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Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington D.C. 20554

DISPATCHED  
DA No. 97-1744

Policy and Rules Concerning the )  
Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace )  
Implementation of Section 254(g) of the )  
Communications Act of 1934, as amended )

CC Docket No. 96-61

**ORDER**

Adopted: August 14, 1997

Released: August 14, 1997

By the Chief, Competitive Pricing Division:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In this Order, we grant, in part, the motion of the American Samoa Government ("ASG") to modify the procedural schedule established in the *Order Reviewing Final Rate Plans*<sup>1</sup> for consideration in this proceeding of issues concerning implementation of rate integration for American Samoa. We modify the schedule to permit ASG to submit a plan for implementation of rate integration by October 1, 1997, and interexchange carriers and other interested parties to submit comments on ASG's plan by October 16, 1997.

**II. BACKGROUND**

2. In the *Rate Averaging and Rate Integration Report & Order*,<sup>2</sup> the Commission adopted regulatory requirements implementing section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, *as amended*, requiring, *inter alia*, providers of interstate interexchange services to U.S. territories and possessions, including American Samoa, to do so on an integrated basis with

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<sup>1</sup> *Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace, Implementation of Section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended*, Memorandum Report and Order, DA 97-1628 (rel. July 30, 1997) ("*Order Reviewing Final Rate Plans*").

<sup>2</sup> *Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace, Implementation of Section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended*, Report and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 9564 (1996) ("*Rate Averaging and Rate Integration Report and Order*"), *aff'd on recon.*, First Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration, (rel. July 30, 1997).

services they provide to other states by August 1, 1997.<sup>3</sup> The Commission delegated to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau ("Bureau"), authority to resolve any issues concerning rate integration for offshore points.

3. In the *Order Reviewing Final Rate Plans*, the Bureau temporarily suspended the obligation of carriers to provide services on an integrated basis to American Samoa pending comments on measures that could facilitate provision of interexchange services in American Samoa on an integrated basis with services provided in other parts of the U.S.<sup>4</sup> These measures include participation by American Samoa in the North American Numbering Plan, provision in American Samoa of access services to IXCs on a basis comparable to that of LECs in other parts of the U.S. (such as by offering National Exchange Carrier Association access rates), and provision of Feature Group D access service, if requested by IXCs.<sup>5</sup> The Bureau established a comment period that allowed interexchange carriers to submit comments by August 18, 1997, and allowed ASG and other interested parties to submit responsive comments by September 5, 1997.

### III. MOTION FOR MODIFICATION

4. ASG requests that the Bureau modify its procedural schedule to provide ASG with a greater opportunity to analyze and address issues related to implementation of rate integration and to allow interexchange carriers to address the issues based on knowledge of ASG's plan.<sup>6</sup> According to ASG, a modified schedule would enable and encourage the parties to work together, and would facilitate the development of a more complete record.<sup>7</sup> ASG also states that it intends to submit a complete plan addressing the measures it proposes to implement rate integration of interexchange service provided to, and from, American Samoa, and that it intends to work closely with the interexchange carriers serving American Samoa before submitting its plan.<sup>8</sup> ASG requests that the comment period be modified to permit it to submit its rate integration implementation plan by October 15, 1997, and to permit interexchange carriers and other interested parties to submit comments on the plan by November 15, 1997.<sup>9</sup> ASG asserts that representatives of AT&T, GTE, MCI, and Sprint

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 9596, ¶ 66.

<sup>4</sup> *Order Reviewing Final Rate Plans* at ¶ 22.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 21.

<sup>6</sup> *Motion of the American Samoa Government for Modification of the Procedural Schedule*, CC Docket 96-61, filed August 6, 1996.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 3.

support its request for modification.<sup>10</sup>

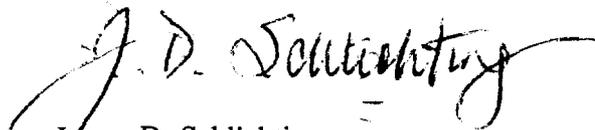
#### IV. DISCUSSION

5. ASG's proposed procedural schedule will provide an opportunity for consideration of issues related to achieving rate integration for American Samoa. However, we are not persuaded that the proposed extension until October 15, 1997 is fully justified. An extension until October 1, 1997 should provide an adequate opportunity for ASG to submit a complete plan. Accordingly, we will grant ASG's motion to permit it to submit a plan for implementation of rate integration on or before October 1, 1997. Interexchange carriers and other interested parties may submit comments on ASG's plan by October 16, 1997.

#### V. ORDERING CLAUSE

6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the procedural schedule established in this proceeding IS MODIFIED so that the American Samoa Government may submit a plan for implementation of rate integration by October 1, 1997, and that interexchange carriers and other interested parties may submit responsive comments by October 16, 1997.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



James D. Schlichting  
Chief, Competitive Pricing Division

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<sup>10</sup> *Id.*