



February 15, 2008

Ms. Suzanne R. Sene  
Office of International Affairs, National Telecommunications  
And Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 4701  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Sene:

Thank you for conducting this midterm review of the Joint Project Agreement between the Department of Commerce and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. As you know, VeriSign plays a critical role in maintaining the stable and secure functioning of the Domain Name System, and we appreciate this opportunity to offer our perspective on the future of DNS management.

For those of us involved in the day-to-day operation of the DNS, ensuring the continued stability and security of the addressing system are preeminent concerns. Over the past ten years the Department has struck -- and routinely recalibrated -- a delicate balance. While ICANN has provided a private sector means of technical coordination for DNS, the Department plays a crucial role in ultimately ensuring sound DNS policy and security. The Department has done so while maintaining a non-intrusive posture toward ICANN and that organization's consensus-driven management structure. We know that achieving such a fine balance has not always been easy, and we applaud the Department for its continued diligence.

We also commend the Department for its efforts in supporting the evolution of ICANN into an internationally recognized body known for its multi-stakeholder, bottom-up management. We support the Department, ICANN and the nongovernmental model for DNS management

Again we are nearing a critical juncture in the evolution of DNS management. At every step in the process thus far, the Department has acted in a manner consistent with maintaining the highest levels of security and stability for DNS. That commitment was embodied in National Telecommunications and Information Administration's 2005 release of the U.S. Principles on the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System, and has consistently guided the Department's actions. We support the principles, and encourage the Department to continue placing security and stability first in all matters relating to the DNS.

We do not address the extent to which ICANN has fulfilled its obligations under the JPA, as we are confident that the Department will make its own sound assessment in that regard. Instead we simply urge that the Department maintain its historic commitment to DNS security and stability. Changes to the management of DNS should be measured first against what impact they may have on stability and security. We are optimistic that the Department will choose a path forward that provides the highest likelihood of maintaining the resiliency and reliability that has made the DNS a cornerstone of the Information Age.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant L. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "C".

Grant L. Clark  
Senior Vice President &  
Chief Administrative Officer