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DA 08-2108 Released: September 17, 2008

COMMENT SOUGHT ON AT&T REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF A DECISION OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY CONCERNING AUDIT FINDINGS RELATING TO THE LOW-INCOME PROGRAM

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 03-109

Comment Date: October 17, 2008 Reply Comment Date: November 3, 2008

On August 18, 2008, AT&T Inc. (AT&T) filed a request for review of certain Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) audit findings.¹ AT&T seeks review of USAC's findings that AT&T: (1) was required to maintain copies of Lifeline subscriber self-certifications prior to the effective date of the Commission's applicable rule;² (2) failed to comply with the Commission's rule requiring eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to secure Lifeline-compliance certifications from their resellers;³ (3) was required to advertise toll blocking and all other services supported by federal universal service support mechanisms;⁴ and (4) was required to populate Line 9 of FCC Form 497 (the Lifeline and Link-Up Worksheet) with pro-rata dollars attributable to Lifeline subscribers that entered or exited the Lifeline program mid-month.⁵

Interested parties may file **comments on or before October 17, 2008**, and **reply comments on or before November 3, 2008**. All comments filed must reference **WC Docket No. 03-109**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.⁶

¹ Request for Review by AT&T Inc. of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator, WC Docket No. 03-109 (filed Aug. 18, 2008) (AT&T Petition).

² See AT&T Petition at 8-10; see also 47 C.F.R. § 54.417.

³ See AT&T Petition at 11-13; see also 47 C.F.R. § 54.417(a).

⁴ See AT&T Petition at 13-14; see also 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.401(a), 54.405(b).

⁵ See AT&T Petition at 15-18. FCC Form 497 is used by ETCs to request reimbursement for participating in the federal low-income universal service programs. See Instructions for Lifeline and Link Up Worksheet, OMB 3060-0819 (July 2008) (FCC Form 497) at <u>http://www.usac.org/_res/documents/li/pdf/Form-497-instructions-FY2008.pdf</u> (retrieved Aug. 22, 2008).

⁶ See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, GC Docket No. 97-113, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <u>http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/</u>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the website for submitting comments.
- For ECFS filers, if multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, filers must transmit one electronic copy of the comments for each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions, filers should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in response.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by firstclass or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

The Commission's contractor will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of <u>before</u> entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20554.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to <u>fcc504@fcc.gov</u> or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

In addition, one copy of each pleading must be sent to each of the following:

- The Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, <u>www.bcpiweb.com</u>; phone: 202-488-5300 fax: 202-488-5563; and
- (2) Antoinette Stevens, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5B-521, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: antoinette.stevens@fcc.gov; and

Filings and comments are also available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating

contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CYB402, Washington, D.C. 20554, telephone: 202-488-5300, fax: 202-488-5563, or via e-mail <u>www.bcpiweb.com</u>.

This matter shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁷ Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the substance of the presentation and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented generally is required.⁸ Other rules pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations in permit-but-disclose proceedings are set forth in section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.⁹

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Valinoti McCarthy, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at 202-418-7400 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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⁷ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq*.

⁸ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2).

⁹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).