



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC BEGINS INQUIRIES ON BROADBAND DATA AND DEPLOYMENT

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today announces two proceedings focused on evaluating broadband deployment.

The first is a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 into whether broadband services are being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. The second is a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) exploring ways to collect information the Commission needs to set broadband policy in the future.

Both actions recognize the critical importance of broadband services to the nation's present and future prosperity.

The NOI is the fifth such inquiry conducted by the Commission under Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires the Commission to determine whether broadband services are being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. Among the questions the Commission asks in the NOI is how to define broadband in light of the rapid technological changes occurring in the marketplace, including the development of higher speed services and new broadband platforms. The Commission will also focus on the availability of broadband, including in rural and other hard-to-serve areas; on whether consumers are adopting new services; and on the level of competition in the marketplace. The Commission asks what can be done to accelerate the rollout of broadband services, and seeks comment on current investment trends in the industry. The Commission also seeks comment on external data sources that shed light on broadband prices and the extent to which consumers have a choice of competing providers of broadband service in the United States, ideally on a house-by-house and business-by-business basis, as well as comparable data on speed, price, availability, and adoption in other countries.

The NPRM seeks comment on whether to modify collection of speed tier information and how to improve the data collected about wireless broadband Internet access service. The NPRM also asks how the Commission can best collect information about subscribership to interconnected voice over Internet Protocol service, or VoIP. Finally, the NPRM also seeks comment on how the Commission can develop a more accurate picture of current broadband deployment (including by extrapolating from more accurate estimates of representative urban, metropolitan, exurban, low-income, tribal, and rural areas), as well as gather information on

price, other factors that affect consumer uptake of broadband services, and international comparisons.

Action by the Commission, March 12, 2007, by Notice of Inquiry (FCC 07-21) and February 26, 2007, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 07-17).

Dockets: 07-45 (NOI); 07-38 (NPRM).

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