**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

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> DA 12-1853 November 27, 2012

## FURTHER INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATED TO MOBILITY FUND PHASE II

WC Docket No. 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208

Comment Date: December 21, 2012 Reply Comment Date: January 7, 2013

# I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau (the Bureaus) seek further comment on a limited number of specific issues relating to the implementation of Phase II of the Mobility Fund. As established in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order and FNPRM*, under Mobility Fund Phase II the Commission will award \$500 million annually to ensure the availability of mobile broadband and high quality voice services in areas where such services would not otherwise be available.<sup>1</sup>

2. Building on the comments filed in response to the *FNPRM* and our experience to date in implementing a reverse auction to award one-time Phase I support, the Bureaus seek to develop a more comprehensive, robust record on certain of the issues related to the award of ongoing support for advanced mobile services. In this regard, we note that a number of commenters support having an opportunity to evaluate and learn from Mobility Fund Phase I before the program details of Phase II are finalized.<sup>2</sup> In considering the issues discussed below, we request that commenters keep in mind that Phase II support is not one-time support, but is ongoing Phase II support aimed at expanding and sustaining mobile services.

### II. BACKGROUND

3. In the *USF/ICC Transformation Order and FNPRM*, the Commission comprehensively reformed and modernized the universal service high-cost program.<sup>3</sup> Among other things, for the first

<sup>3</sup> See Order, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, supra, n. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Connect America Fund et al., WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order and FNPRM* or *Order* or *FNPRM*), pets. for review pending sub nom. In re: FCC 11-161, No. 11-9900 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. filed Dec. 8, 2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See AT&T Comments at 33; Blooston Rural Carriers Comments at 3; C Spire Wireless Comments at 4; Cellular South, Inc. d/b/a C Spire Wireless et al. Reply Comments at 14; CTIA – The Wireless Association Comments at 4; General Communication, Inc. Reply Comments at 4; Rural Telecommunications Group, Inc. Comments at 17; T-Mobile USA, Inc. Comments at 2-3; and United States Cellular Corporation Comments at 6.

time, the Commission explicitly recognized the important benefits of and demand for mobile services through the creation of a two-phase Mobility Fund within the high-cost program.

4. For Phase I, the Commission allocated \$300 million in one-time support to expand the availability of advanced mobile services, plus an additional \$50 million dedicated to Tribal lands.<sup>4</sup> For Phase II of the Mobility Fund, the Commission dedicated \$500 million annually (including up to \$100 million dedicated to Tribal lands) and proposed to make awards through a reverse auction to support providers of voice and mobile broadband service in areas where such services cannot be sustained or extended without ongoing support. The Commission further proposed to award support on the same terms and conditions as it adopted for Phase I, but sought comment on whether any modifications were needed to reflect the ongoing nature of support in Phase II.

5. Under the Commission's proposal, a Mobility Fund Phase II reverse auction would assign support to maximize coverage of unserved road miles (or other units) within the budget. To implement an auction, the Commission proposed a basic framework of auction rules that would give the Bureaus flexibility under delegated authority to establish specific procedures for a Mobility Fund Phase II auction.<sup>5</sup>

# III. OVERALL DESIGN

# A. Identifying Areas Eligible for Support

6. In the *FNPRM*, the Commission sought comment on various issues associated with identifying the geographic areas that would be eligible for Phase II support.<sup>6</sup> In light of experience with Mobility Fund Phase I and Auction 901, we seek further comment on certain of these issues.

7. *Identifying Areas Eligible for Support*. To target Phase II support to only those areas where it is needed, the Commission proposed to use Mosaik Solutions (Mosaik)<sup>7</sup> data to exclude all census blocks where an unsubsidized carrier is providing 3G or better service.<sup>8</sup> For purposes of determining areas with unsubsidized service, the Commission proposed in the *FNPRM* that areas receiving one-time Mobility Fund Phase I support would still be eligible to receive Mobility Fund Phase II support.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Mobility Fund Phase I single round reverse auction (Auction 901) took place on September 27, 2012, and results were released on October 3, 2012. The 33 winning bidders are eligible to receive a total of \$299,998,632 in one-time support for deploying 3G or better mobile service covering up to 82,494.23 road miles in 795 biddable geographic areas located in 31 states and one territory. *See* "Mobility Fund Phase I Auction Closes; Winning Bidders Announced for Auction 901; FCC Form 680 Due November 1, 2012," *Public Notice*, 27 FCC Red 12031, 12032, para. 1 (2012).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18077, paras. 1154-56.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 18070-71, paras. 1123-24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> When the Commission adopted the *FNPRM*, Mosaik Solutions was called American Roamer. However, in February 2012, the company changed its name. *See* http://<u>www.mosaik.com</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18070-71, paras. 1123-24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Id. at 18070, note 2247. See Rural Telecommunications Group, Inc. Comments at 6.

