



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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DA 00-1152

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Released: May 25, 2000

Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Comment on Supplemental Joint Submission of Program Administrators Regarding Consolidated Data Collection Procedures

CC Docket No. 98-171

Comments Due: June 16, 2000

Reply Comments Due: June 23, 2000

On May 15, 2000, the administrators for the long-term local number portability, numbering administration, Telecommunications Relay Services, and universal service support mechanisms filed a supplemental joint submission regarding procedures for gathering data from telecommunications carriers and other contributors to these mechanisms.¹ Contributors to these four mechanisms file data used to calculate their contributions by using a consolidated worksheet, the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet (FCC Form 499). In particular, the administrators propose that the Commission designate the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as the entity responsible for the consolidated worksheet data collection.² In this Public Notice, the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment on the proposals contained in the *Supplemental Joint Submission*. The Bureau encourages commenters to indicate whether the proposals in the *Supplemental Joint Submission* will provide for the efficient collection, validation, and processing of contributor data.

Background: On July 14, 1999, the Commission amended its rules so that telecommunications carriers and other service providers need only file one form -- the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet -- for the purpose of determining their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms, the TRS Fund, and the cost recovery mechanisms for numbering administration and local number portability.³ In the *Contributor Reporting Requirements Order*, the Commission concluded that carriers and other filers of the new worksheet need only file one copy of the new worksheet.⁴ Accordingly, the Commission directed the administrators to file with the Bureau a summary of their proposed procedures for distributing the data obtained on the consolidated worksheet and to include a description of how

¹ See *Supplemental Joint Submission of Program Administrators Regarding Consolidated Data Collection Procedures and Cost Allocation Methodology*, CC Docket No. 98-171 (filed May 15, 2000) (*Supplemental Joint Submission*).

² *Supplemental Joint Submission* at 3 ("The [data collection agent] will perform the responsibilities consistent with the procedures agreed upon by the program administrators in their October 1999 Joint Submission, and utilized by NECA for the April 1, 2000 consolidated worksheet.").

³ *1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Services, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms*, Report and Order, FCC 99-175, CC Docket No. 98-171 (rel. July 14, 1999) (*Contributor Reporting Requirements Order*).

⁴ *Contributor Reporting Requirements Order*, ¶ 36.

related costs will be equitably apportioned.⁵ On October 12, 1999, the program administrators filed a joint submission addressing data collection procedures and a proposed cost allocation methodology.⁶ In a subsequent Order, released on February 4, 2000, the Bureau directed the National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA) to perform the data collection functions for the April 2000 filing of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet and set out procedures for the administrators to submit proposed arrangements for future filings no later than May 15, 2000.⁷

Comment Filing Procedures: 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 June 16, 2000, and reply comments on or before June 23, 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-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. 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 an electronic comment 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. 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.

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.

Additional Information: The full text of the *Supplemental Joint Submission* is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC, 20554. This document may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc. (ITS), 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, telephone 202-857-3800, facsimile 202-857-3805. You may also view this document on the Commission's web site at <https://haifoss.fcc.gov/cgi-bin/ws.exe/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.hts>.

For further information, contact Scott Bergmann or Jim Lande, Industry Analysis Division, Common Carrier Bureau, at (202) 418-0940.

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⁵ *Contributor Reporting Requirements Order*, ¶¶ 45-47.

⁶ *See Joint Submission of Program Administrators Regarding Consolidated Data Collection Procedures and Cost Allocation Methodology*, CC Docket No. 98-171 (filed Oct. 12, 1999) (*Joint Submission*).

⁷ *See 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Services, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms*, Order, DA 00-214, CC Docket No. 98-171 (rel. Feb. 4, 2000) (*Data Collection Procedures Order*).