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January 8, 2003

Dear Service Provider:

It has been brought to our attention as the Pooling Administrator (PA) that there may be some confusion as to what is required to implement optional pooling. Specifically questions have been raised regarding the implementation of the Location Routing Number technology (commonly referred to as LNP or Local Number Portability), which supports pooling.

Please be aware that optional pooling has the same technical requirements, as does mandatory pooling. This includes the interconnection with other carriers through whom you may route your traffic. Appropriate network routing and interconnection agreements are necessary with your network partners to prevent all traffic from being default routed.

Prior to voluntarily participating in optional pooling, please verify that your switches are LNP capable and that you have the appropriate interconnection agreements in place with network providers that can support LNP.

General information pertaining to Pooling and Service Provider responsibilities can be found in the "Thousands Block Pooling Administration Guidelines" at the ATIS web site:

http://www.atis.org/atis/clc/INC/Incdocs.htm

Section 4.0 "Service Provider Responsibilities" provides excellent information, but SP's should be familiar with the whole document as well as the technical documents relating to LNP (in addition to their own network configuration).

Additional technical documents and information regarding LNP and the LRN technology can be found at

http://www.t1.org

Should you need additional assistance regarding optional pooling, do not hesitate to contact our help desk at: 866-638-7665.

Sincerely,

Barry W. Bishop
Senior Director Number Pooling Services