8. Some commenters express concern about the accuracy of the Mosaik database.<sup>10</sup> We now seek further comment based on our use of Mosaik data as a factor in determining eligible areas for Phase I support. To the extent that parties assert that Mosaik data inaccurately reflects the availability of service, we seek comment on whether there are any other data sources that the Commission could use to better identify eligible areas. We request that commenters provide specific information on what makes these alternate sources superior and how they could be used instead of, or in combination with, the Mosaik database.<sup>11</sup> We also seek comment on whether there are other factors the Commission should consider in addition to the availability of unsubsidized service. For instance, how should providers' planned expansion of unsubsidized service affect our identification of areas eligible for support?<sup>12</sup>

9. Use of the Centroid Method. In the FNPRM, the Commission proposed to determine the eligibility of a particular census block for Phase II support based on the absence of unsubsidized 3G or better service at the centroid.<sup>13</sup> Some commenters expressed concern that the centroid method is an ineffective measure to determine whether large areas are unserved.<sup>14</sup> We ask commenters for feedback on the centroid method in light of their experience in Phase I. Should the Commission consider alternatives, such as the proportional method?<sup>15</sup> For instance, should it consider unserved any census block if the data indicates more than 50 percent of the area is unserved?

#### **B.** Prioritizing Areas Eligible for Support

10. In the *FNPRM*, the Commission sought comment on whether to target Phase II support to particular areas, such as those that lack *any* mobile service or ones that lack current generation (3G) service.<sup>16</sup> Some commenters suggest prioritizing support to rural carriers or carriers with 2G or less

<sup>13</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18070-71, para. 1124. The term "centroid" refers to the internal point latitude/longitude of a census block polygon. *See Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17786, n.576.

<sup>14</sup> See Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. Comments at 16; Rural Telecommunications Group. Inc. Comments at 12-13; United States Cellular Corporation Comments at 25 and United States Cellular Corporation Reply Comments at 35.

<sup>15</sup> See, e.g., Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17787, para. 344 (discussing centroid versus proportional method for determining unserved areas in Phase I).

<sup>16</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18073, para. 1132.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See Blooston Rural Carriers Comments at 18. Universal Service for America Coalition proposed an indefinite challenge process (as opposed to the limited timeframe allowed in Phase I) would correct inaccuracies in the data. Universal Service for America Coalition Comments at 20-21; *see also* Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. Comments at 17-18 (interested parties should be given an opportunity to suggest additions to the list of eligible areas).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18076-77, paras. 1153-54; *see also Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17785, para. 337; "Mobility Fund Phase I Auction Scheduled for September 27, 2012; Comment Sought on Competitive Bidding Procedures for Auction 901 and Certain Program Requirements," *Public Notice*, 27 FCC Rcd 530, 536, para. 19 (2012); "Mobility Fund Phase I Auction Scheduled for September 27, 2012; Notice and Filing Requirements and Other Procedures for Auction 901," *Public Notice*, 27 FCC Rcd 4725, 4734-35, para. 20 (2012).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> For example, in Mobility Fund Phase I, the Commission excluded areas from auction where a provider has made a regulatory commitment to provide 3G or better wireless service, or has received a funding commitment from a federal executive department or agency in response to the carrier's commitment to provide 3G or better service. *Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17781, para. 324. In addition, the Commission required applicants for Mobility Fund Phase I support to certify that they were not seeking support for any areas in which they had made a public commitment to deploy 3G or better wireless service by December 31, 2012. *Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17082-83, para. 410; 47 C.F.R. § 54.1005(a)(5).

capacity;<sup>17</sup> another opposed prioritization of funding to areas with no service at all.<sup>18</sup> Others suggested that the Commission should take into account additional factors, such as poverty level or whether an area is served by the National Highway System, instead of – or in addition to – coverage level.<sup>19</sup> Despite this discussion in the record, we received little input on implementation and specific measures for prioritizing eligible areas.

