



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DA 04-3301

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU INITIATES PROCEEDING TO CONSIDER PETITION TO REDEFINE RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY SERVICE AREAS IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

CC Docket No. 96-45

Release Date: October 19, 2004

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) provides notice that it is initiating a proceeding to consider a petition filed by American Cellular Corporation (American Cellular), requesting Federal Communications Commission agreement with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's (Wisconsin Commission) decision to redefine the service areas of certain rural telephone companies.¹ Pursuant to section 54.207(c)(3) of the Commission's rules, the Bureau has 90 days from the release date of a Public Notice to initiate a proceeding to consider a petition to redefine the service area of a rural telephone company.² The Wireline Competition Bureau released a Public Notice seeking comment on this petition on July 21, 2004.³ The comment cycle established by that Public Notice closed on August 18, 2004.⁴

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which ex parte communications are permitted subject to disclosure. For further information, contact Thomas Buckley, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.

¹ *Petition for Agreement with Redefinition of Service Area Requirement for Certain Rural Telephone Company Study Areas in the State of Wisconsin Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)*, CC Docket No. 96-45, filed July 16, 2004 (Petition).

² 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(3). If the Commission did not initiate a proceeding within 90 days of the release of the Public Notice, the definition proposed by the Wisconsin Commission would be deemed approved by the Commission and would take effect in accordance with state procedures. 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(c)(3)(ii). The Commission delegated its authority to act on petitions to redefine rural service areas to the Wireline Competition Bureau. 47 C.F.R. § 54.207(e).

³ See *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Petition to Redefine Certain Rural Telephone Company Service Areas in the State of Wisconsin*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, DA 04-2191 (rel. July 21, 2004).

⁴ See *id.*