



October 3, 2003

Paul Twomey, President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
4676 Admiralty Way #330
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Re: VeriSign Wildcard Implementation

Dear Paul:

This letter shall serve as a response to your earlier letter of today's date, which formally demands on behalf of ICANN that VeriSign immediately shut down its Site Finder service. VeriSign considers ICANN's action today a groundless interference with VeriSign's business and existing contractual relationships, for which VeriSign will hold ICANN fully accountable. Nevertheless, for the reasons set forth below, VeriSign will comply with ICANN's demand and temporarily suspend the Site Finder service.

Site Finder represents a valuable service to the Internet community that is fully standards-compliant as that term is defined in the applicable specifications and Registry Agreements. As of the launch of Site Finder, 11 other TLD registries already offered such a service. Furthermore, prior to implementing the service, VeriSign completed extensive research and testing to ensure the reliability of the service. Indeed, since its introduction, the service has been well received and used by millions of Internet users who appreciate receiving navigation tools as opposed to the 'dead end' of an error message.

By its demand that VeriSign shut down the Site Finder service, ICANN is improperly attempting to regulate VeriSign's business, including services that are not "Registry Services" within the meaning of the Registry Agreements. Moreover ICANN's actions have been taken without supporting data or other factual basis, and after refusing to permit VeriSign to present its documented test and usage data on Site Finder. ICANN's actions appear largely based on undocumented and unfounded accusations.

As a consequence of the public position ICANN has taken in this matter, including its demand that VeriSign shut down Site Finder, VeriSign feels that it has no alternative but to temporarily suspend the service. We requested that you provide us additional time, up to and including Wednesday, October 8, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. PDT, so as to give more notice to the community. ICANN denied our request. As a result, the service will be suspended as of Saturday, October 4, 2003 by 6:00 p.m. PDT, based on ICANN's demand.



VeriSign considers ICANN's actions a violation of the Registry Agreements as well as an anti-competitive interference with VeriSign's existing contractual and other advantageous business relationships. VeriSign fully intends to hold ICANN accountable for the damages caused by its improper actions.

VeriSign reserves all rights and remedies available to it under the Registry Agreements and applicable law. Nothing herein shall constitute an election of remedies or a waiver of any rights VeriSign may have against ICANN or any parties acting in concert with ICANN.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell Lewis".

Russell Lewis
Executive Vice President
General Manager
VeriSign, Inc.

cc: John Jeffrey
General Counsel
ICANN