11. The Bureaus seek additional comment on whether and how the Commission might implement priorities for support among eligible areas. We ask commenters to address whether the Commission should prioritize ongoing support to areas that lack coverage, a designated level of coverage, or whether there are other measurable factors that should be taken into account. We observe that in the *FNPRM* the Commission suggested that targeted areas could be prioritized by making a bidding credit available.<sup>20</sup> We seek additional specific comment on how the Commission might set an appropriate level(s) of bidding credit(s) to prioritize areas based on the existing level of coverage in a particular area. Similarly, we seek comment on whether and how the Commission might assure that support goes to areas that would lose service absent the receipt of ongoing support. In this regard, commenters are invited to discuss how, if at all, the availability of Remote Areas Fund support for the highest cost areas should affect the areas targeted for Mobility Fund Phase II.

## C. Establishing Bidding and Coverage Units

12. In the *FNPRM*, under its auction proposal, the Commission proposed to establish bidding units in each eligible census block for purposes of comparing bids and assessing performance, and to base the number of bidding units on the number of road miles in each eligible area.<sup>21</sup> Road miles directly reflect the Mobility Fund's goals of supporting mobile services, and indirectly reflect many other important factors – such as business locations, recreation areas and work sites – since roads are used to access those areas.<sup>22</sup> Several commenters recommend that the Commission consider other alternatives, including population, terrain, workplaces, annual revenues, and straight-line miles or traditional river miles, instead of – or in combination with – road miles.<sup>23</sup> Some commenters also suggest that we revisit the issue of bidding and coverage units after the Phase I auction before deciding on whether to use road miles as the sole bidding unit.<sup>24</sup>

13. Given the results of the Mobility Fund Phase I auction, we seek further comment on the use of road miles to determine bidding units and corresponding coverage requirements.<sup>25</sup> We also invite

<sup>19</sup> See Alaska Rural Coalition Reply Comments at 19; General Communication, Inc. Comments at 17; National Tribal Telecommunications Association Comments at 38.

<sup>20</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18073, para. 1133.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.* at 18073, para. 1134.

<sup>22</sup> Id.

<sup>23</sup> See Blooston Rural Carriers Comments at 15-16; Universal Service for America Coalition Comments at 17; see *also* Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. Comments at 19-20.

<sup>24</sup> See, e.g., CTIA – The Wireless Association Comments at 7.

<sup>25</sup> We note that the Commission concluded that for Phase I of the Tribal Mobility Fund, it would base bidding units on population rather than road miles. *Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17822, para. 488.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See Blooston Rural Carriers Comments at 10; Alaska Rural Coalition Comments at 23; Rural

Telecommunications Group, Inc. Comments at 13; *see also* Universal Service for America Coalition Comments at 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See United States Cellular Corporation Comments at 27-28.

additional comment on how specifically the Commission might measure or factor various suggested alternatives, such as terrain or topography, into our determination of bidding units and ask for input on the benefits or drawbacks of any particular approach.<sup>26</sup>

# D. Public Interest Obligations

In the *FNPRM*, the Commission proposed that recipients of Mobility Fund Phase II 14. support would be required to provide mobile voice and data services that meet or exceed a minimum bandwidth or data rate of 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream, consistent with the capabilities offered by representative 4G technologies.<sup>27</sup> The Commission proposed that these data rates should be achievable in both fixed and mobile conditions throughout the cell area, including at the cell edge, at a high probability, and with substantial sector loading.<sup>28</sup> The Commission further noted that the proposed measurement conditions may enable users to receive much better service when accessing the network from a fixed location or close to a base station.<sup>29</sup> The Commission sought comment on whether, and in what ways, these metrics should be modified during the proposed 10-year term of support<sup>30</sup> to reflect anticipated advances in technology.<sup>31</sup> The Commission also proposed that the performance characteristics expected of Mobility Fund Phase II recipients be required "to evolve over time, to keep pace with mobile broadband service in urban areas."<sup>32</sup> Commenters generally recommend periodic review and modification of these requirements through a rulemaking proceeding.<sup>33</sup> We now seek to further develop the record on how often, and through what process, the Commission should modify the performance metrics applicable to Phase II support recipients. Commenters should address the threshold question of whether an evolving standard is appropriate given the proposed term of support and anticipated advances in technology. For example, should the Commission require that broadband networks built with support be capable of meeting increasing consumer demand for capacity and over a specified time period? If so, should the Commission mandate any specific network attributes?

# E. Term of Support

15. In the *FNPRM*, the Commission proposed a fixed term of support of 10 years and sought comment on a shorter term.<sup>34</sup> In seeking comment on an optimal term for ongoing support, the Commission noted that it sought to balance the need to provide certainty to carriers to attract private investment and deploy services, while taking into account changing circumstances.<sup>35</sup> Commenters generally agreed that a 10-year term was appropriate, noting that the term reflects the "economic realities

<sup>29</sup> Id.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.* at 18074, para. 1138.

