potential deployment in Section III. Overall, I describe the evidence of competitive facilities that I considered, and demonstrate that such evidence demonstrates "non-impairment" for the dedicated transport routes I identify.

B. Background

Q6. What is dedicated transport?

A6. Dedicated transport facilities connect two points within a communications network, so that information can be transmitted between those two points. "Dedicated" transport means all or part of the facility is dedicated to a particular carrier or use and that there is no switching interposed along the transport route.

Q7. How are transport facilities classified?

A7. Transport facilities are classified by the capacity of traffic they can carry. The basic building block of interoffice transport is the "DS-1" transmission level, which is equivalent to 24 voice-grade circuits (a voice-grade circuit is equivalent to a "DS-0" level circuit). A group of 28 DS-1 circuits (or "channels") forms a DS-3 level channel. DS-3 channels are typically the highest level of electrical signal processing deployed in SBC Illinois' network. To achieve higher capacity and greater efficiencies over longer distances, dedicated transport is generally provided over transmission facilities that use fiber optic cables. Fiber optic transmission systems use components, such as multiplexers and lasers, that are capable of transmitting digital signals as pulses of lightwave energy at very high transmission speeds. These components are sometimes