

2011 12 19

To: Mr. Chris Seidl
Executive Director, Telecommunications
Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N2

Subject: **Withdrawal of Current Technical Internet Traffic Management Practice (ITMP)**

Dear Mr. Seidl,

1 In March 2008, Bell Aliant Regional Communications, Limited Partnership (with regards to their operations in Ontario and Québec) and Bell Canada (collectively, the Companies) introduced a technical ITMP with regards to their wholesale traffic, mirroring an ITMP already applied to their retail traffic, which managed peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing traffic during peak periods.

2 The Companies have consistently maintained that they would continue to monitor the need for ITMPs and evaluate the best means of ensuring a good user experience for the majority of its users. In particular, the Companies have examined the need for their current technical ITMP in light of the Commission's recent approval of capacity-based billing in Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2011-703, *Billing practices for wholesale residential high-speed access services* (TRP 2011-703) and the impending introduction of an economic ITMP with regards to wholesale traffic.

3 With the increasing popularity of streamed video and other traffic, P2P file-sharing, as a proportion of total traffic, has been diminishing. This is not to say that it no longer has an impact on network congestion. Nevertheless, and in light of the extensive investments the Companies have made in additional network capacity, and given economic ITMPs in the marketplace, the Companies will withdraw the shaping of P2P traffic on the Companies' networks, with regards to both retail and wholesale traffic, effective 1 March 2012.

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4 The ITMP Framework set out in Telecom Regulatory Policy CRTC 2009-657, *Review of the Internet traffic management practices of Internet service providers* (TRP 2009-657) does not require advanced notice of changes to an ITMP that result in a less restrictive ITMP. However, since the withdrawal of P2P management may impact wholesale ISP provisioning requirements, the Companies are providing this advanced notice as a courtesy to both the Commission and the Companies' wholesale customers. The Companies will also be issuing a separate letter to their customers to ensure that all wholesale customers are aware of this change.

5 The Companies will continue to monitor traffic levels and take steps to ensure a good user experience for the majority of end-users served by their networks in accordance with the ITMP Framework.

2. Please direct all inquiries or correspondence regarding this application to bell.regulatory@bell.ca.

Yours truly,

[Original signed by D. Henry]

[Original signed by P. Gauvin]

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