<sup>31</sup> *Id.* at 18075, para. 1144.

<sup>32</sup> Id.

<sup>35</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> See Blooston Rural Carriers Comments at 16 (suggesting that "a Phase II applicant should receive 'triple credit' for each mile of tertiary roads that it proposes to serve in a rural area, as compared to an interstate highway.").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18074-75, paras. 1141-43.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> *Id.* at 18075, para. 1142.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> See Information Technology Industry Council Comments at 4; United States Cellular Corporation Comments at 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18074, para. 1138.

of network building,<sup>336</sup> and need for financial assurance to upgrade or extend networks.<sup>37</sup> We seek additional comment on establishing an appropriate term of support, in light of the timeframes for deployment and private investment and the pace of new technology and marketplace developments. Further, we request comment on the tradeoffs between using a 10-year term versus one or more shorter terms and which approach would provide the best structure for dealing with dynamic changes in the industry.

### IV. PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY

16. In the *FNPRM*, the Commission proposed to require that parties seeking Mobility Fund Phase II support satisfy the same eligibility requirements that were adopted with respect to Phase I.<sup>38</sup> Commenters generally support the Commission's proposal, though some advocate size-based and other restrictions.<sup>39</sup> We seek further comment on certain of these issues.

17. Interplay with other universal service mechanisms. We seek comment on the interrelationship between eligibility for Mobility Fund Phase II support and other universal service support mechanisms. The Commission noted that a party may be eligible to participate in both Connect America Phase II and Mobility Fund Phase II, but noted that carriers would not be allowed to "receive redundant support for the same service in the same areas."<sup>40</sup> We seek additional comment on how to implement this principle so as to provide advance information to potential participants in a Mobility Fund Phase II auction. In particular, we ask commenters to provide input on how the deployment of mobile service under Mobility Fund Phase II could be supplemented or modified for purposes of meeting the public interest obligations of Connect America Phase II. We also seek comment on any interrelationship between eligibility for Mobility Fund Phase II support and the Remote Areas Fund that is to provide support in the highest cost areas.

18. *Small business participation*. In the *FNPRM*, the Commission sought comment on whether small businesses should be eligible for a bidding preference in a Mobility Fund Phase II auction.<sup>41</sup> Commenters were asked to address the effectiveness of a preference to help smaller carriers compete at auction and whether the Commission should adopt a preference even if the bidding credit would result in less coverage than would occur without the bidding credit.<sup>42</sup> The Commission also sought comment on how to define small businesses and what size bidding credit may be appropriate.<sup>43</sup> Several commenters supported the use of bidding credits to increase the competitiveness of small and rural

<sup>40</sup> Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17674-75, para. 28.

<sup>41</sup> The Commission noted that in a spectrum auction context, the Commission typically awards small business bidding credits ranging from 15 to 35 percent, depending on varying small business size standards. *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18077-78, paras. 1157-60.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at 18077-78, para. 1157.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Windstream Communications, Inc. Comments at 18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> See Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. Comments at 20; see also United States Cellular Corporation Comments at 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18074, para. 1140.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> See, e.g., Universal Service for America Coalition Comments at 21-23; Blooston Rural Carriers Comments at 3-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> The Commission sought comment on whether a small business should be defined as an entity with average gross revenues not exceeding \$40 million for the preceding three years, or whether it should use a larger size definition, such as average gross revenues not exceeding \$125 million for the preceding three years. *Id.* at 18078, paras. 1159-60.

carriers.<sup>44</sup> We now seek to develop the record in light of commenters' experience in Phase I, where bidding preferences were not available, except for Tribally-owned or controlled providers.<sup>45</sup> Would the entities that were successful bidders in Auction 901 qualify as small businesses under the definitions the Commission asked about? To what extent do commenters continue to believe that a bidding credit is important to smaller carriers' ability to effectively compete at auction for support and how does that weigh against other Commission objectives?

# V. ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

19. In the *FNPRM*, the Commission proposed to generally apply to Mobility Fund Phase II the same rules for accountability and oversight that will apply to all recipients of CAF support.<sup>46</sup> Among other things, the CAF accountability and oversight proposals are intended to create a process for the reasonable and prudent disbursement of universal service support. In Phase I, the Commission authorized disbursement of funds in three equal installments, linked to completion of certain milestones.<sup>47</sup> The Bureaus seek comment on how to structure ongoing support payments over the term of support in a way that achieves the Commission's goals of providing sufficient and predictable support throughout the term of the Mobility Fund Phase II, while ensuring compliance with the Anti-Deficiency Act.<sup>48</sup> Should support be tied to completion of certain milestones, disbursed on a regular recurring basis, or some combination of both?

