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International Bureau Extends Comment Period in Satellite Space and Earth Station Licensing Reform Proceeding (IB Docket No. 00-248) for Interested Parties Impacted by Hurricane Katrina

On March 10, 2005, the Commission adopted a Third Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in its ongoing efforts to modernize and reform space station and earth station licensing. Specifically, the Commission sought comment on proposed revisions to Part 25 of the Commission's rules that should give earth station operators in the fixed-satellite service more flexibility in implementing state-of-the-art earth stations in the Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) in the conventional C-band and Ku-band.

Currently, comments in this proceeding are due on September 6, 2005, and reply comments are due October 6, 2005. As a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in certain areas within the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, the International Bureau is extending the comment date for interested parties and/or their counsel located in the affected areas from September 6, 2005 to September 28, 2005. Replies responsive to issues raised in late-filed comments may be filed on October 14, 2005.

The Bureau will continue to monitor circumstances surrounding the hurricane and will provide additional guidance as is necessary.

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