

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

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|--|---|----------------------|
| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| High-Cost Universal Service Support |) | WC Docket No. 05-337 |
| |) | |
| Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service |) | CC Docket No. 96-45 |
| |) | |

ORDER

Adopted: March 24, 2008

Released: March 24, 2008

Revised Filing Dates:

Comments Due: April 17, 2008

Reply Comments Due: May 19, 2008

By the Acting Associate Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

1. On January 29, 2008, the Commission released three Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (collectively, Notices) regarding the high-cost universal service support program.¹ On March 4, 2008, summaries of the Notices appeared in the Federal Register, setting a comment cycle of April 3, 2008, for comments and May 5, 2008, for reply comments.² On March 13, 2008, CTIA — The Wireless Association (CTIA) filed a motion seeking a two-week extension of the comment and reply comment deadlines.³ CTIA asserts that the extension will produce a more complete public record and will not cause prejudice to any party.⁴

2. We note that it is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.⁵ CTIA indicates that an extension will provide commenters with sufficient time to fully review,

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 1467 (2008) (*Identical Support Rule NPRM*); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 1495 (2008) (*Reverse Auctions NPRM*); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 1531 (2008) (*Joint Board Comprehensive Reform NPRM*).

² See *Identical Support Rule NPRM*, 73 Fed. Reg. 11580; *Reverse Auctions NPRM*, 73 Fed. Reg. 11591; *Joint Board Comprehensive Reform NPRM*, 73 Fed. Reg. 11587. In a public notice announcing the establishment of comment cycles, it was noted that parties may file consolidated comments and reply comments in response to all three Notices. *Comment Cycles Established for Commission's Notices of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding the Identical Support Rule, the Use of Reverse Auctions to Set High-Cost Universal Service Support, and the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's Recommendations for Comprehensive Reform of High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, DA 08-499 (rel. Mar. 4, 2008).

³ CTIA – The Wireless Association Motion for Extension of Time, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed March 13, 2008) (CTIA Motion).

⁴ *Id.* at 3.

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

assess, and respond comprehensively to the Notices, and will allow parties with disparate interests to consider whether compromise reform positions can be achieved.⁶ We agree with CTIA and find that an extension of the comment and reply comment deadlines in this proceeding is appropriate under these circumstances. The deadlines for filing comments and reply comments in response to the Notices are extended from April 3, 2008, to April 17, 2008, and from May 5, 2008, to May 19, 2008, respectively.

3. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 155(c), and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, the pleading cycle established in this matter shall be modified as follows:

Comments Due: April 17, 2008

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Jeremy D. Marcus
Acting Associate Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau

⁶ CTIA Motion at 3.