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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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DA 00-237

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PETITION OF AMSC SUBSIDIARY CORPORATION FOR CLARIFICATION OF SECTIONS 54.601(C) AND 54.506 OF THE COMMISSION'S RULES

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

CC Docket No. 96-45

Release Date: February 9, 2000

Comment Date: February 23, 2000
Reply Comment Date: March 6, 2000

On November 24, 1999, AMSC Subsidiary Corporation (AMSC) filed a petition requesting the Commission to clarify two of its rules applicable to Universal Service Fund (USF) support for rural health care providers.[1] AMSC states that it is now in a position to offer critical emergency communications services to Indians throughout the United States, without the need to construct and deploy costly wireline infrastructure. To initiate the process of offering these emergency services, AMSC requests that the Commission either issue in the pending proceeding relating to the unserved and tribal areas[2] a preliminary order that the rural health care support mechanism will support the leasing of AMSC's Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) terminals, or waive the rules currently precluding such support. AMSC also seeks clarification of section 54.506 of the Commission's rules regarding the determination of the "urban rate" for purposes of calculating the discount applicable to the provision of emergency communications services on tribal lands.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before **February 23, 2000**, and reply comments on or before **March 6, 2000**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-

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[1] AMSC Subsidiary Corporation, *Emergency Petition for Clarification of 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.601(c), 54.506*, filed November 24, 1999.

[2] *Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service: Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 99-204 (rel. Sept. 3, 1999), *published in* 64 F.R. 52738 (Sept. 30, 1999).

file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit electronic comments by Internet e-mail. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. 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, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Parties also must send three paper copies of their filing to Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street S.W., Room 5-B540, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

For further information, contact Praveen Goyal, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.