



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 08-2221

Release Date: October 6, 2008

COMMENT SOUGHT ON A PETITION BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR AGREEMENT IN REDFINING THE SERVICE AREA OF CERTAIN TELEPHONE COMPANIES

CC Docket No. 96-45

Comment Date: November 5, 2008

Reply Comment: November 20, 2008

The Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment on a petition filed by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (South Dakota Commission), pursuant to section 54.207 of the Commission's rules, requesting the Commission's agreement with the decision of the South Dakota Commission to redefine the service area of certain rural incumbent local exchange carriers.¹

Section 54.207 of the Commission's rules, which implements section 214(e)(5) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), provides that a rural telephone company's service area will be its study area "unless and until the Commission and the states, after taking into account recommendations of a Federal-State Joint Board instituted under section 410(c) of the Act, establish a different definition of service area for such company."²

This is the Public Notice required by section 54.207(c)(2) of the Commission's rules.³ If the Commission initiates a proceeding to consider the Petition, it must do so within 90 days of the release date of this Public Notice, pursuant to our rules.⁴ If the Commission does not act on the Petition by **January 4, 2009**, the definition proposed by the South Dakota Commission will be deemed approved by the Commission and shall take effect in accordance with state procedures.⁵

¹ See Petition for FCC Agreement in Redefining the Service Areas of Rural Telephone Companies in the State of South Dakota Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.207(c), CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed Sept. 25, 2008) (Petition).

² 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(b); 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(5).

³ 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(2).

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(3).

⁵ See 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(3)(ii). The Commission delegated its authority to act on petitions to redefine rural service areas to the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau. 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(e).

Interested parties may file comments on or before **November 5, 2008**, and reply comments on or before **November 20, 2008**. All pleadings are to reference **CC Docket No. 96-45**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), or by filing paper copies.⁶

- **Electronic Filers:** Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. 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 first-class 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 before 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 fcc504@fcc.gov 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:

- (1) The Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, www.bcpweb.com; phone: (202) 488-5300 fax: (202) 488-5563;
- (2) Jennifer Prime, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-B550, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: Jennifer.Prime@fcc.gov; and

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

(3) David Duarte, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5B-441, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: David.Duarte@fcc.gov.

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 www.bcpweb.com.

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 Jennifer Prime, 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).