



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON ALASKA RURAL COALITION AND FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. PETITIONS FOR LIMITED WAIVER OF CALL SIGNALING RULES

CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45; GN Docket No. 09-51; WC Docket Nos. 03-109, 05-337, 07-135, 10-90;
WT Docket No. 10-208

COMMENTS: May 4, 2012

REPLY COMMENTS: May 21, 2012

On March 23, 2012, the Alaska Rural Coalition filed a petition on behalf of its member companies seeking a limited waiver of the call signaling rules adopted by the Commission in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*.¹ Specifically, the Alaska Rural Coalition requests a limited waiver for its member companies because “Alaska’s network infrastructure makes compliance with the Commission’s call signaling rules very difficult and prohibitively expensive.”² The Alaska Rural Coalition maintains that its member companies rely on traditional MF signaling and that “[t]he technical limitations of MF signaling are incompatible with the Commission’s new signaling rules and could create potentially substantial privacy issues.”³

On March 28, 2012, FairPoint Communications, Inc. (FairPoint) also filed a petition seeking a limited waiver of the call signaling rules adopted by the Commission in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*.⁴ FairPoint explains that because many of its subsidiaries are located “[i]n rural areas, with a wide

¹ See The Alaska Rural Coalition’s Petition for Limited Waiver, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45; GN Docket No. 09-51; WC Docket Nos. 03-109, 05-337, 07-135, 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208, at 1 (filed Mar. 23, 2012) (Alaska Rural Coalition Petition). The Alaska Rural Coalition member companies are Alaska Telephone Company, Alaska Power & Telephone, Inc., Alaska Power & Telephone Long Distance, Inc., Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc., Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative Long Distance LLC, Bettles Telephone, Inc., Bristol Bay Cellular Partnership, Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Bush-Tell, Inc., Circle Telephone & Electric, LLC, Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Copper Valley Wireless, Inc., Copper Valley Long Distance, Inc., City of Ketchikan, Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc., OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Interior Telephone Company, Mukluk Telephone Company, Inc., MTA Communications, LLC d/b/a MTA Wireless, MTA Communications, LLC d/b/a MTA Long Distance, North Country Telephone Inc., Nushagak Electric and Telephone Company, Inc., OTZ Telecommunications, Inc., The Summit Telephone and Telegraph Company, Inc., TelAlaska Long Distance, Inc., and Yukon Telephone Company, Inc.

² See Alaska Rural Coalition Petition at 3.

³ *Id.* at 5.

⁴ See FairPoint Communications, Inc.’s Petition for Limited Waiver, CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45; GN Docket No. 09-51; WC Docket Nos. 03-109, 05-337, 07-135, 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208, at 1 (filed Mar. 28, 2012) (FairPoint Petition).

variety of legacy switches and signaling equipment. . .there are circumstances pertaining to certain platforms or certain types of traffic in which it will not be possible for FairPoint to fully comply with the new rules.”⁵ Thus, FairPoint contends that the new rules are “not technically feasible” in certain circumstances.⁶

Interested parties may file **comments on or before May 4, 2012**, and **reply comments on or before May 21, 2012**. All pleadings are to reference **CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45; GN Docket No. 09-51; WC Docket Nos. 03-109, 05-337, 07-135, 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208**. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).⁷ Two courtesy copies must be delivered to Belinda Nixon, Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Pricing Policy Division, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 5-A221, Washington, DC 20554, or via e-mail at belinda.nixon@fcc.gov.

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy 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. All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes 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 must be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington DC 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).

This Public Notice establishes certain procedural requirements relating to consideration of the Alaska Rural Coalition and FairPoint Petitions. This matter shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.⁸ Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

⁶ *Id.* at 4-5.

⁷ See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

⁸ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200, 1.1206.

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.⁹ 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.¹⁰

For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Belinda Nixon, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-1520, or via e-mail at belinda.nixon@fcc.gov.

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⁹ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

¹⁰ See *id.*