assistant district Attorney General, representing the state Department of Education and other state education agencies.

## **INDUSTRY UPDATE**

### **Lakedale Telephone Sold To Iowa Telecom**

Bishop Communications Corporation, whose operations include Lakedale Telephone Company, agreed this week to be acquired by Iowa Telecom.

"The Bishop family has proudly served our communities for 60 years," said John Bishop, chairman and president of Bishop Communications. "We selected Iowa Telecom due to their impressive track record of serving customers in similar Midwestern rural communities, and due to the cultural fit between our companies."

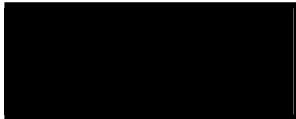
The Newton, Iowa based company said in a release that Lakedale Telephone Company's General Manager Gene South Sr. will continue to serve in that role. The company will be operated as a subsidiary of Iowa Telecom. The sale is expected to close in the second half of this year.

Iowa Telecom provides telecommunications services in more than 450 communities and employees more than 650 people in Iowa.

### **FCC Grants LNP Extension**

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has granted an extension to July 31, 2008 for all carriers to comply with local number portability (LNP) requirements limiting validation requests to four fields. The LNP rules had been slated to become effective on February 6, 2008. The rule limits LNP validation requests to four fields, including the ten-digit telephone number, customer account number, five digit zip code and pass code if applicable. The FCC explained that it believed consumers would benefit by giving carriers additional time to implement and coordinate their new validation systems.

The MTA will be hosting a LNP Workshop on March 4, 2008 that will focus on the FCC's decision, porting requirements and the porting process. (see lead article for details)



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would like to add to the distribution list? Send their name, company, and e-mail address to [info@mnta.org](mailto:info@mnta.org) and we'll add them to the list.

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Treasurer;  
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Weekly Bulletin editor:  
Moses Dennis

## FCC Mobile Report: Consumers Benefiting

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) this week released its Twelfth Annual Report to Congress on the state of competition in the mobile telephone – or Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) – industry. The FCC concluded that there is effective competition in the CMRS marketplace. The report demonstrates that U.S. consumers continue to experience significant benefits – including low prices, new technologies, improved service quality, and choice among providers – from competition in the CMRS marketplace.

Some of the interesting findings from the report are:

- Approximately 280 million people, or 99.8 percent of the U.S. population, have one or more different carriers offering cellular phone service in their surrounding areas.
- Approximately 99.3 percent of the U.S. population living in rural counties, or 60.6 million people, have one or more different companies offering cellular telephone service within the rural counties in which they live.

In addition, during 2006, the number of cellular phone subscribers in the nation rose from 213 million to 241.8 million, increasing the nationwide penetration rate to approximately 80 percent. The average amount of minutes that subscribers spend using on their mobile devices increased from 708 minutes per month during the second half of 2005 to 714 minutes per month during the second half of 2006. In addition, the volume of text messaging traffic rose from 9.8 billion messages sent during December 2005 to 18.7 billion messages sent during December 2006. Revenue per minute, which can be used to measure the per-minute price of mobile telephone service, remained unchanged during 2006 at \$0.07.

## New Web Site Focused on Rural Broadband

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the launch of a new, online resource for those in rural America looking to bring the benefits of broadband services to their communities. This “Broadband Opportunities for Rural America” web site makes available the expertise and resources of the FCC and USDA in a single, easily-accessible location and user-friendly format, according to a release issued by the FCC. The site provides information on the different technology platforms that can be used to provide broadband service, how to access spectrum necessary for delivery of wireless broadband services, government funding for broadband services, relevant FCC and USDA proceedings and initiatives, and data on broadband deployment. In addition, the site provides instructions on how to locate companies already licensed to provide wireless services in or near specific rural communities, as well as helpful links to other government and private resources related to encouraging broadband opportunities in rural America. To access the Web site, [click here](#).

## **Permanent "Do Not Call" Bill Sent to Senate**

Congress sent to President George W. Bush on this week two bills that will provide funding and make permanent the national Do Not Call Registry. The House passed and sent to the president a bill that gives permanent authority to the Federal Trade Commission to collect fees to operate the program. The fees, over \$17,000 a year, are paid by telemarketers. The Senate bill makes the list permanent and removes any concerns that the FTC would require consumers to re—register every five years. About 150 million Americans have entered their names on the four-year-old list.

*Reprinted from Last Week*

## **Analog Cellular Service Ends This Month**

The FCC recently issued a news release to remind consumers that beginning February 18, 2008 cellular telephone companies will not be required to provide analog service. The Commission said most wireless telephone users will not be affected by this transition (often called the “analog cellular sunset”), some users may be affected. In addition, the transition could affect some alarm systems and some users of OnStar in-vehicle communications service. (OnStar discontinued offering its analog service, found in older cars, on December 31, 2007.)

## **FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS**

**FEBRUARY 29:** Comments due on PUC docket P999/CI-07-1484, Industry-wide Investigation into the Promotional Practices of Telecommunications Services Providers

**MARCH 1: FCC FORM 477:** Local competition and broadband report due to FCC. All ILECs, CLECs and wireless providers must file this form. All cable TV operators that provide cable modem service must file this form.

**MARCH 1: CPNI ANNUAL CERTIFICATION:** All carriers are required to file a Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) certificate with the FCC. A company officer with personal knowledge that the company has established operating procedures adequate to ensure compliance with the rules must sign the certificate, place a copy of the certificate in the company's compliance records file and file with the FCC.

**MARCH 1: COPYRIGHT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FORM:** This form for cable companies, plus royalty payment for the second half of the calendar year 2007, is due. This form covers the period July 1 to December 31, 2007, and should be mailed directly by cable TV operators to the Library of Congress' Copyright Office.

**APRIL 1: FCC FORM 499-A: TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET:** This form must be filed by all contributors to the Universal Service Fund support mechanisms, the

Telecommunications Relay Service Fund, the cost recovery mechanism for the North American Numbering Plan Administration and the shared costs of local number portability.

## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

### MTA Meetings This Week

**Feb 6:** MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee

**Feb 7:** MTA Small Companies Committee

### Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

**Feb 13:** MTA Marketing & Communications Committee, MTA office, 10:00 a.m.

**Feb 20:** MTA Legislative Committee, to be determined, 10:00 a.m.

For a look at 12 months and more of industry events, [click here](#)

## PEOPLE & COMPANIES

**CenturyTel** has hired **Scott Girard** as its manager of regulatory/government relations for the company's Midwest Region. He replaces **John Schafer** who is retiring. He will represent CenturyTel on the MTA regulatory committee. Girard's contact information is: 10 E. Doty Street, 8th Floor, Madison, Wisconsin 53703  
scott.girard@centurytel.com  
608-441-5730 (phone)  
608-441-5754 (fax)  
Congratulations to John Schafer on his retirement from CenturyTel. Welcome, Scott.

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