



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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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU EXTENDS PERIOD TO FILE REPLY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES TO ESTABLISH A CITIZENS BROADBAND RADIO SERVICE IN THE 3550-3650 MHz BAND

WT Docket No. 12-354

Reply Comment Date: August 15, 2014

By this *Public Notice*, we extend the deadline for filing reply comments in response to the *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM)* in the above-captioned proceeding to allow parties to more thoroughly address the complex technical, legal, and policy issues raised in the *FNPRM* and in the record.¹ Interested parties will now have until August 15, 2014 to file reply comments.²

On July 23, 2014, the Satellite Industry Association (SIA) filed a motion to extend the reply comment deadline in the above-captioned proceeding from August 1 until August 15, 2014.³ SIA asserts that additional time is needed to respond to significant technical issues raised in the extensive record.⁴ In addition, SIA notes that, during the scheduled reply comment period, many of the technical personnel responsible for analyzing issues raised in the *FNPRM* on behalf of SIA member companies will be unavailable. These personnel will be attending meetings of the ITU Joint Task Working Groups preparing for WRC-15.⁵

¹ Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 3550-3650 MHz Band, GN Docket No. 12-354, *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 29 FCC Rcd 4273(2014).

² The *FNPRM* sets forth a comment deadline of 40 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register and a reply comment deadline of 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. *Id.* The *FNPRM* was published in the Federal Register on June 2, 2014. Comments were due on or before July 14, 2014 and reply comments were originally due on or before August 1, 2014. See 79 FR 31247, available at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-11732>.

³ Satellite Industry Association Motion for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments, GN Docket No. 12-354 (filed July 23, 2014) (SIA Motion).

⁴ *Id.* at 1.

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

On July 24, 2014, the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition, Utilities Telecom Council, and Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (Petitioners) filed a joint request (Joint Extension Request) to extend the reply comment deadline until August 15, 2014.⁶ Petitioners assert that extenuating circumstances warrant an extension and that the requested extension would be consistent with the public interest.⁷ Specifically, the Joint Extension Request asserts that additional time is needed to accurately assess and prepare responses to the relatively large volume of comments filed in response to the *FNPRM*, many of which addressed complicated technical issues.⁸ The Petitioners also note that the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System was largely inaccessible during the two days following the July 14, 2014 comment deadline and that the Federal Register publication date of the *FNPRM* removed an additional two days from the contemplated reply comment window.⁹ In addition, the Petitioners note that many of the parties that have filed comments in this proceeding have also been participating in the Open Internet proceeding¹⁰ and other Commission rulemakings with overlapping deadlines.¹¹ The Petitioners contend that the requested extension would not prejudice other parties or delay consideration of the record and that the Commission's work would be assisted by more robust participation in the reply comment phase.¹²

It is the general policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.¹³ However, under these circumstances, we agree that an extension of time to file reply comments is warranted to ensure that the Commission obtains a complete and thorough record in response to the *FNPRM*. The *FNPRM* sought comment on a wide variety of novel technical, policy and legal issues related to the establishment of the proposed Citizens Broadband Radio Service. We conclude that a short extension of time is warranted to enable interested parties sufficient opportunity to review and respond to the complex issues raised by the *FNPRM*. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹⁴ and Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules,¹⁵ we extend the deadline for filing reply comments until August 15, 2014.

For further information, please contact Paul Powell of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Mobility Division, at (202) 418-1613 or paul.powell@fcc.gov.

Action by the Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

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⁶ Public Interest Spectrum Coalition, Utilities Telecom Council, and Wireless Internet Service Providers Association Joint Request for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments, GN Docket No. 12-354 (filed July 24, 2014) (Joint Extension Request).

⁷ *Id.* at 1.

⁸ *Id.* at 1-2.

⁹ *Id.* at 1-2.

¹⁰ See GN Docket No. 14-28.

¹¹ Joint Extension Request at 2-3.

¹² *Id.* at 3.

¹³ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

¹⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 154(i).

¹⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46.