



**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU
MEMORANDUM**

TO: FCC Secretary

CC: Jane Jackson
Margaret Wiener
Erik Salovaara
Martha Stancill
Patrick Halley
Katie King

FROM: Scott Mackoul

SUBJECT: Notice of *Ex Parte* with East Kentucky Network d/b/a Appalachian Wireless – **GN Docket No. 09-51, WC Docket No. 10-90**

DATE: October 6, 2010

This memorandum provides notice of an oral *ex parte* initiated by FCC staff to discuss issues relating to the National Broadband Plan's recommendation that the Commission create a Mobility Fund to provide one-time support for deployment of 3G networks. This notice is to be included in GN Docket No. 09-51 (National Broadband Plan) and WC Docket No. 10-9 (Connect America Fund).

On September 7, 2010, Gerald Robinette, General Manager of East Kentucky Network d/b/a Appalachian Wireless talked via teleconference with Jane Jackson, Margaret Wiener, Erik Salovaara, Martha Stancill, and Scott Mackoul of the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Patrick Halley and Katie King of the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau.

Mr. Robinette discussed the issues his company faces in providing service to rural areas with rugged, mountainous terrain, noting that the biggest cost in expanding 3G and 4G service in these areas is building out the fiber backhaul network. He noted that, in many cases, his company must build a road to just get to a new site location. Mr. Robinette expressed support for additional funding through a Mobility Fund to help his company's 3G build-out in areas of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia, but also noted the problems with getting equipment for 700 MHz Band licenses and LTE deployment. The conversation also touched on the National Broadband Plan's recommendation for reforming the Universal Service Fund, with Mr. Robinette expressing concern that current funding, including funding for operating costs, would disappear.