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Chairman Towns Announces Hearing to Examine Network Transition

WASHINGTON – Chairman Edolphus “Ed” Towns (D-NY) today announced that on Thursday, May 20, 2010, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will examine the Federal government’s transition to “Network” in a hearing entitled, “Running Out of Time: Telecommunications Transition Delays Wasting Millions of Federal Dollars.” Network is a program that will unify essentially all the major telecommunications, network and information services provided to Federal Agencies. The transition to Network, however, is substantially behind schedule costing the government millions of dollars for every month the transition is delayed.

Currently, all of the Federal government’s major telecommunications, network, and information services are provided under the General Services Administration’s Federal Technology Service 2001 contracts (FTS2001). The transition to Network involves phasing out FTS2001 services by June 2011, and with current bridge contracts set to expire this summer, Federal agencies have limited time to act.

The hearing will focus on what is causing the delay in transitioning to Network, what steps the federal government has taken to assist and expedite the transition effort, and what problems private telecommunications companies are encountering with the program’s procurement process, among others.

The hearing will take place at 9:00 a.m. in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building. The Network hearing was previously scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 29, 2010.

The witnesses set to testify include:

Panel I

Mr. Steven J. Kempf
Acting Commissioner, Federal Acquisition Service
General Services Administration

Mr. Sanjeev "Sonny" Bhagowalia
Chief Information Officer
Office of the Secretary
Department of Interior
Chairman, Interagency Management Council

Panel II

Ms. Susan Zeleniak
Group President
Verizon Federal, Inc.

Mr. Don Herring
Senior Vice President
AT&T Government Solutions

Ms. Diana L. Gowen
Senior Vice President and General Manager
Qwest Government Services

Mr. Edward C. Morche
Senior Vice President and General Manager
Level 3 Federal

Mr. Bill White
Vice President, Federal Sales
Sprint Nextel Corporation

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