

information services, or in the provision of parts or services to providers of telecommunications services and information services." In implementing Section 257, the Commission must "promote the policies and purposes of this Act favoring diversity of media voices, vigorous economic competition, technological advancement, and promotion of the public interest, convenience and necessity." Every three years following the completion of the market barriers proceeding, the Commission must report to Congress on regulations that have been issued to eliminate barriers and any statutory barriers that the Commission recommends be eliminated. This *Notice of Inquiry* commences our omnibus Section 257 proceeding.

44. *Objectives:* The Commission seeks to develop a full record of profile data on the type and scope of market entry barriers in the telecommunications industry faced by small businesses. To this end, the Commission solicits specific information regarding financing sources and terms, services provided, markets served, geographic areas of operation, and employee workforce. The Commission also seeks information concerning obstacles small telecommunications businesses encounter, as well as any unique obstacles that such businesses owned by women and minorities encounter. We also will undertake specific initiatives that further the objective of Section 257 to eliminate market entry barriers for small businesses. The record developed in connection with these initiatives also will assist us in achieving our mandate under Section 309(j) of the Communications Act to disseminate licenses for auctionable spectrum-based services to small businesses, rural telephone companies, and businesses owned by women and minorities, as well as in fulfilling our general obligation to serve the public interest.

45. *Legal Basis:* The proposed action is authorized under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. 257.

46. *Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements:* None

47. *Description, Potential Impact and Number of Small Entities Effected:* None

48. *Federal Rules Which Overlap, Duplicate or Conflict With These Rules:* None

49. *Significant Alternatives Minimizing Impact on Small Entities and Consistent with Stated Objectives:* This NOI solicits comment on a variety of issues and recommendations that impact small businesses. Any additional significant issues or recommendations related to small businesses in the

telecommunications industry presented in the comments also will be considered.

50. *Paperwork Reduction Act:* The requirements proposed herein have been analyzed with respect to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and found to impose no new or modified information collection requirements.

VI. Procedural Matters

51. This proceeding is exempt from *ex parte* restraints or disclosure requirements, as provided in Section 1.1204(a)(4) of our rules.

52. Parties must file initial comments on or before July 24, 1996 and reply comments on or before August 23, 1996. To file formally in this proceeding, interested parties must file an original and six copies of all comments. If parties want each Commissioner to receive a personal copy of their comments, they must file an original plus ten copies.

53. Parties should send comments to: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Parties also should send one copy of any documents filed in this docket with the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Room 246, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239) of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. For further information, contact Linda L. Haller in the Office of General Counsel at (202) 418-1720 or S. Jenell Trigg in the Office of Communications Business Opportunities at (202) 418-0990.

54. We also ask parties to submit comments and reply comments on diskette in addition to and not as a substitute for the formal filing requirements stated above. Parties submitting diskettes should submit them to S. Jenell Trigg, Office of Communications Business Opportunities, Federal Communications Commission, Suite 644, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20554. Submissions should be on a 3.5 inch diskette formatted in an IBM compatible form using WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows software. The diskette should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and clearly labelled with the party's name, proceeding, type of pleading (comment or reply comment), and the date of submission.

VII. Ordering Clause

55. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to our authority under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. 4(i) and 403, an inquiry IS COMMENCED to identify and eliminate market entry barriers for small businesses in the provision and ownership of telecommunications and information services in the telecommunications market.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-16259 Filed 6-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

47 CFR Part 64

[CC Docket No. 96-128; DA 96-983]

Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of time.

SUMMARY: In this Order, we are extending the comments and reply comments deadlines in order to grant to the parties more time to address all issues raised in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. This Order is issued on the Commission's own motion because of the relatively short time that was accorded to the parties to comment on the important issues.

DATES: *Comments due:* July 1, 1996; *Reply Comments due:* July 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: In addition to filing comments with the Secretary, a copy of any comments on the information collections contained herein should be submitted to Dorothy Conway, Federal Communications Commission, Room 234, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20554, or via the Internet to dconway@fcc.gov and to Timothy Fain, OMB Desk Officer, 10236 NEOB, 725 - 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20503 or via the Internet to fain_t@al.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Carowitz, Enforcement Division, Common Carrier Bureau, (202) 418-0960. For additional information concerning the information collections contained in this Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making contact Dorothy Conway at 202-418-0217, or via the Internet at dconway@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Order**

Adopted: June 20, 1996; Released: June 20, 1996.

