

30 July 2026

Via Email

Patrick S Kane
Senior Vice President
Naming Services, VeriSign, Inc.

RE: Removal of the NameWatch Registrations Service for the .NAME Generic Top-Level Domain (“gTLD”) (RSEP ID: #01601215)

In accordance with the Registry Services Evaluation Policy (“[RSEP](#)”), VeriSign, Inc. (“Verisign”) submitted an [RSEP request](#) on 1 May 2026 seeking to discontinue the namewatch registrations service for the .NAME gTLD (“Request”). Verisign indicates in their Request that upon discontinuation of the namewatch registrations service, no new namewatch registrations will be registered, current namewatch registrations will be terminated, and users will no longer be able to receive notifications for a namewatch registration. Verisign also indicated that the discontinuation of the service will be internally tested by Verisign prior to discontinuation

Additionally, Verisign’s Request describes that discontinuation of the namewatch registrations service for the .NAME TLD will increase efficiency for the operation of the .NAME TLD. In the Request, and during the discussions with ICANN noted in the Request, Verisign explains they seek to discontinue the namewatch registrations service due to limited use and adoption by registrars. Verisign also noted in the Request that Verisign consulted with the registrars that manage the majority of the user base for namewatch registrations service regarding the discontinuation of this service, and that those registrars did not identify any security, stability or competition issues.

After evaluating the Request and relevant information, ICANN has determined that the Request does not raise significant security, stability or competition issues as defined in the RSEP. ICANN [approved](#) the Request on 21 May 2026. In light of the fact that Verisign and ICANN are in the process of discussing the upcoming renewal of the .NAME Registry Agreement, ICANN is issuing Verisign this letter in lieu of a contract amendment to the expiring Registry Agreement. This letter, which will also be posted on ICANN’s RSEP Process webpage, provides public notice of the discontinuation of the service, provides information regarding the Request and ICANN’s review of the Request, and allows Verisign to move forward with the removal of the namewatch registrations service, with such removal to later be reflected in the finalized renewal of the .NAME Registry Agreement.

Verisign is free to discontinue the namewatch registrations service as proposed in the Request. As set forth in the Request, Verisign will provide the following registrar notifications¹ regarding the discontinuation of this service:

1. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide all registrars that support namewatch registrations with a minimum of 90 days prior notice of discontinuation of the service.
2. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide an additional reminder notice to all registrars that support namewatch registrations at least 30 days prior to discontinuation of the service.
3. Registry Operator (Verisign) will provide all registrars that support namewatch registrations service with customer service support throughout the process.

Sincerely,



Amanda Fessenden
Vice President, GDD Accounts and Services
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

¹ With regard to communications with registrants, registrars manage the registrar-registrant relationship(s).