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


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. 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. 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. On May 1, 2008, six associations jointly filed a motion for a three week extension of the reply comment deadline. The associations state that grant of an extension will allow

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4 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.\(^5\)

2. We note that it is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.\(^6\) The associations indicate that an extension will provide commenters with sufficient time to fully review, assess, and respond comprehensively to the Notices.\(^7\) 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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\(^5\) 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, NASAUC 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).

\(^6\) 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

\(^7\) Motion at 2 (noting that over 90 parties filed comments in response to the Notices).