



PUBLIC NOTICE

SEP 14 3 36 PM '98

Federal Communications Commission

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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FCC 98J-3

Released: September 10, 1998

FEDERAL-STATE JOINT BOARD ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE SOLICITS ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS FOR WIRELESS REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON RURAL TASK FORCE

CC Docket 96-45

On July 1, 1998, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) released a Public Notice announcing the individuals selected to serve as members of the Rural Task Force (RTF).¹ The Joint Board selected seventeen RTF members, representing seven categories, who will consider specific issues related to establishing a forward-looking economic cost (FLEC) mechanism for rural carriers, including the timing of the transition to such a mechanism.² The RTF will submit to the Joint Board a report that makes specific recommendations on the rural FLEC mechanism. This report is due nine months after the date on which the Commission implements a FLEC mechanism for non-rural carriers. The RTF held its first meeting on July 29, 1998 in Seattle, Washington.

On August 13, 1998, Western Wireless Corporation submitted a letter to the Joint Board requesting that an additional member be added to the RTF to represent the wireless telecommunications industry.³ Western Wireless contends that none of the current members of the RTF represents the interests of wireless carriers that seek to compete with incumbent local exchange carriers in rural areas.⁴

We believe the RTF would be well-served by the addition of a member who represents

¹ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Announces Rural Task Force Members, *Public Notice*, FCC 98J-1 (rel. July 1, 1998).

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Michele C. Farquhar, Counsel for Western Wireless, to Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, dated August 13, 1998.

⁴ *Id.* Western Wireless nominates Mr. Gene DeJordy, Executive Director of Regulatory Affairs for Western Wireless, to serve on the RTF.

the unique concerns of the wireless industry. The Joint Board hereby solicits nominations to fill one additional position in Category 7 (other non-LEC participants) for a representative of the wireless industry.⁵ Nominees should meet the criteria established for RTF members, including sufficient resources to devote to the project.⁶

Additional nominations for a representative for the wireless representative category will be accepted until September 17, 1998. **All nominations must be submitted by September 17, 1998** to the Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554 and to Sheryl Todd, Federal Communications Commission, 2100 M Street, N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20554. Parties should also send copies of their nominations to the individuals listed on the attached Service List (Appendix). Questions regarding this Public Notice or the nomination process may be directed to Sheryl Todd at (202) 418-7386.

⁵ We will include Western Wireless's nominee, Gene DeJordy, among the nominations received in response to the Public Notice.

⁶ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Announces the Creation of a Rural Task Force; Solicits Nominations for Membership on Rural Task Force, *Public Notice*, FCC 97J-1 (rel. September 17, 1997).

Service List

The Honorable Susan Ness, Chair,
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth,
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 826
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Julia Johnson, State Chair,
Chairman
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Gerald Gunter Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

The Honorable David Baker,
Commissioner
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

The Honorable Laska Schoenfelder,
Commissioner
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol, 500 East Capitol Street
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The Honorable Patrick H. Wood, III,
Chairman
Texas Public Utility Commission
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1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 400
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