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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 1, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W. - Suite TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: Joint Application of NorthPoint Communications, Inc. and Verizon Communications for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act, as Amended, To Transfer Control of Blanket Authorization To Provide Domestic Interstate Telecommunications Services as a Non-Dominant Carrier, CC Docket No. 00-0157,

Dear Ms. Salas:

On August 24, 2000, Verizon Communications ("Verizon") and NorthPoint Communications, Inc. ("NorthPoint"), (the "Applicants"), filed their joint application requesting Commission approval of the transfer of control of FCC authorizations from NorthPoint to a "new" NorthPoint which will own the combined digital subscriber line businesses of the Applicants. Verizon will hold 55 percent of the voting securities of the new entity. In our pre-filing conversations with Commission staff, we discussed the Commission staff's requests to review all documents the Applicants have provided (or will subsequently provide) to the Department of Justice ("Department") in connection with the Department's investigation of the proposed merger pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act and the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act, and to engage in discussions with representatives of the Department with respect to those documents (collectively the "Protected Materials") and the status of the Department's investigation. We have agreed to the Commission staff's requests, on the understanding that, except as noted below, the Commission will treat the protected materials as confidential documents pursuant to Section 0.459 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.459 and that the discussions with the Department will be treated as exempt *ex parte* presentations under Section 1.1204(a)(6) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. 1.204(a)(6).

With respect to the Protected Materials, we have agreed that certain counsel to parties that participate in this proceeding will be allowed to review such Protected

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Materials as may be filed at the Commission under the terms of the protective order adopted by the Commission on August 30, 2000.<sup>1</sup>

With respect to discussions between representatives of the Commission and the Department, the Applicants each have sent a letter to the Department waiving the confidentiality provisions of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act, the Antitrust Civil Process Act, and any applicable confidentiality provisions governing the Protected Materials in order to permit full discussions between representatives of the Department and the Commission with respect to the Protected Materials and the status of the Department's investigation of the merger between the Applicants. A copy of each letter is enclosed. This waiver also permits the Department to share with the Commission the Protected Materials in the Department's possession. As noted above, this waiver is based on the Applicants' understanding that the discussions will be treated as exempt *ex parte* presentations under Section 1.1204(a)(6) and will not be disclosed, except as required under that section.

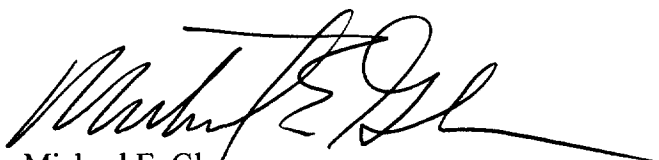
Finally, we would like to confirm that the agreements and waivers set forth above are further based on the Applicants' understanding that if, in connection with its decision in this proceeding the Commission intends to rely upon or otherwise make reference to the contents of any of the Protected Materials or the substance of its discussions with the Department, it will do so in the same manner in which it maintained the confidentiality of similarly protected information in the *Bell Atlantic/NYNEX Order*, 12 FCC Rcd. 19985 (1997). In the case of that Order, the Commission embodied its discussion of confidential information in a separate Exhibit E that was placed under seal and not released publicly as part of the Order.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned persons if you have any questions regarding any of the foregoing or the enclosed documents. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



William J. Bailey, III  
NorthPoint Communications, Inc.  
1909 K Street, NW, Suite 820  
Washington DC 20006



Michael E. Glover  
Verizon Communications  
1320 North Court House Road  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arlington VA 22201

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<sup>1</sup> *Joint Application of NorthPoint Communications, Inc. and Verizon Communications for Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act, as Amended, To Transfer Control of Blanket Authorization To Provide Domestic Interstate Telecommunications Services as a Non-Dominant Carrier*, CC Docket No. 00-0157, Order Adopting Protective Order, DA 00-1969 (rel. Aug. 31, 2000).

Enclosures

cc: Michelle Carey  
Jake Jennings  
Donald Russell, Department of Justice

LATHAM & WATKINS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W.

SUITE 1300

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-2505

TELEPHONE (202) 637-2200

FAX (202) 637-2201

PAUL R. WATKINS (1899 - 1973)  
DANA LATHAM (1898 - 1974)

CHICAGO OFFICE

SEARS TOWER, SUITE 5800  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606  
PHONE (312) 876-7700, FAX 993-9767

HONG KONG OFFICE

20TH FLOOR  
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK BUILDING  
4 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG  
PHONE +852-2522-7886, FAX 2522-7006

LONDON OFFICE

99 BISHOPSGATE, ELEVENTH FLOOR  
LONDON EC2M 3XF ENGLAND  
PHONE +44-20-7710-1000, FAX 7374-4460

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

633 WEST FIFTH STREET, SUITE 4000  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071-2007  
PHONE (213) 485-1234, FAX 891-8763

MOSCOW OFFICE

ULITSA GASHEKA, 7. 9TH FLOOR  
MOSCOW 123056, RUSSIA  
PHONE +7-095 785-1234, FAX 785-1235

NEW JERSEY OFFICE

ONE NEWARK CENTER, 16TH FLOOR  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07101-3174  
PHONE (973) 639-1234, FAX 639-7298

