

**STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE
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April 21, 2006

RE: End User Blocking Capabilities

To Whom It May Concern:

Recognizing that the safety and welfare of all New Yorkers is paramount, the Commission's April 11, 2006 Policy Statement and Order¹ indicated that the need to protect basic health and safety interests transcends jurisdictional considerations.

For this reason, the Commission's Policy Statement and Order addressed the issue of end user blocking capability. Regulated carriers are currently subject to such blocking requirements, pursuant to Commission orders and the Policy Statement and Order urged non-jurisdictional carriers to provide end user blocking as part of their standard service offerings and to disclose to consumers whether such blocking capability is available. The Policy Statement and Order also indicated that further exploration of the issue would be undertaken.

One way of protecting the interests of consumers is to require that all local chatline numbers be converted to 900 numbers since the FCC requires local carriers to offer blocking of calls to 900 numbers. We request that all telecommunications providers provide information regarding whether or not they currently offer end user blocking capability, whether they have the ability to offer it in the future, and whether or not its availability is or will be disclosed to end users. In addition, we seek comment on the proposal to require chatline services to be offered on 900 numbers only.

¹ 05-C-0616 Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine Issues Related to the Transition to Intermodal Competition in the Provision Telecommunication Services, Statement of Policy on Further Steps Toward Competition in the Intermodal Telecommunications Market and Order Allowing Rate Filings. (Issued April 11, 2006).

Comments regarding these issues should be submitted to Paula Adams of the Office of Telecommunications no later than Friday, May 26, 2006. Staff will review the comments and determine whether a conference on the matter would be beneficial.

Sincerely,

Robert Mayer, Director
Office of Telecommunications