



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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**FCC 00J-4**  
**November 3, 2000**

**FEDERAL-STATE JOINT BOARD ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE  
TO HOLD EN BANC HEARING NOVEMBER 13, 2000  
ON THE RURAL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION  
FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE REFORM FOR RURAL CARRIERS**

**CC Docket No. 96-45**

The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (the Joint Board) will hold an *en banc* hearing on Monday, November 13, 2000, at the 112<sup>th</sup> NARUC Annual Convention in San Diego, California. The Joint Board will discuss the Rural Task Force's recommendation regarding reform of the universal service support mechanism for rural carriers. Panelists representing a broad range of interests will present their views on the Rural Task Force's recommendation and questions from the Joint Board members will follow.

In the May 1997 *Universal Service Order*,<sup>1</sup> the Commission, acting on the recommendation of the Joint Board, encouraged the Joint Board to establish a Rural Task Force to provide "assistance in identifying the issues unique to rural carriers and analyzing the appropriateness of proxy cost models for rural carriers."<sup>2</sup> On September 17, 1997, the Joint Board announced the creation of the Rural Task Force and directed it to present a report to the Joint Board making specific recommendations on the establishment of a new mechanism for rural telephone companies.<sup>3</sup> On September 29, 2000, the Rural Task Force submitted the *Rural Task Force Recommendation To The Federal-State Joint Board On Universal Service*.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776 (1997) (*Universal Service Order*).

<sup>2</sup> *Universal Service Order*, at para. 253.

<sup>3</sup> *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Announces the Creation of a Rural Task Force; Solicits Nominations for Membership on Rural Task Force*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, 12 FCC Rcd 15752 (September 17, 1997). See also, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Announces Rural Task Force Members*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, FCC 98J-1 (rel. July 1, 1998).

<sup>4</sup> See Letter from William R. Gillis, Chair, Rural Task Force, to Magalie Roman Salas, FCC, dated September 29, 2000 (*Rural Task Force Final Recommendation To The Federal-State Joint Board On Universal Service*). See also, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment on Rural Task Force Recommendation*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, FCC-00J-3 (rel. October 4, 2000).

The *en banc* hearing will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina, 333 West Harbor Drive, in Marriot Hall 2. An agenda, including scheduled panelists, will be posted on the Joint Board's Web site next week ([http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal\\_service/joint.html](http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/universal_service/joint.html)). The hearing is open to the public and seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Internet users may listen to the real-time audio feed of the hearing by accessing the FCC Internet Audio Broadcast Home page (<http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/>). Step-by-step instructions on how to listen to the audio broadcast, as well as information regarding the equipment and software needed, are available on the FCC Audio Broadcast Home page. Audio tapes of the hearing may be purchased from Rollin Recording, 208 River Ranch Road, Boerne, Texas 78006, by calling 1-800-798-5468.

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