



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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By the Office of Managing Director

## **Regulatory Fee Filing Window for Those Regulatees Affected by Hurricane Maria is Extended to Friday, September 29, 2017**

On September 15, 2017, the Commission released a Public Notice extending the filing window to regulatees affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.<sup>1</sup> In that Public Notice, the Commission observed that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma caused significant damage in the areas within their respective paths, including storm surge, wind damage, and flooding and also caused substantial damage to the communications network, resulting in service disruptions and outages throughout these areas. The Commission extended the regulatory fee payment deadline date for those affected regulatory fee payors in Florida, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and portions of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia. This extension of time now also applies to regulatees affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Filing FY 2017 Regulatory Fees<sup>2</sup> is thereby extended from 11:59 PM, September 26, 2017 to 11:59 PM September 29, 2017 for regulatees affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For all other regulatory fee payors, *i.e.*, those not affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria, the previously announced window remains in effect.<sup>3</sup>

The Communications Act and the Commission's rules govern the late payment or non-payment of regulatory fees.<sup>4</sup> Thus, to the extent regulatory fee payors affected by Hurricane Maria

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<sup>1</sup> "Regulatory Fee Filing Window for Those Regulatees Affected by Hurricanes Harvey or Irma is Extended to Friday, September 29, 2017," Public Notice, DA 17-901 (rel. Sept. 15, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> The Fiscal Year 2017 Regulatory Fee Report and Order was released by the Commission on September 5, 2017. See <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fy-2017-regulatory-fees-report-order-and-further-notice>. The Commission also publishes industry-specific guidance in Who Owes Fees & What Is My FY 2017 Fee, which can be found on the Commission website at <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/regulatory-fees>.

<sup>3</sup> "Payment Methods and Procedures for Fiscal Year 2017 Regulatory Fees," Public Notice, released September 6, 2017, available at [http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2017/db0906/DOC-346547A1.pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0906/DOC-346547A1.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 159(c), 31 U.S.C. § 3717; 47 CFR §§ 1.1164, 1.1910.

anticipate that they might experience challenges with meeting the payment date, as extended, or have questions, they may contact Thomas Buckley, Assistant Managing Director 202-391-5520; Thomas.Buckley@fcc.gov) as a resource and point of contact with respect to Hurricane-related regulatory fee concerns. Affected entities, however, are not required to use that point of contact when seeking information regarding avenues for relief. Instead, they may follow the process outlined in our rules and orders when seeking relief with respect to regulatory fee payments.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, regulatees can contact the Commission's Financial Operations Help Desk with inquiries at (877) 480-3201, Option 4 or email inquiries to ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov.

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<sup>5</sup> See Regulatory Fees Fact Sheet, Procedures for Filing Waivers, Reductions and Deferments of Regulatory Fees, released September 6, 2017 (describing the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 159(c), (d), DCIA, and 47 CFR § 1.1166).