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DA 11-581

Released: March 30, 2011

FCC ANNOUNCES SECOND WORKSHOP ON INTERCARRIER COMPENSATION/UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND REFORM

FCC Commissioners Seek Public Input Aimed at Helping Shape Reforms

CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 01-92, WC Docket Nos. 03-109, 05-337, 07-135, 10-90 and GN Docket No. 09-51

On February 8, 2011, the Commission unanimously adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on proposals to fundamentally modernize the Commission's intercarrier compensation (ICC) and the Universal Service Fund (USF). In a joint blog post on March 15, 2011, Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker announced plans for a series of workshops to identify solutions for reform and to promote an open dialogue. Today, the Commission announces that the second workshop is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in the Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305), 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

The April 27th workshop will focus on practical and operational issues concerning the implementation of a Phase I of the Connect America Fund (CAF), including the capabilities and costs of various broadband technologies, how to balance competing priorities for use of limited funds in Phase I of the CAF, and the Commission's proposed use of a reverse auction for Phase I of the CAF. Panelists participating in the workshop are expected to come prepared to discuss responses to reform proposals and are welcome to bring new ideas to the table. Additional details concerning the workshop agenda and panelists will be forthcoming.

The workshop will be free and open to the public, and will also be streamed live at http://www.fcc.gov/live. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. The request should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed and contact information. We ask that requests for accommodations be made as soon as possible in order to allow

¹ See Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135, High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337, Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92), Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45), Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 11-13 (rel. Feb. 9, 2011) (USF/ICC Transformation NPRM). The Chairman expressed his plan to move expeditiously, and recognized that "there will be ample opportunity for input from all, including through public workshops on key issues." See id at Attach. Separate Statement of Chairman Julius Genachowski.

² http://reboot.fcc.gov/blog?entryId=1335527.

the agency to satisfy such requests whenever possible. Send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

For further information, contact Patrick Halley in the Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7550, or via e-mail at Patrick.Halley@fcc.gov.