1. On June 14, 1996, the American Public Communications Council ("APCC") filed a motion asking that we extend the deadline for filing comments in the above-captioned proceeding¹ from June 27, 1996, to July 1, 1996, a period of four days. APCC also requests a corresponding extension of the due date for reply comments from July 8, 1996, to July 12, 1996. In support of its motion, APCC states that virtually every issue in the proceeding vitally affects its members and that, as a result, additional days are required to effectively prepare comments.² Also on June 14, 1996, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWBT") filed a motion for an extension of the deadline for reply comments to July 12, 1996, although it does not request a change in the deadline for the initial comment cycle. SWBT argues that due to the forthcoming federal holiday, there will not be a sufficient number of business days for parties to respond adequately to the initial comments.

2. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.³ However, in light of the important issues presented in this proceeding and the relatively short period of time accorded to the parties to comment on those issues, we believe that the public interest would be served by granting all parties a brief extension of the deadlines for the comments and reply comments. While we take this action on our motion, we nevertheless believe that this Order will grant relief that is substantially similar to that requested by APCC and SWBT.

3. Accordingly, it is ordered, pursuant to Sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), and 155(c), and the authority delegated thereunder pursuant to Sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91 and 0.291, that the deadline for filing comments in the above-captioned proceeding is extended to July 1, 1996, and the deadline for filing reply comments is extended to July 15, 1996. Because they concern issues that are now moot, the motions of APCC and

SWBT for an extension of time are dismissed.

Federal Communications Commission.

Robert W. Spangler

*Deputy Chief (Policy), Enforcement Division,
Common Carrier Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 96-16396 Filed 6-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Office of the Secretary****49 CFR Part 7**

[Docket No. OST-96-1430; Notice 96-17]

RIN 2105-AC58

Public Availability of Information

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: Department of Transportation proposes to revise regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. This revision updates organizational changes since the last revision and streamlines the regulations in order to make the regulations more useful.

DATES: Comments are due August 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Documentary Services Division, Attention: Docket Section, Room PL401, Docket No. OST-96-1430, Department of Transportation, C-55, Washington, DC 20590. Any person wishing acknowledgment that his/her comments have been received should include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Comments received will be available for public inspection and copying in the Documentary Services Division, Room PL401, Department of Transportation Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM ET Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dorothy A. Chambers, Chief, FOIA Division, Office of the General Counsel, C-12, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590, telephone (202) 366-4542, FAX (202) 366-7152.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The President instituted a Regulatory Review initiative, for the reinvention of regulations by eliminating duplicate, redundant, or unnecessary language and revising regulations to meet the needs of users. In response to this initiative, we have reviewed part 7 and are proposing to revise this section to update and streamline information on public availability of information. We propose

to reorganize this part by combining in subpart B sections that relate to information that is publicly available without a specific request. Similarly, we have combined sections in subpart C that address information that must be requested under FOIA. We have shortened the descriptions of FOIA exemptions and propose to delete the Appendices that set forth redundant information concerning document inspection facilities. We propose to replace these appendices with provisions in §§ 7.10 and 7.15, which set forth necessary information regarding public records available at Department Docket locations and FOIA contacts for records requested under the FOIA.

Analysis of Regulatory Impacts

This amendment is not a "significant regulatory action" within the meaning of Executive Order 12866. It is also not significant within the definition in DOT's Regulatory Policies and Procedures, 49 FR 11034 (1979), in part because it does not involve any change in important Departmental policies. Because the economic impact should be minimal, further regulatory evaluation is not necessary. Moreover, I certify that this proposal will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

This proposal does not significantly affect the environment, and therefore an environmental impact statement is not required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It has also been reviewed under Executive Order 12612, Federalism, and it has been determined that it does not have sufficient implications for federalism to warrant preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Finally, the proposal does not contain any collection of information requirements, requiring review under the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 7

Freedom of information.

In accordance with the above, DOT proposes to revise 49 CFR part 7 to read as follows:

PART 7—PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION**Subpart A—General Provisions**

Sec.

7.1 General.

7.2 Definitions.

Subpart B—Information Required to be Made Public by the Department

7.3 Publication in the Federal Register.

7.4 Publication Required.

¹ Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 96-254 (rel. Jun. 6, 1996); 61 FR 31481, June 20, 1996.

² As a national trade association of independent pay telephone companies, APCC claims that the comment process will require coordination with member companies and allied state associations. APCC claims that this process cannot be completed effectively in the time allotted.

³ See 47 CFR § 1.46(a).