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Response to liaison communications from T1X1.5 dated October 8, 1999, requesting feedback in reference to T1X1.5/99-267 and T1X1.5/99-268r1.

T1X1.5/99-267 discussed several significant concerns with the use of HDLC framing for encapsulation of Ethernet frames for mapping into SONET/SDH tributary paths as proposed in T1X1.5/99-204. We consider these concerns to be valid. The primary objection is the modification of the 802.3 Ethernet MAC frame to encapsulate within HDLC.

T1X1.5/99-268r1 introduces a generic mapping format for carrying IEEE 802.3 Ethernet MAC frames over SONET in either point-to-point or ring topologies. We believe that this contribution satisfies the following criteria for 802.3 Ethernet standards:

     1. A common direct mapping of all 802.3 Ethernet MAC frames without modification,

     2. Maintains the error detection performance of the 802.3 Ethernet FCS,

     3. Provides deterministic throughput rates,

     4. A robust delineation for 802.3 Ethernet data frames,

     5. Provides for inter-operation between 802.3 Ethernet MAC frames in SONET payloads and any standardized IEEE 802.3 Ethernet physical layer transport.

We encourage T1X1.5 to continue to develop this contribution (T1X1.5/99-268r1) as a full standard within the Digital Optical Hierarchy standards project. Please keep us informed of continuing developments of this standard.