

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)	WC Docket No. 11-42
)	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support)	WC Docket No. 09-197
)	
Connect America Fund)	WC Docket No. 10-90
)	

ORDER

Adopted: August 5, 2015

Released: August 5, 2015

Extended Comment Filing Deadline: August 31, 2015

Extended Reply Comment Filing Deadline: September 30, 2015

By the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. On June 18, 2015, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Second FNPRM) in which the Commission sought comment and reply comment on proposals to modernize the Lifeline program.¹ The Second FNPRM set the deadline for filing comments at 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register and reply comments at 60 days after its publication in the Federal Register.² On July 17, 2015, the Second FNPRM was published in the Federal Register and the Wireline Competition Bureau released a Public Notice that announced the deadline for filing comments as August 17, 2015, and the deadline for filing reply comments as September 15, 2015.³

2. On July 31, the California Public Utilities Commission (California PUC) filed a motion to extend the established comment and reply comment deadlines by 30 days.⁴ The California PUC argues a 30-day extension is in the public interest because it will need more time to fully evaluate and respond to several sections in the Second FNPRM that reference California's state Lifeline program and discuss the potential interplay between federal and state support programs.⁵

3. Also on July 31, the United States Telecom Association, CTIA – The Wireless Association, and ITTA – The Voice of Mid-Size Communications Companies (ITTA) filed a joint request

¹ See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42, et al., Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order, and Memorandum Opinion and Order, FCC 15-71 (rel. June 22, 2015) (*Lifeline Reform and Modernization Second FNPRM*).

² *Id.*

³ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund*, 80 Fed. Reg. 42670 (July 17, 2015); *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42, et al., Public Notice, DA 15-828 (July 17, 2015).

⁴ Motion of the California Public Utilities Commission for Extension of Time to Respond to Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90 (filed July 31, 2015).

⁵ See *id.* at 2-5.

to extend the established comment and reply comment deadlines by 30 days.⁶ The joint petitioners argue that a 30-day extension is in the public interest as it allows them to develop meaningful, substantive responses in this “unusually complex” proceeding.⁷ As a result, the joint petitioners state that a more robust record will be developed if a 30-day extension is granted.⁸

4. On August 3, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) also filed a motion to extend the comment and reply comment deadlines by 30 days.⁹ NASUCA argues that an extension would serve the public interest because the Second FNPRM includes “questions covering nearly every conceivable aspect of designing a Lifeline program for broadband,” and it is “critical that the Commission receives comments that are thoroughly considered, taking the full complexity of the issues into account.”¹⁰

5. The Commission does not routinely grant extensions of time.¹¹ However, given the breadth and complexity of the Second FNPRM, we find that granting a 14-day extension to the comment filing deadline and a 15-day extension to the reply comment filing deadline will facilitate more thorough and deliberate consideration of the issues raised in this proceeding.¹² Though we recognize that the petitioners requested 30-day extensions of both the comment and reply comment deadlines, we are committed to resolving the issues raised in the Second FNPRM in a timely manner. We therefore conclude that the limited extensions we grant today will allow for more thoughtful consideration of the issues raised in the Second FNPRM, while at the same time not unduly delaying the resolution of these issues.

6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 4(i) and 4(j) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i) and 154(j), and Sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, and 1.415 of the Commission’s Rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, and 1.415, the motion of the California Public Utilities Commission, the joint request of United States Telecom Association, CTIA – The Wireless Association, and ITTA – The Voice of Mid-Size Communications Companies, and the motion of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates ARE GRANTED to the extent indicated herein and the deadlines to file comments in this proceeding are extended to August 31, 2015, and reply comments to September 30, 2015.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Matthew S. DelNero
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau

⁶ Joint Request for Extension of the United States Telecom Association, CTIA – The Wireless Association, and ITTA, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, and 10-90 (filed July 31, 2015).

⁷ *Id.* at 2-3.

⁸ *Id.* at 3-4.

⁹ Motion of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates for Extension of Time, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, and 10-90 (filed Aug. 3, 2015).

¹⁰ *Id.* at 2.

¹¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

¹² The deadline for filing reply comments will be extended by 15 days to preserve the 30-day time span between comment and reply comment deadlines, as established in the Second FNPRM. *See Lifeline Reform and Modernization Second FNPRM* at 1.