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For Immediate Release

**FCC PROPOSES TO STREAMLINE EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW
OF CERTAIN FCC APPLICATIONS INVOLVING FOREIGN OWNERSHIP**

WASHINGTON, June 24, 2016 – The Federal Communications Commission today proposed changes to its rules and procedures to improve the timeliness and transparency of the review process for certain applications and petitions for declaratory ruling with reportable foreign ownership.

The Commission has routinely referred certain applications with reportable foreign ownership to relevant Executive Branch agencies for coordination and expertise on national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy matters. These applications can include, for example, requests for international section 214 authorizations, submarine cable landing licenses, and the transfer or assignment thereof. Over time, the number of applications with reportable foreign ownership has increased and, as part of our [effort to reform the Commission's processes](#), Commission staff have been working with the Executive Branch and industry on ways to improve the process.

On May 10, 2016, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), on behalf of the Executive Branch, filed a [letter](#) recommending changes to improve the ability of the Executive Branch to expeditiously and efficiently review the applications. On May 12, 2016, the International Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) seeking comment on the NTIA Letter.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today proposes the following:

- **Threshold Information.** As requested by the Executive Branch, the Notice proposes to require applicants with reportable foreign ownership to provide information on ownership, network operations, and related matters at the time they file their applications. The process would replace the current practice of the Executive Branch seeking such threshold information directly from the applicants after the Commission refers the applications.
- **Certifications.** The Notice proposes to add a certification requirement to the rules. It seeks comment on NTIA's proposal that all applicants, with or without foreign ownership, certify to certain mitigation provisions when they file their applications, which the Executive Branch says will expedite its review.
- **Timelines.** Although NTIA did not propose time frames for review, the Notice proposes to adopt a 90-day time frame for Executive Branch review, with an additional one-time 90-day extension in rare circumstances provided the Executive Branch provides a status update every 30 days.

The Notice proposes to adopt rules that apply these requirements to applications for international

section 214 authorizations and submarine cable landing licenses, applications to assign or transfer such authorizations and licenses, and petitions for section 310(b) foreign ownership rulings (common carrier wireless, common carrier satellite earth stations, or broadcast). The Notice seeks comment on whether there are some categories of applications that should not be referred to Executive Branch for review. Finally, the Notice recommends other proposals to further streamline Commission review of the applications.

Taken together, these proposals are intended to facilitate a more streamlined review process and provide increased certainty for applicants, while still continuing to ensure the Commission considers national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy concerns as part of its public interest review.

Action by the Commission June 24, 2016 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 16-79). Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai and O’Rielly approving and issuing separate statements.

IB Docket No. 16-155

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See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).