



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 04-1758
June 22, 2004

MB Docket No. 04-228

**COMMENT AND REPLY COMMENT DATES SET FOR
COMMENTS ON WAYS TO FURTHER SECTION 257 MANDATE
AND TO BUILD ON EARLIER STUDIES**

Comment Date: July 22, 2004

Reply Comment Date: August 6, 2004

On June 15, 2004, the Media Bureau (Bureau) released a Public Notice, DA 04-1690, inviting comment on constitutionally permissible ways to further the mandates of Section 257 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 257, which directs the FCC to identify and eliminate market entry barriers for small telecommunications businesses, and Section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. § 309(j), which requires the FCC to further opportunities in the allocation of spectrum-based services for small businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities. The Public Notice encouraged commenters to discuss possible next steps to further these statutory objectives in a constitutionally permissible manner in light of two recent Supreme Court decisions cited in that Public Notice. The Public Notice also asked commenters to discuss and proffer specific recommendations for building on a series of market entry barrier studies, cited in the Public Notice, which were released by the Commission in December 2000. The Bureau urged commenters to identify any recent analyses relevant to the conclusions of the studies. The Public Notice set deadlines for filing comments and reply comments at 30 and 45 days after publication of the Public Notice in the Federal Register.

On June 22, 2004, a summary of the Public Notice was published in the Federal Register (69 FR 34672). Accordingly, comments must be filed on or before July 22, 2004, and reply comments must be filed on or before August 6, 2004. Comments and reply comments may be filed through the Commission's Electronic Filing System or by filing paper copies (an original and four copies) as set forth in the June 15 Public Notice.

The studies are available on the FCC's web site at http://www.fcc.gov/opportunity/meb_study/, except for the Advertising Study, which is available on the FCC's web site at

http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Mass_Media/Informal/ad-study/. The studies are also available on the Commission's Electronic Filing System (ECFS) under MB Docket No. 04-228.

The June 15 Public Notice may be obtained from the Commission's Internet site at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Digest/2004/dd040615.html . For further information, contact Anne Levine at (202) 418-7027 or via email at Anne.Levine@fcc.gov.

By the Chief, Media Bureau

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