

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

CC Docket No. 87-124

Released: April 12, 1995

**FCC Establishes Hearing Aid Compatibility Negotiated
Rulemaking Committee, and Sets Meeting Dates**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has established the Hearing Aid Compatibility Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee), as part of the proceeding in CC Docket No. 87-124.

The Committee will provide recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be used in the formulation of requirements for hearing aid compatible wireline telephones in work places, hospitals, certain other health care facilities, prisons, hotels and motels. Included among the recommendations will be one on whether to lift the suspension of enforcement of Sections 68.112(b)(1), (3), and (5) of the Commission's Rules. 47 C.F.R. §§ 68.112(b)(1), (3), (5). Those sections require that all wireline telephones in all work places, hospitals, certain other health care facilities, prisons, hotels and motels be hearing aid compatible by May 1, 1993 for establishments with 20 or more employees and by May 1, 1994 for establishments with fewer than 20 employees. The scope of the activity of the Committee will include all steps necessary to assemble data, perform analyses, and provide advice to the FCC concerning all of the issues required to address the regulation of wireline telephones which need to be hearing aid compatible, as discussed in the Commission's public notice of November 7, 1994, FCC 94-280. The establishment of this Committee is necessary and in the public interest.

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, this notice also advises interested persons of the initial and proposed subsequent meetings of the Committee.

DATES: Committee meetings will be held on the following dates: April 13, April 20, April 27, May 11, May 18, May 25, May 30 and June 13, 1995. All meetings will be held at 9:30 A.M. EDT.

LOCATION OF MEETINGS: For the meetings of April 13, April 27, May 11, May 18 and May 25, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW, Room 856, Washington, DC 20554; for the meetings of April 20 and June 13, International Bureau, FCC, Eighth Floor, 2000 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20554; for the meeting of May 30, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD 20770; or as otherwise announced at the meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Lipscomb, Designated Federal Official of the Hearing Aid Compatibility Negotiated Rulemaking Committee, Domestic Services Branch, Domestic Facilities Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission,

Mail Stop 1600B2, 2025 M Street, NW, Suite 6008, Washington, D.C. 20054; Voice (202) 634-4216; TTY (202) 632-0484; Fax (202) 634-6625; Internet address: glipscom@fcc.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee was established by the Federal Communications Commission to bring together significantly affected entities to discuss and to recommend approaches to developing recommendations to the FCC for requirements for hearing aid compatible (HAC) telephones in work places, hospitals, certain other health care facilities, prisons, hotels and motels. The FCC solicited nominations for membership on the Committee pursuant to the Negotiated Rulemaking Act of 1990, Public Law 101-648, November 28, 1990, and selected members which are significantly affected by the proposed rules. See Public Notice in CC Docket No. 87-124, FCC 94-280, 59 FR 60343, November 23, 1994. The members of the Committee are as follows:

Aeronautical Radio, Inc.
Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, Inc.
American Hotel & Motel Association
American Health Care Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Communications Workers of America
Equal Employment Advisory Council
Federal Communications Commission
General Services Administration
Hearing Industries Association
IBM
League for the Hard of Hearing
National Association of the Deaf
National Center for Law and Deafness
Self Help for Hard of Hearing People
Tele-Communications Association
Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.
Telecommunications Industry Association
United States Telephone Association

Members of the general public may attend the meeting. The FCC will attempt to accommodate as many people as possible. However, admittance will be limited to the seating available. The public may submit written comments to the Committee. The comments must be submitted two business days before the meeting in which the commenter desires his/her comments to be distributed. In addition, comments at the meeting by parties or entities not represented on the Committee will be permitted to the extent time permits. Comments will be limited to five minutes in length by one party or entity, and request to make such comments to the Committee in person must be received two business days before the meeting in which the commenter desires to be heard. Requests for comment opportunity, and written comments, should be sent to Greg Lipscomb at the address under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT," stated above.

AGENDA: The planned agenda for the first meeting is as follows:

1. Introductions and Welcoming Remarks
2. Nomination of Facilitator
3. Introduction of Committee Members
4. Committee Charter and Related Matters
5. Organizational Protocols
6. Agreement on "Consensus"
7. Work Program and Documentation
8. Organization of Work and Working Groups
9. Meeting Schedule and Locations
10. Agenda for Next Meeting
11. Other Business

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION