



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 11-53
Released: January 12, 2011

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON THE JOINT PETITION OF UPPER PENINSULA TELEPHONE COMPANY AND MICHIGAN CENTRAL BROADBAND COMPANY, LLC TO WAIVE THE STUDY AREA BOUNDARY FREEZE

CC Docket No. 96-45

Comment Date: February 11, 2011
Reply Comment Date: February 28, 2011

On December 29, 2010, Upper Peninsula Telephone Company (Upper Peninsula) and Michigan Central Broadband Company, LLC (Michigan Central) filed a joint petition for waiver of the study area boundary freeze codified in part 36 of the Commission's rules.¹ The Commission froze all study area boundaries effective November 15, 1984 to prevent incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) from establishing separate study areas made up only of high-cost exchanges to maximize their receipt of high-cost universal service support.² A carrier must therefore apply to the Commission for a waiver of the study area boundary freeze if it wishes to transfer or acquire additional exchanges. Upper Peninsula and Michigan Central seek a waiver of the study area boundary freeze to divide Upper Peninsula's existing 19-exchange Michigan study area into a 15-exchange study area that will continue to be operated by Upper Peninsula, and a 4-exchange study area that will be operated by Michigan Central.³

Interested parties may file **comments on or before February 11, 2011** and **reply comments on or before February 28, 2011**. All pleadings are to reference **CC Docket No. 96-45**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies.⁴

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.

¹ Upper Peninsula Telephone Company and Michigan Central Broadband Company, LLC, Joint Petition for Waiver of the Definition of "Study Area" Contained in Part 36, Appendix-Glossary of the Commission's Rules (filed Dec. 29, 2010) (Petition); *see also* 47 C.F.R. Part 36 App. (defining "study area").

² *See MTS and WATS Market Structure, Amendment of Part 67 of the Commission's Rules and Establishment of a Joint Board*, CC Docket Nos. 78-72, 80-286, Decision and Order, 50 Fed. Reg. 939 (1985) (*Part 67 Order*).

³ *See* Petition at 1.

⁴ *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, GC Docket No. 97-113, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).

- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington D.C. 20554.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

In addition, one copy of each pleading must be sent to each of the following:

- (1) The Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, www.bcpweb.com; phone: 202-488-5300 fax: 202-488-5563;
- (2) Gary Seigel, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-C408, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: Gary.Seigel@fcc.gov; and
- (3) Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-A452, Washington, D.C. 20554; e-mail: Charles.Tyler@fcc.gov.

Filings and comments are also available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, telephone: 202-488-5300, fax: 202-488-5563, or via e-mail www.bcpweb.com.

This matter shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁵ Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the substance of the presentation and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented generally is required.⁶ Other rules pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations in permit-but-disclose proceedings are set forth in section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.⁷

⁵ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*

⁶ *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(2).

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

For further information, please contact Gary Seigel, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at 202-418-7400 or TTY 202-418-0484.

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