

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Feature Group IP Petition for Forbearance)	
From Section 251(g) of the Communications)	WC Docket No. 07-256
Act and Sections 51.701(b)(1) and 69.5(b) of)	
the Commission's Rules)	
)	

ORDER

Adopted: January 14, 2008

Released: January 14, 2008

Revised Comment Date: February 19, 2008

Revised Reply Comment Date: March 14, 2008

By the Associate Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. On October 23, 2007, Feature Group IP West LLC, Feature Group IP Southwest LLC, UTEX Communications Corp., Feature Group IP North LLC, and Feature Group IP Southeast LLC (Feature Group IP) filed a petition asking the Commission to forbear from applying access charges to voice-embedded Internet communications pursuant to section 251(g) of the Communications Act (Act).¹ On December 18, 2007, the Commission released a Public Notice establishing the pleading cycle for the Feature Group IP forbearance petition.² Pursuant to the Public Notice, comments were due January 17, 2008 and reply comments were due February 6, 2008.³

2. On January 11, 2008, United States Telecom Association (USTelecom) filed a Motion for Extension of Time to file comments and reply comments to the Feature Group IP forbearance petition.⁴ In its motion, USTelecom requests that the comment deadline be extended from January 17, 2008 to

¹ Feature Group IP Petition for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Enforcement of 47 U.S.C. § 251(g), Rule 51.701(b)(1), and Rule 69.5(b), WC Docket No. 07-256 (filed Oct. 23, 2007) (Feature Group IP Forbearance Petition).

² *Pleading Cycle Established for Feature Group IP Petition for Forbearance from Section 251(g) of the Communications Act and Sections 51.701(b)(1) and 69.5(b) of the Commission's Rules*, WC Docket No. 07-256, DA 07-5029 (Dec. 18, 2007).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Feature Group IP Petition for Forbearance from Section 251(g) of the Communications Act and Sections 51.701(b)(1) and 69.5(b) of the Commission's Rules; Motion for Extension of Time, WC Docket No. 07-256 (filed Jan. 11, 2008) (USTelecom Motion for Extension).

February 19, 2008 and the reply comment deadline be extended from February 6, 2008 to March 14, 2008.⁵ USTelecom notes that the Feature Group IP forbearance petition and the recently-filed forbearance petition of the Embarq Local Operating Companies⁶ raise “many of the same legal and policy issues.”⁷

3. We find that providing additional time to file comments and reply comments to the Feature Group IP forbearance petition will facilitate the development of a more accurate and complete record. We note that it is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.⁸ Given the complexity of the issues that are raised, we find that good cause exists to provide all parties an extension of time from January 17, 2008 to February 19, 2008 to file comments in this proceeding and an extension of time from February 6, 2008 to March 14, 2008 to file reply comments in this proceeding.⁹

4. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act, 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, comments in this matter shall be filed on or before February 19, 2008 and reply comments shall be filed on or before March 14, 2008.

5. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the motion of United States Telecom Association IS GRANTED, to the extent set forth herein, and is otherwise DENIED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Marcus Maher
Associate Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau

⁵ *Id.* USTelecom incorrectly or inadvertently identified the original reply comment due date as February 19, 2008 instead of February 6, 2008. *Id.* at 1.

⁶ Petition of the Embarq Local Operating Companies for Limited Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Enforcement of Rule 69.5(a), 47 U.S.C. § 251(b), and Commission Orders on the ESP Exemption, WC Docket No. 08-8 (filed Jan. 11, 2008).

⁷ USTelecom Motion for Extension at 1-2.

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

⁹ We decline USTelecom’s request to combine our consideration of the Feature Group IP petition with the Embarq petition in a single docket. USTelecom Motion for Extension at 2. We do note, however, that comments and reply comments on both petitions will be due on the same dates. *See Pleading Cycle Established for Petition of the Embarq Local Operating Companies for Forbearance from Enforcement of Section 69.5(a) of the Commission’s Rules, Section 251(b) of the Communications Act and Commission Orders on the ESP Exemption*, WC Docket 08-8, DA 08-94 (rel. Jan. 14, 2008).