

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

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| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service |) | CC Docket No. 96-45 |
| |) | |
| Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. |) | |
| Petition for Limited Designation as an Eligible |) | |
| Telecommunications Carrier in the |) | |
| Commonwealth of Massachusetts |) | |

ORDER

Adopted: August 7, 2008

Released: August 7, 2008

Revised Filing Dates:

Comments Due: August 21, 2008

Reply Comments Due: September 5, 2008

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. On July 1, 2008, the Wireline Competition Bureau released a public notice seeking comment on Virgin Mobile USA, L.P.'s (Virgin Mobile) petition seeking limited designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.¹ On July 31, 2008, the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable (MDTC) filed a request to extend by 21 days the comment and reply comment deadlines.²

2. We note that it is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.³ The MDTC asserts, however, that the extension is necessary in this case because Virgin Mobile did not provide the MDTC with a copy of the Petition, and the MDTC only recently became aware of the Petition.⁴ The MDTC further asserts that any decision on the Petition will directly affect telecommunications customers in Massachusetts, and, as the exclusive state regulator of telecommunications services, the MDTC has a statutory obligation to safeguard the public interest in Massachusetts.⁵ The MDTC argues that it, therefore, has a strong interest in the outcome of the proceeding, but requires a short period of additional time in which to prepare and file its comments.⁶

¹ *Comment Sought on a Petition Filed By Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Massachusetts*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, DA 08-1570 (Wireline Comp. Bur., rel. July 1, 2008) (*Public Notice*); Virgin Mobile USA, L.P. Petition for Limited Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed June 3, 2008) (*Petition*).

² Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable's Motion for Extension of Time, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed July 31, 2008) (MDTC Motion).

³ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

⁴ MDTC Motion at 1-2.

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

⁶ *Id.*

Finally, the MDTC alleges that grant of its requested extension will not unduly prejudice Virgin Mobile, because its request for forbearance remains pending with the Commission, and the Petition cannot be granted absent Commission action on the forbearance request.⁷

3. We find that good cause exists to provide an extension of time. We find that an extension of the comment and reply comment deadlines in this proceeding is appropriate under the circumstances. The deadline for filing comments and reply comments in response to the *Public Notice* is extended from July 31, 2008 and August 15, 2008 to August 21, 2008 and September 5, 2008, respectively.

4. 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:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Marcus Maher
Associate Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau

⁷ *Id.*