

INCITS/L2/11-198

ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2 N4059

Date: May 13, 2011

Title: **Comments on Revised Proposal to encode characters for the English Phonotypic Alphabet (WG2 N3981)**

Source: U.S. National Body (INCITS/L2)

Action: **For consideration**

This document is in response to “Revised Proposal to encode characters for the English Phonotypic Alphabet (WG2 N3981).”

The proposal notes (p. 1) that “[EPA] is one attempt to give the English language a phonetic spelling.” EPA represents a series of early experiments in the development of a phonetic alphabet -- ones that never took hold. While the proposal includes examples from publications dating from 1847 to 1888, no modern examples are shown that demonstrate current need for encoding EPA.

In answer to question C.2. on the Proposal Summary Form, “Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?” the proposal responds “No.”

Because no user community has been identified, no user need has been provided, nor has any need been demonstrated for EPA in plain text, the US National Body feels these historic letterforms should not be encoded as characters in the UCS. In order to reproduce the non-standard letterforms for EPA in written discussion, images can be used.