

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

In the Matter of)
)
Grande Communications Networks, LLC) CSR-8916-Z
Petition for Special Relief for Temple System)
Serving Communities)
)
)

ORDER

Adopted: April 23, 2018

Released: April 23, 2018

By the Deputy Chief, Media Bureau, Policy Division:

1. In this Order, we dismiss the Petition for Special Relief in the above-captioned proceeding filed on December 30, 2015 by Grande Communications Networks, LLC (Grande).¹ The Petition sought relief from the analog proof-of-performance testing requirements contained in Sections 76.601 and 76.605(a)(1)-(11) of the Commission’s rules² with respect to Grande’s all-digital Temple System. Subsequently, the Commission adopted digital proof-of-performance rules that apply to the Temple System. Therefore, we dismiss Grande’s petition as moot.³

2. The Commission’s signal quality rules for cable channels provide detailed minimum performance standards for signals, including, among others, signal strength, signal to noise ratio, and separation standards of the video, color, and sound carrier.⁴ These standards are generally referred to as proof-of-performance and are intended to ensure that cable subscribers receive a good quality signal. Cable operators are required to test their analog signals at least twice yearly and make available the results for inspection by the local franchising authority and the Commission.⁵ When Grande filed the Petition, the Commission did not have proof-of-performance rules for digital cable signals.⁶ On September 25, 2017, the Commission released the *Digital Cable Standards Order*, which established appropriate standards for digital systems.⁷ We find that because the *Digital Cable Standards Order*

¹ Grande Petition for Special Relief (filed Dec. 30, 2015) (Petition).

² 47 CFR §§ 76.601, 76.605(a)(1)-(11).

³ Petition at 4-5.

⁴ 47 CFR § 76.605

⁵ *Id.* § 76.1704 (2016).

⁶ The Commission specifically anticipated that compliance with the proof-of-performance standards may not be possible for all future developments in cable plant technology and provided for relief in Section 76.605(b) of the Commission’s rules. *Id.* § 76.605(b) (2016).

⁷ *Cable Television Technical and Operational Standard; RCN Corporation Petition for Special Relief; City of Burlington, VT, D/B/A Burlington Telecom Petition for Relief from Proof of Performance Testing Obligations;* (continued....)

adopted a new performance benchmark for digital cable systems, Grande's request for exemption from the analog proof-of-performance rules is now moot.

3. Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED**, pursuant to Section 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR § 0.283, that the Petition for Special Relief filed by Grande Communications Networks, LLC, **IS DISMISSED** as moot.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Brendan P. Murray
Deputy Chief, Policy Division, Media Bureau

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Massillon Cable TV, Inc. and Clear Picture, Inc. Petition for Special Relief; Bend Cable Communication, LLC Petition for Special Relief; RCN Corporation Petition for Special Relief; Jackson Energy Authority Petition for Special Relief; Service Electric Cablevision, Inc. Petition for Waiver of Sections 76.601, 76.605(a), and 76.1704 of the Commission's Rules, MB Docket No. 12-217, Report and Order, 32 FCC Rcd 7754, 7757-58 (2017) (*Digital Cable Standards Order*). The Commission concluded that a testing regime for digital service is unnecessary because QAM-based cable operator's adherence to SCTE 40 2016 is sufficient to ensure the delivery of good-quality signals without testing. *Id.*