



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 17-765

Released: August 14, 2017

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED FOR COMMENTS ON NTCA AND USTELECOM'S PETITION FOR FORBEARANCE FROM USF CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

WC Docket No. 17-206

Comments or Oppositions Due: September 13, 2017

Reply Comments Due: September 28, 2017

On June 14, 2017, NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) and the United States Telecom Association (USTelecom) filed a joint petition¹ pursuant to Section 10 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,² requesting that the Commission temporarily forbear from application of universal service fund (USF) contribution requirements with respect to broadband Internet access transmission services provided by RLECs, whether tariffed or offered on a de-tariffed basis.³ Specifically, NTCA and USTelecom seek forbearance from 47 U.S.C. § 254(d) and 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.706.⁴ The petition asks that the Commission forbear “until such a time as the Commission reaches a decision on whether *any and all* broadband services . . . should be required to contribute to support of federal USF programs or completes some other form of contributions reform.”⁵

Interested parties may file comments or oppositions to the NTCA and USTelecom Petition on or before **September 13, 2017** and reply comments on or before **September 28, 2017**. Comments and oppositions should reference WC Docket No. 17-206 and may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- **Electronic Filers:** Comments and oppositions may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.
- **Paper Filers:** Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. 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.

¹ NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association and the United States Telecom Association, Petition for Forbearance of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association and the United States Telecom Association, WC Docket No. 06-122 (filed June 14, 2017) (Petition).

² See 47 U.S.C. § 160.

³ Petition at 1-2.

⁴ *Id.* at 2.

⁵ *Id.*

- All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.
- 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, SW, Washington DC 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) or (202) 418-0432 (tty).

The proceeding this Notice initiates shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁶ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (e.g., .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

For further information, please contact Ian Forbes, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-7400 or via e-mail at ian.forbes@fcc.gov.

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⁶ 47 CFR § 1.1200 *et seq.*