Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
United States Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

July 6, 2015

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

Thank you for your letter concerning the IANA stewardship transition. As noted in your letter and discussed during ICANN 53, there are three phases remaining before the transition will be complete: (1) the finalization of the transition proposal, (2) the U.S. Government's evaluation of the proposal, and (3) the implementation of the work items identified by the communities as prerequisites for the transition.

Phase 1: Transition proposal finalization

The ICG received and assessed the proposals from the number resources and protocol parameters communities earlier this year. We have just received the domain names proposal from the CWG on June 25. The finalization steps that remain include the ICG's assessment of the names community proposal, the ICG's assessment of the combined proposal containing all three components, solicitation and analysis of public comments, and possibly further work in the operational communities depending on the results of the assessments and public comment analysis. These steps are detailed in the attached timeline. The ICG estimates that all of these steps could be concluded in time for the ICG to deliver the final proposal to NTIA via the ICANN Board in the time frame of ICANN 54 or shortly thereafter in November. The ICANN Board has indicated that it will submit the proposal unmodified to NTIA, with any of its own remarks sent in an accompanying letter

The ICG considers the attached timeline to be optimistic. The timeline may be extended if additional time is required for further action.

Phase 2: U.S. Government evaluation

Our understanding based on your remarks at ICANN 53 is that the U.S. Government's evaluation period is estimated to last four to five months. Assuming the transition proposal is finalized in the ICANN 54 time frame, this would imply that the U.S. Government's evaluation could conclude around March 2016.

Phase 3: Implementation of prerequisites

The ICG inquired with the operational communities and the ICANN Board concerning implementation time frames. Links to their responses are included at the end of this letter.

The IETF community has indicated that it is prepared to transition now. It is possible that as further details concerning Post-Transition IANA (PTI) become available, more IETF community work and agreement may be required.

The CRISP team and the NRO EC indicated that the numbers community will be prepared to transition by September 30, 2015. Some elements described in the numbers community proposal, such as appointees to the Review Committee, may not be finalized by that time, but these are not considered prerequisites for the transition.

The CWG indicated that the work necessary to incorporate the PTI may require three to four months depending on complexity and need for multiple iterations of relevant documentation. The CWG reported that the time needed to implement other aspects of the names community proposal, including relevant ICANN bylaws changes, is uncertain. However, the CCWG co-chairs have indicated their expectation that the bylaws changes resulting from the CCWG's work (and on which the CWG proposal is conditioned) will be submitted to the ICANN Board for adoption by November 2015 and that implementation of Work Stream 1 will be finalized by July 2016.

The ICG has noted that the ICANN Board's views concerning implementation time frames are consistent with the indications from the operational communities. The Board believes the IETF and RIR proposals could be implemented in a matter several of weeks, that the PTI implementation may take several months, and that the time required to implement the CCWG Accountability work items is uncertain.

Taken together, the responses indicate that the longest implementation step that can be estimated at this time relates to the creation of the PTI, which may require three to four months. Many of the preparatory steps for implementation across the three communities can take place in parallel assuming availability of community and ICANN staff resources to complete those steps. Those preparatory steps may occur throughout all three phases before the transition is complete in its entirety. For other steps it is not possible to estimate the time necessary at present. Given these factors, we believe that at a minimum three to four months will be required to complete the transition after the proposal is approved by the U.S. government. This would imply that at the earliest the transition could be completed in the July 2016 time frame.

Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Alissa Cooper
Patrik Fältström
Mohamed El Bashir

Responses to ICG time frame inquiries

IETF:
http://mm.ianacg.org/pipermail/internal-cg_ianacg.org/2015-June/000607.html

CRISP Team and NRO EC:
http://mm.ianacg.org/pipermail/internal-cg_ianacg.org/2015-June/000688.html
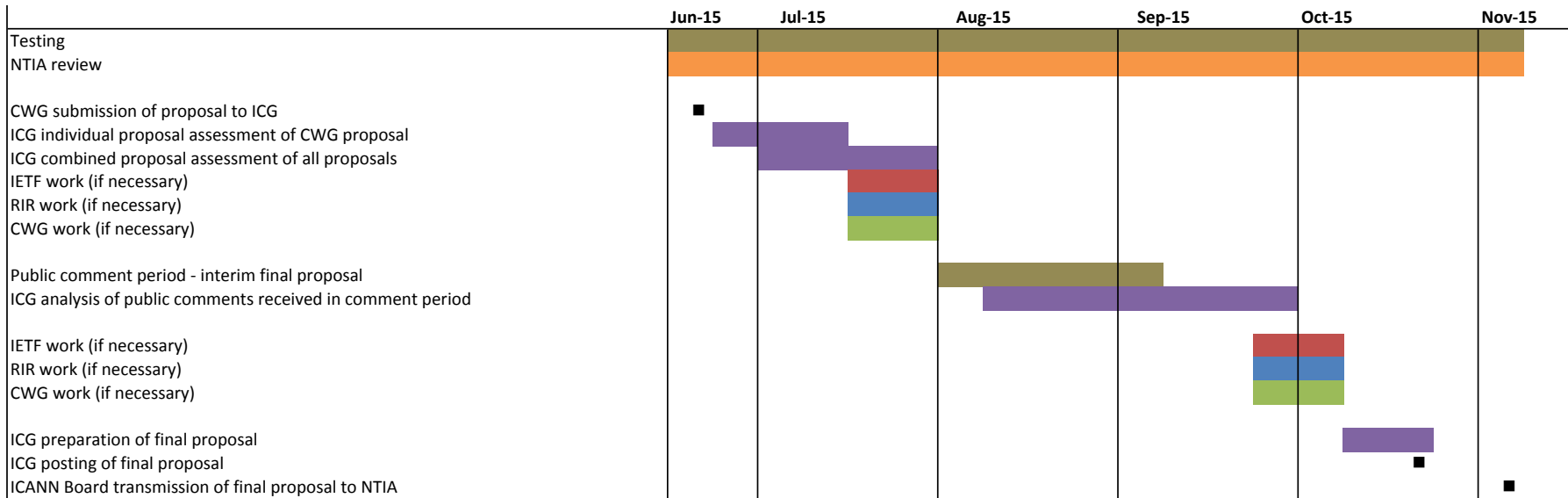
CWG-Stewardship:
http://mm.ianacg.org/pipermail/internal-cg_ianacg.org/2015-June/000636.html

ICANN Board:
http://mm.ianacg.org/pipermail/internal-cg_ianacg.org/2015-June/000665.html

Timeline - Updated June 2015

	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15
Testing						
NTIA review						
CWG submission of proposal to ICG	■					
ICG individual proposal assessment of CWG proposal						
ICG combined proposal assessment of all proposals						
IETF work (if necessary)						
RIR work (if necessary)						
CWG work (if necessary)						
Public comment period - interim final proposal						
ICG analysis of public comments received in comment period						
IETF work (if necessary)						
RIR work (if necessary)						
CWG work (if necessary)						
ICG preparation of final proposal						
ICG posting of final proposal					■	
ICANN Board transmission of final proposal to NTIA						■

Legend

ICG	
IETF	
RIRs	
CWG	
NTIA	
All interested parties	