



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12th St., SW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

News media information 202/418-0500
Fax-On-Demand 202/418-2830
TTY 202/418-2555
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov> <ftp.fcc.gov>

COMMISSION EXTENDS PLEADING CYCLE IN RULEMAKING PROCEEDING ON POSSIBLE REFORM OF THE COMMISSION'S INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS POLICY IN VIEW OF RECENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

IB Docket Nos. 02-324, 96-261

DA 02-3314

Released: December 2, 2002

New Comment Due Date: January 14, 2003

New Reply Comment Due Date: February 6, 2003

By the Chief, Policy Division, International Bureau:

On October 11, 2002, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking comment from the public regarding possible reform of its International Settlements Policy, International Simple Resale and benchmarks policies, and the issue of foreign mobile termination rates.

The Commission has become aware of the recent actions taken by several foreign administrations to impose rate floors on international termination rates, including U.S.-international accounting rates. Actions of this nature raise concerns insofar as they have the potential to cause increases in consumer calling rates by raising commercially-negotiated termination rates between U.S. and foreign carriers. The NPRM in this proceeding specifically asked for comment on potential anticompetitive harms to U.S. carriers and consumers from foreign carriers with market power.

In light of these recent developments and the questions raised in the NPRM regarding possible reform of the Commission's ISP and accounting rate policies, we extend the pleading cycle established in the NPRM, FCC 02-285, IB Docket Nos. 02-324 & 96-261, by 35 days in order to allow interested parties an opportunity to include in their initial comments any response to these recent developments and their effect on the policies under consideration in the proposed rulemaking. We find that the public interest will be served by this brief extension of both the comment and reply dates to allow for a more complete record in this proceeding.

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 1.1 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1, the

new comment due date is January 14, 2003 and the new reply comment due date is February 6, 2003. Instructions for filing pleadings in this proceeding are set forth in the NPRM, available on the Commission's website at www.fcc.gov.

For further information, contact: James Ball, Chief, or Lisa Choi, Senior Legal Advisor, Policy Division, at (202) 418-1460.

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