



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 2, 2005

Jeffrey J. Neuman, Esq.
Director, Law and Policy
NeuStar, Inc.
Loudoun Tech Center
46000 Center Oak Plaza
Building X
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Mr. Neuman:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce (Department), has recently completed its review of "proxy" or anonymous domain registration services offered by .us accredited registrars under both the usTLD Registrar Accreditation Agreement (Accreditation Agreement) and the usTLD Administrator-Registrar Agreement (Registrar Agreement) (collectively, the Agreements). It is our conclusion that the offering of such services by an accredited registrar or by any of its partners or resellers is inconsistent with registrar's obligations under such Agreements to ensure that complete and accurate WHOIS data is provided for any registrations in the .us space.

A searchable, accurate, and current WHOIS database for the .us domain was one of the critical improvements called for when NTIA solicited public input regarding the administration of the .us space. In response to this public call, NTIA included the development of such a centralized registrant database as one of its core policy requirements in the 2001 request for proposals for management of the .us domain. The requirement for a searchable, accurate, and current .us WHOIS database was a critical component of the .us management contract that NeuStar executed with the Department during October 2001. In turn, the Department ensured that the proposed registrar accreditation and registry-registrar agreement that NeuStar submitted for the Department's approval made clear that all registrant data is owned by the U.S. Government, and, as such, must be correct, current, and complete. This requirement provides an assurance of accuracy to the American public and to law enforcement officials who rely on this information. Moreover, it protects the interests of registrants seeking a smooth transition of such data in the event of a registrar's business failure. It is also essential to secure the U.S. Government's right to the data.

Therefore, NTIA directs NeuStar to formally notify each accredited .us registrar that it must cease offering proxy or anonymous domain name services by **February 16, 2005**, and to require that the registrars provide corrected WHOIS information for all existing customers who have taken advantage of this offering by not later than **January 26, 2006**. Additionally, NTIA directs NeuStar to amend section 3.7.7.4 of the Accreditation Agreement to provide a clearer articulation of NTIA's policies with respect to the proxy and anonymous domain name registration services. Amending this provision is in no way intended to convey that "proxy" or

anonymous domain registration services were at any time permissible under the existing Accreditation Agreement, but rather is another mechanism by which we can clarify to new registrars and resellers our intent on this issue

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 482-1880.

Sincerely,



Joseph Watson
Associate Administrator