# VI. TRIBAL PRIORITY UNITS

20. In the *FNPRM*, the Commission proposed and sought comment on a number of provisions targeted at the specific connectivity challenges on Tribal lands. Among other things, the Commission sought comment on a possible mechanism that would allocate a specified number of "priority units" to Tribal governments to afford Tribes an opportunity to identify their own priorities. As discussed in the *FNPRM*, priority units for each Tribe could be based upon a percentage, in the range of 20 to 30 percent, of the total population in unserved blocks located within Tribal boundaries. Tribal governments would have the flexibility to allocate these units in whatever manner they choose. Tribal governments could elect to allocate all of their priority units among multiple geographic units according to their relative priority.<sup>49</sup> The Commission requested comment on whether this approach should apply to both the general and Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II, and how such priority units should be awarded in Alaska and Hawaii given the unique conditions in those states.<sup>50</sup> The Commission also sought comment on how this mechanism, if adopted, would interact with the proposed 25 percent Tribal bidding credit.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>51</sup> *See id.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> See Alaska Rural Coalition Comments at 24; Blooston Rural Carriers Comments at 10-12; Rural Telecommunications Group, Inc. Comments at 13-16; USA Coalition Comments at 24-25; Blooston Rural Carriers Reply Comments at 6-8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Order, 26 FCC Rcd 17807, para. 430.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> *FNPRM*, 26 FCC Rcd at 18082, para. 1173.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17815-16, paras. 464-69.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> See FNPRM, 26 FCC Rcd at 18092, para. 1221 (noting that the Anti-Deficiency Act prohibits any officer or employee of the U.S. Government from involving the "government in a contract or obligation for the payment of money before an appropriation is made unless authorized by law").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> *Id.* at 18081, paras. 1170-71.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> *Id.* at 18081, para. 1171.

21. Few parties offered comments addressing the priority units mechanism for Tribal governments, and those that did generally focused on issues unique to Alaska.<sup>52</sup> In light of the relatively light record the Commission received on this issue and the results of Mobility Fund Phase I, we seek additional comment on the Tribal priority units proposal. In particular, we seek further comment on whether this approach should apply to Tribal governments participating in both the general and Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II, and, if so, how such priority units should be awarded in Alaska and Hawaii. Would the 25 percent Tribal bidding credit and the Tribal engagement obligation proposed in the *FNPRM* be sufficient to ensure that Tribal priorities are met with respect to ongoing support under Phase II?<sup>53</sup>

## VII. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

22. The *USF/ICC Transformation Order and FNPRM* included an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 603, exploring the potential impact on small entities of the Commission's proposal.<sup>54</sup> We invite parties to file comments on the IRFA in light of this additional notice.

23. Interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. When filing comments, please reference WC Docket No. 10-90 and WT Docket No. 10-208.

24. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.<sup>55</sup> Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <u>http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/</u>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of the proceeding, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking numbers. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to <u>ecfs@fcc.gov</u>, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. 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, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

25. 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). Parties are strongly encouraged to file comments electronically using the Commission's ECFS. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20554.

 All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> See Tanana Chiefs Conference Comments at 7; General Communication, Inc. Comments at 19-20; Alaska Rural Coalition Comments at 26-27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> See FNPRM, 26 FCC Rcd at 18080-81, paras. 1166, 1171.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> USF/ICC Transformation Order and FNPRM, 26 FCC Rcd at 18364-95, App. P; see 76 Fed. Reg. 78384, 78430-42 (2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, GC Docket No. 97-113, *Report and Order*, 13 FCC Rcd 11,322 (1998).

fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of <u>before</u> entering the building. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- 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 must be addressed to 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington DC 20554.

26. Parties shall also serve one copy with the Commission's copy contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 488-5300, or via e-mail to <u>fcc@bcpiweb.com</u>.

27. Documents in WC Docket No. 10-90 and WT Docket No. 10-208 will be available for public inspection and copying during business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.W., Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The documents may also be purchased from BCPI, (202) 488-5300, (202) 488-5563 (fax), (202) 488-5562 (tty), e-mail fcc@bcpiweb.com.

28. 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).

29. This matter shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the *ex parte* rules.<sup>56</sup> Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the substance of the presentations 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.<sup>57</sup> Other requirements pertaining to oral and written presentations are set forth in section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.<sup>58</sup>

30. For further information, contact Sue McNeil, Auctions and Spectrum Access Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202) 418-0660.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200 *et seq*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).