FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 12, 2005

FCC PROPOSES ALMOST $1.5 MILLION IN FORFEITURES FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND VIOLATIONS

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today issued Notices of Apparent Liability ("NALs") totaling almost $1.5 million against two telecommunications carriers for apparently violating Universal Service Fund ("USF") and regulatory fee rules.

Together with the similar actions taken on July 25, 2005, today's NALs help level the playing field for all telecommunications carriers by demonstrating a no tolerance policy for any carrier that fails to pay its required USF and other regulatory obligations. Apparent violations like these distort the marketplace by causing carriers in compliance with the requirements to carry a disproportionate share of the costs of funding these programs and frustrate the purposes for which Congress and the Commission established the programs.

The USF program ensures that consumers in all regions of the nation have access to affordable, quality telecommunications services. Regulatory fees distribute the cost of certain regulatory activities. Under the Communications Act and the Commission's rules, every telecommunications carrier that provides interstate service must contribute to these programs on an equitable basis.

The two corporations that are the subject of the NALs are Telecom Management, Inc., and OCMC, Inc.

By the Commission: FCC 05-156, 05-157. Chairman Martin and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Adelstein, August 12, 2005.

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