

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
High-Cost Universal Service Support	)	WC Docket No. 05-337
	)	
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service	)	CC Docket No. 96-45
	)	

**ORDER**

**Adopted: May 15, 2008**

**Released: May 15, 2008**

**Revised Filing Date:  
Reply Comments Due: June 2, 2008**

By the Acting Associate Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. On January 29, 2008, the Commission released three Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (collectively, *Notices*), seeking comment regarding the high-cost universal service support program.<sup>1</sup> On March 4, 2008, summaries of the *Notices* appeared in the Federal Register, setting a comment cycle of April 3, 2008 for comments and May 5, 2008 for reply comments.<sup>2</sup> The Wireline Competition Bureau later extended the pleading cycle, setting a comment cycle of May 5, 2008, for comments and May 19, 2008, for reply comments.<sup>3</sup> On May 1, 2008, six associations jointly filed a motion for a three week extension of the reply comment deadline.<sup>4</sup> The associations state that grant of an extension will allow

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<sup>1</sup> *High-Cost Universal Service Support, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 1467 (2008) (*Identical Support Rule NPRM*); *High-Cost Universal Service Support, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 1495 (2008) (*Reverse Auctions NPRM*); *High-Cost Universal Service Support, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 1531 (2008) (*Joint Board Comprehensive Reform NPRM*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Identical Support Rule NPRM*, 73 Fed. Reg. 11580 (Mar. 4, 2008); *Reverse Auctions NPRM*, 73 Fed. Reg. 11591 (Mar. 4, 2008); *Joint Board Comprehensive Reform NPRM*, 73 Fed. Reg. 11587 (Mar. 4, 2008). In a public notice announcing the establishment of comment cycles, it was noted that parties may file consolidated comments and reply comments in response to all three *Notices*. *Comment Cycles Established for Commission's Notices of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding the Identical Support Rule, the Use of Reverse Auctions to Set High-Cost Universal Service Support, and the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's Recommendations for Comprehensive Reform of High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, DA 08-499 (Wireline Comp. Bur., rel. Mar. 4, 2008).

<sup>3</sup> *High-Cost Universal Service Support, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, DA 08-674 (Wireline Comp. Bur., rel. Mar. 24, 2008).

<sup>4</sup> Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance (ITTA), National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO), United States Telecom Association (USTelecom) and Western Alliance (WTA) Motion for Extension of Time, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed May 1, 2008) (Motion).

parties to develop well-considered and thorough responses to the substantial record amassed in this proceeding, and will not cause prejudice to any party.<sup>5</sup>

2. We note that it is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.<sup>6</sup> The associations indicate that an extension will provide commenters with sufficient time to fully review, assess, and respond comprehensively to the *Notices*.<sup>7</sup> We agree with the associations, and find that an extension of the reply comment deadline in this proceeding is appropriate under these circumstances. We find, however, that two additional weeks is sufficient time for commenters to complete their reply comments. The deadline for filing reply comments in response to the *Notices* is extended from May 19, 2008 to June 2, 2008.

3. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 155(c), and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, the pleading cycle established in this matter shall be modified as follows:

Reply Comments Due: June 2, 2008

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Jeremy D. Marcus  
Acting Associate Chief  
Wireline Competition Bureau

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 1. The National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) and the national Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners filed in support of the Motion. *See* Letter from David C. Bergmann, Assistant Consumers' Counsel, Chair, NASUCA Telecommunications Committee, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, CC Docket 96-45, WC Docket No. 05-337 (filed May 6, 2008); Letter from James Bradford Ramsey, General Counsel, and Grace Soderberg, Assistant General Counsel, NARUC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 05-337 (filed May 13, 2008).

<sup>6</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

<sup>7</sup> Motion at 2 (noting that over 90 parties filed comments in response to the *Notices*).