



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION OF THE JUNE 30, 2010 DEADLINE FOR FUNDING COMMITMENTS UNDER THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE RURAL HEALTH CARE PILOT PROGRAM

WC Docket No. 02-60

On November 2, 2009, the Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice seeking comment on a filing by the North Carolina TeleHealth Network (NCTN) requesting an extension of the June 30, 2010 deadline for funding commitment requests under the universal service Rural Health Care Pilot Program (Pilot Program).¹ Per the public notice, comments on the request were due November 2, 2009, and reply comments were due December 2, 2009.

Extension requests similar to the one filed by NCTN have been filed by the Oregon Health Network (OHN), the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Arkansas Telehealth Network (ATN), the New England Telehealth Consortium (NETC), Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC), Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), and Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM).²

NCTN's filing will be treated as a request for a one year extension for *all* participants in the Pilot Program. The extension requests filed by OHN, ANTHC, ATN, NETC, R-AHEC, MPHI and HIEM will be treated as *ex parte* comments in the open proceeding initiated by the NCTN filing.³ Any similar filings will also be treated as *ex parte* comments on the pending extension request proceeding.

¹ See *Comment Sought on North Carolina Telehealth Network Request for Extension of the June 30, 2010 Deadline for Funding Commitment Requests Under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program*, WC Docket No. 02-60, Public Notice, DA 09-2362 (Wireline Comp. Bur., Nov. 2, 2009) (*Pilot Program Extension Public Notice*); Letter from Dr. William Pilkington, Director Cabarrus Health Alliance (Program Coordinator for NCTN), to Thomas Buckley, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Oct. 2, 2009).

² Letter from Kim Lamb, Executive Director, Oregon Health Network, to Thomas Buckley, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Oct. 23, 2009); Letter from Rebecca Madison, Project Coordinator, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, to Sharon Gillett, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Nov. 3, 2009); Letter from Suzanne Leslie, Project Coordinator, Arkansas Telehealth Network, to Sharon Gillett and Thomas Buckley, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Nov. 16, 2009); Letter from Brian Thibeau, President, New England Telehealth Consortium, to Sharon Gillett, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Nov. 16, 2009); Letter from Kenneth Oakley, Project Coordinator, Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center, to Sharon Gillett, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Nov. 17, 2009); Letter from Jeffrey Taylor, Executive Director, Michigan Public Health Institute, to Sharon Gillett, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Nov. 20, 2009); Letter from Kipman Smith, Executive Director, Health Information Exchange of Montana, to Thomas Buckley, Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-60 (dated Dec. 4, 2009).

³ See *Pilot Program Extension Public Notice*; 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

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

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