

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C.

In the Matter of )  
)  
The Development of Operational, ) WT Docket No. 96-86  
Technical and Spectrum Requirements )  
for Meeting Federal, State and Local )  
Public Safety Agency Communication )  
Requirements Through the Year 2010 )

**ORDER**

Adopted: November 26, 1996

Released: November 27, 1996

By the Chief, Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

1. By this Order, we extend the time for filing reply comments in the above-captioned proceeding to the close of business on December 19, 1996.

2. On April 10, 1996, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding that invited interested parties to comment no later than September 20, 1996, and to reply to filings by other parties no later than October 18, 1996.<sup>1</sup> On September 6, 1996, we partially granted a request by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for an extension of the comment period, extending the due date for comments until October 21, 1996, and for reply comments until December 3, 1996.<sup>2</sup>

3. On November 21, 1996, the Industrial Telecommunications Association, Inc., the American Petroleum Institute, and the Association of American Railroads (ITA, API, and AAR) requested a further extension of the reply comment date until December 19, 1996.<sup>3</sup> ITA, API, and AAR assert that the reply comment date should be extended to give parties an opportunity

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<sup>1</sup> The Development of Operational, Technical, and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010, WT Docket No. 96-86, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 11 FCC Rcd 12460 (1996).

<sup>2</sup> The Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010, WT Docket No. 96-86, Order, DA 96-1492 (released Sept. 6, 1996).

<sup>3</sup> The Development of Operational, Technical, and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010, WT Docket No. 96-86, Request for Extension of Time to File Reply Comments (Nov. 21, 1996).

to review comments due to be filed in the Wireless Communications Service proceeding (GN Docket No. 96-288) on December 4, 1996 and in the Advanced Television Systems proceeding (MM Docket No. 87-268) on November 22, 1996. ITA, API, and AAR assert that the comments filed in these proceedings may affect parties' positions in their Public Safety reply comments. ITA, API, and AAR further assert that the comments filed in the Public Safety proceeding are lengthy and involve issues requiring careful consideration.

4. ITA, API, and AAR contend that views expressed in comments submitted in GN Docket No. 96-288 may affect the positions parties will take in the Public Safety proceeding, because that docket addresses, among other issues, whether a portion of the spectrum proposed for the Wireless Communications Service should be used to meet the needs of public safety providers, and whether the Commission has sufficient authority to designate frequencies in the 2.3 GHz band for public safety communications. ITA, API, and AAR also assert that the comments filed in the Advanced Television Systems proceeding may influence the direction parties take in their Public Safety reply comments, and that these comments are likely to be voluminous.

5. Because of the importance of this proceeding, we encourage active participation by all interested parties. Moreover, we agree with ITA, API, and AAR that the issues in this proceeding interrelate with issues addressed in GN Docket No. 96-288 and in MM Docket No. 87-268, and that parties may wish to review those comments before responding to comments filed in this proceeding. We are therefore persuaded that granting the requested extension of time will enhance the quality of the reply comments, and will provide a more complete record for consideration. For these reasons, we conclude that an extension for filing reply comments is in the public interest.

6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission's Rules regarding the time for filing comments, 47 C.F.R. § 1.46, that the request of the Industrial Telecommunications Association, Inc., the American Petroleum Institute, and the Association of American Railroads IS GRANTED, and the time for filing reply comments in the above-captioned proceeding is extended to the close of business on December 19, 1996.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



John Cimko  
Chief, Policy Division  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau