



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Federal Communications Commission
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DA 01-501

February 23, 2001

COMMON CARRIER BUREAU GRANTS MOTION FOR LIMITED EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING COMMENTS AND REPLY COMMENTS ON THE USE OF UNBUNDLED NETWORK ELEMENTS TO PROVIDE EXCHANGE ACCESS SERVICE

CC Docket No. 96-98

Revised Filing Dates:

Comments Due: April 5, 2001

Reply Comments Due: April 30, 2001

On January 24, 2001, the Common Carrier Bureau released a Public Notice in CC Docket No. 96-98 inviting comment on issues raised in conjunction with the use of unbundled network elements to provide exchange access service.¹ Based on publication of the Public Notice in the Federal Register, parties were required to file comments on March 5, 2001 and reply comments on March 19, 2001.² On February 22, 2001, BellSouth, SBC, Qwest and Verizon ("Movants") filed a motion to extend the dates for filing comments and reply comments in the Public Notice.³ In its pleading, the Movants request an extension of time until April 5, 2001 to file comments and April 30, 2001 to file reply comments in order to submit joint factual data and economic analysis addressing alternatives to incumbent facilities and the degree to which carriers are using those alternatives.⁴ They state that an extension is necessary to account for substantial market developments over the last year, and that an extension will speed resolution of this proceeding by avoiding piecemeal submissions of data and arguments.⁵

It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.⁶ In this

¹ *Comments Sought on the Use of Unbundled Network Elements to Provide Exchange Access Service*, CC Docket No. 96-98, Public Notice, DA 01-169 (rel. Jan. 24, 2001).

² 66 FR 8555 (Feb. 1, 2001).

³ *Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, CC Docket No. 96-98, Motion for Modification of Comment Schedule (filed Feb. 22, 2001).

⁴ *Id.* at 1-2.

⁵ *Id.* at 2-3.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

instance, however, the Bureau finds that the Movants have shown good cause for an extension of the deadline for filing comments and reply comments in this proceeding. Because of the complexity of the issues and the Commission's desire to obtain accurate data, we grant a limited extension so that parties may file comments on April 5, 2001 and reply comments on April 30, 2001. This extension should allow parties to gather and analyze the necessary data and also allow parties adequate time to reply to the analyses. This matter shall continue to be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's ex parte rules.⁷ All other requirements discussed in the January 24, 2001 Public Notice remain in effect.

For further information, please contact Jodie Donovan-May or Tom Navin, Common Bureau Policy and Program Planning Division, 202-418-1580.

⁷ 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1206.