

FCC 05-116: E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers Para 25

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25. While the rules we adopt today apply to providers of all interconnected VoIP services, we recognize that certain VoIP services pose significant E911 implementation challenges. For example, the mobility enabled by a VoIP service that can be used from any broadband connection creates challenges similar to those presented in the wireless context. These “portable” VoIP service providers often have no reliable way to discern from where their customers are accessing the VoIP service. The Commission’s past experience with setting national rules for 911/E911 service is informative, and we expect that our adoption today of E911 service obligations for providers of interconnected VoIP service will speed the further creation and adoption of such services, similar to the manner in which the Commission’s adoption of E911 service obligations in the wireless context helped foster the widespread availability of E911 services for mobile wireless users, where it formerly was not possible for wireless carriers automatically to determine the precise geographic location of their customers. We recognize and applaud the progress that has already been made to ensure that VoIP customers have E911 services. We stress, however, that should the need arise, we stand ready to expand the scope or substance of the rules we adopt today if necessary to ensure that the public interest is fully protected. Indeed, the *NPRM* that accompanies today’s Order seeks comment on whether further intervention is necessary in this area.