



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

26 April 2017

Re: Update on the Review of the New gTLD Community Priority Evaluation Process

Dear All Concerned:

At various times in the implementation of the New gTLD Program, the ICANN Board has considered aspects of the Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) process. Recently, we discussed certain concerns that some applicants have raised with the CPE process, including issues that were identified in the Final Declaration from the Independent Review Process (IRP) proceeding initiated by Dot Registry, LLC. The Board decided it would like to have some additional information related to how ICANN interacts with the CPE provider, and in particular with respect to the CPE provider's CPE reports. On 17 September 2016, we asked that the President and CEO, or his designee(s), undertake a review of the process by which ICANN has interacted with the CPE provider. ([Resolution 2016.09.17.01](#))

Further, during our 18 October 2016 meeting, the Board Governance Committee (BGC) discussed potential next steps regarding the review of pending Reconsideration Requests pursuant to which some applicants are seeking reconsideration of CPE results. Among other things, the BGC noted that certain complainants have requested access to the documents that the CPE panels used to form their decisions and, in particular, the independent research that the panels conducted. The BGC decided to request from the CPE provider the materials and research relied upon by the CPE panels in making determinations with respect to certain pending CPEs. This will help inform the BGC's determinations regarding certain recommendations or pending Reconsideration Requests related to CPE. This material is currently being collected as part of the President and CEO's review and will be forwarded to the BGC in due course.

The review is currently underway. We recognize that ensuring we fulfill all of our obligations means taking more time, but we believe that this is the right approach. The review will complete as soon as practicable and once it is done, the BGC, and Board where appropriate, will promptly consider the relevant pending Reconsideration Requests.

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Meanwhile, the BGC's consideration of the following Reconsideration Requests is on hold: [14-30](#) (.LLC), [14-32](#) (.INC), [14-33](#) (.LLP), [16-3](#) (.GAY), [16-5](#) (.MUSIC), [16-8](#) (.CPA), [16-11](#) (.HOTEL), and [16-12](#) (.MERCK).

For more information about CPE criteria, please see ICANN's [Applicant Guidebook](#), which serves as basis for how all applications in the New gTLD Program have been evaluated. For more information regarding Reconsideration Requests, please see ICANN's [Bylaws](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Chris Disspain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Disspain
Chair, ICANN Board Governance Committee