NEW YORK OFFICE

885 THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 1000  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-4802  
PHONE (212) 906-1200, FAX 751-4864

ORANGE COUNTY OFFICE

650 TOWN CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 2000  
COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92626-1925  
PHONE (714) 540-1235, FAX 755-8290

SAN DIEGO OFFICE

701 'B' STREET, SUITE 2100  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-8197  
PHONE (619) 238-1234, FAX 696-7419

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE

505 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 1900  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111-2562  
PHONE (415) 391-0600, FAX 395-8095

SILICON VALLEY OFFICE

135 COMMONWEALTH DRIVE  
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025  
PHONE (650) 328-4600, FAX 463-2600

SINGAPORE OFFICE

80 RAFFLES PLACE, #14-20  
UOB PLAZA 2, SINGAPORE 048624  
PHONE +65-536-1161, FAX 536-1171

TOKYO OFFICE

KANEMATSU BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR  
2-14-1 KYOBASHI, CHUO-KU  
TOKYO 104-0031, JAPAN  
PHONE +813-5524-1900, FAX 5524-1901

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Donald Russell  
Chief, Telecommunications Task Force  
United States Department of Justice  
Antitrust Division  
1401 H Street  
Room 8004  
Washington, DC 20550

Re: Verizon/NorthPoint Merger

Dear Mr. Russell:

On August 24, 2000, Verizon Communications ("Verizon") and NorthPoint Communications, Inc. ("NorthPoint"), (the "Applicants"), filed their joint application requesting approval by the Federal Communications Commission (the "Commission") of the transfer of control of FCC authorizations from NorthPoint to a "new" NorthPoint which will own the combined digital subscriber line businesses of the Applicants. Verizon will hold 55 percent of the voting securities of the new entity. In our pre-filing conversations with Commission staff, we discussed the Commission staff's requests to review all documents provided by the Applicants to the Department of Justice ("Department") in connection with the Department's investigation of the proposed merger pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act and the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act, and to engage in discussions with representatives of the Department with respect to those documents (collectively the "Protected Materials") and the status of the Department's investigation. We have agreed to the Commission staff's requests, subject to certain understandings that are set forth in the enclosed letter to the Commission's Secretary.

September 1, 2000

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With respect to discussions between representatives of the Commission and the Department, the Applicants waive the confidentiality provisions of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act, the Antitrust Civil Process Act, and any applicable confidentiality provisions governing the Protected Materials in order to permit full discussions between representatives of the Department and the Commission with respect to the Protected Materials and the status of the Department's investigation of the merger between the Applicants. This waiver also permits the Department to share with the Commission the Protected Materials in the Department's possession. As noted in the enclosed letter to the Commission, this waiver is based on the Applicants' understanding that the discussions will be treated as exempt *ex parte* presentations under Section 1.1204(a)(6), 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(a)(6) and will not be disclosed, except as required under that section. With respect to the Protected Materials, we have also agreed that certain counsel to parties that participate in this proceeding will be allowed to review such Protected Materials as may be filed at the Commission under the terms of the protective order adopted by the Commission on August 30, 2000.<sup>1</sup>

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned persons if you have any questions regarding any of the foregoing. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



E. Marcellus Williamson  
Gary M. Epstein  
Counsel for NorthPoint

Enclosure

cc: Michelle Carey  
Jake Jennings

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**John Thorne**  
Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel



**Verizon Communications**  
1320 North Court House Road, Floor 8  
Arlington, VA 22201

Phone 703.974.1600  
Fax 703.974.0775  
Mobile 202.365.7992  
john.thorne@verizon.com

August 31, 2000

Donald Russell  
Chief, Telecommunications Task Force  
United States Department of Justice  
Antitrust Division  
1401 H Street, N.W.  
Eighth Floor  
Washington, DC 20550

Re: NorthPoint/Verizon Merger

Dear Mr. Russell:

On August 24, 2000, Verizon Communications and NorthPoint Communications, Inc. filed their joint application requesting approval by the Federal Communications Commission of the transfer of control of FCC authorizations from NorthPoint to a "new" NorthPoint which will own the combined digital subscriber line businesses of the Applicants. Verizon will hold 55 percent of the voting securities of the new entity. In our pre-filing conversations with Commission staff, we discussed the Commission staff's requests to review all documents provided by the Applicants to the Department of Justice in connection with the Department's investigation of the proposed merger pursuant to the Antitrust Civil Process Act and the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act, and to engage in discussions with representatives of the Department with respect to those documents (collectively the "Protected Materials") and the status of the Department's investigation. We have agreed to the Commission staff's requests, subject to certain understandings that are set forth in the enclosed letter to the Commission's Secretary.

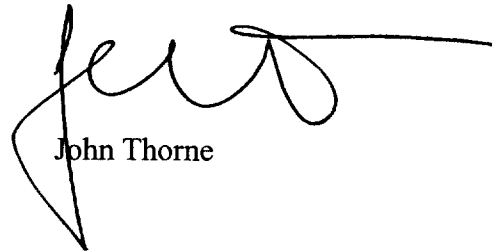
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August 31, 2000  
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Please call with any questions.

Best regards,



John Thorne

Enclosure

cc: Michelle Carey  
Jake Jennings

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