

standards in its regulatory activities unless to do so would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (e.g., materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices) that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus bodies. The NTTAA directs EPA to provide Congress, through OMB, explanations when the Agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards.

In approving or disapproving negative declarations under section 129 of the Clean Air Act, EPA does not have the authority to revise or rewrite the State's rule, so the Agency does not have authority to require the use of particular voluntary consensus standards. Accordingly, EPA has not sought to identify or require the State to use voluntary consensus standards. Therefore, the requirements of the NTTAA are not applicable to this final rule.

I. Petitions for Judicial Review

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by January 18, 2000. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule for the purposes of judicial review, nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2), 42 U.S.C. 7607(b)(2)). EPA encourages interested parties to comment in response to the proposed rule rather than petition for judicial review, unless the objection arises after the comment period allowed for in the proposal.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 62

Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Environmental protection, Intergovernmental relations, Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: November 1, 1999.

John P. DeVillars,

Regional Administrator, Region 1.

40 CFR Part 62 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 62—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 62 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401–7642

Subpart UU—Vermont

2. Subpart UU is amended by adding a new § 62.11475 and a new undesignated center heading to read as follows:

* * * * *

Air Emissions From Existing Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators

§ 62.11475 Identification of Plan—negative declaration.

On April 16, 1999, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources submitted a letter certifying that there are no existing hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators in the state subject to the emission guidelines under Part 60, Subpart B of this chapter.

[FR Doc. 99–29759 Filed 11–15–99; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 1

[FCC 99–321]

Extension of the Time for Consummation and Notification of Wireless Transfers and Assignments

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Commission's rules to extend the time by which parties must notify the Commission of consummation of an approved wireless license transfer or assignment from 60 to 180 days. The intended effect of this change is to facilitate the rapid deployment of wireless services to the public and enhance the ability of wireless industries to compete effectively in the marketplace.

DATES: Effective November 16, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Steinberg or David Judelson, Commercial Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, (202) 418–0620.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This *Order*, adopted October 28, 1999, and released November 2, 1999, amends § 1.948(d) of the Commission's rules. An OMB 83–C “Change/Correction Worksheet” has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget. The

Order is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington D.C. The complete text may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036 (202) 857–3800.

Synopsis of the Order

By this *Order*, we amend § 1.948(d) of the Commission's rules to extend the time by which parties must notify the Commission of consummation of an approved wireless license transfer or assignment from 60 to 180 days. The amendment is being made pursuant to the Commission's initiative to streamline its regulations in an effort to facilitate the rapid deployment of wireless services to the public and enhance the ability of wireless industries to compete effectively in the marketplace. Because this rule change involves a rule of agency procedure, general notice and an opportunity to comment are not required. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(A).

Currently, § 1.948(d) of the Commission's rules requires all wireless radio service licensees to consummate a transfer or assignment that requires prior Commission approval and notify the Commission of such consummation within 60 days of public notice of approval, unless a request for an extension of time to consummate is filed prior to the expiration of this 60-day period. 47 CFR 1.948(d). See Biennial Regulatory Review—Amendment of Part 0, 1, 13, 22, 24, 26, 27, 80, 87, 90, 95, 97, and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, WT Docket No. 98–20, 13 FCC Rcd 21027 (1998). 63 FR 68904 (December 14, 1998). It has been our experience, however, that many wireless licensees request Commission approval of these transactions well in advance and routinely require more than 60 days to consummate a transaction after Commission approval. As a result, parties are required to request extensions of the 60-day period, thereby forcing the Commission to allocate limited resources to process these requests.

We believe that this problem can be resolved by expanding the 60-day period for consummation and notification to 180 days. Under the rule that we adopt today, parties to an approved wireless license transfer or assignment will be required to consummate the transaction and notify the Commission of consummation

within 180 days of public notice of Commission approval. In addition, this notification must occur no later than 30 days after consummation. If parties fail to consummate and notify the Commission within 180 days, or fail to request an extension within the 180 day period, approval of the transfer or assignment will automatically be rescinded.

We conclude that the rule we adopt today will relieve substantial administrative burdens on licensees and the Commission staff by eliminating the need for parties to request extensions of time in all but the rarest circumstances. Because most extension requests are routinely granted, this general extension of the time to consummate transactions will not harm the public interest. Based on our experience, we believe 180 days will be enough time to permit most parties to complete their transactions, and that this time frame is short enough to reasonably ensure that the facts on which the Commission's approval is based will not have changed significantly before the transaction is consummated. At the same time, the requirement that notification occur no later than 30 days after consummation will ensure that ownership information in the Commission's databases remains up to date. We note that this 30-day period is the same amount of time given where transfers and assignments do not require prior Commission approval. We also note that this rule change does not modify our authority to impose additional consummation and notification requirements on specific transactions. For example, it has been our practice to require licensees participating in the Commission's installment payment plan to be current in their payments. Thus, prior to consummation, the transferor or assignor continues to be obligated to meet all payment deadlines. Furthermore, prospective transferees or assignees of licenses subject to installment payments may be required to provide signed loan documents to the Commission prior to consummation of the transaction.

Accordingly, *It is ordered* that, pursuant to section 4(i) of the Communications Act, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), and section 553(b)(3)(A) of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(A), § 1.948(d) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.948(d), is amended as described.

This Order is effective upon publication in the **Federal Register**. As a result, the new rule will apply to all transfers and assignments that are pending or have been approved, but not

consummated, at the time of, and after, **Federal Register** publication.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 1

Administrative practice and procedure.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, amend part 1 of title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 1—PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

1. The authority citation for part 1.948 continues to read:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 155, 225, 303(r), 309.

§ 1.948 [Amended]

2. Revise § 1.948(d) to read as follows:

* * * * *

(d) *Notification of consummation.* In all Wireless Radio Services, licensees are required to notify the Commission of consummation of an approved transfer or assignment using FCC Form 603. The assignee or transferee is responsible for providing this notification, including the date the transaction was consummated. For transfers and assignments that require prior Commission approval, the transaction must be consummated and notification provided to the Commission within 180 days of public notice of approval, and notification of consummation must occur no later than 30 days after actual consummation, unless a request for an extension of time to consummate is filed on FCC Form 603 prior to the expiration of this 180-day period. For transfers and assignments that do not require prior Commission approval, notification of consummation must be provided on FCC Form 603 no later than 30 days after consummation, along with any necessary updates of ownership information on FCC Form 602.

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[FR Doc. 99-29783 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket No. 96-45; FCC 99-256]

Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document concerning the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service reconsider the Commission's conclusion in the Universal Service Order that only eligible telecommunications carriers may be credited by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for serving eligible rural health care providers pursuant to section 254(h)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934, amended. It concludes that all telecommunications carriers that provide supported services to eligible rural health care providers at a discount, pursuant to section 254(h)(1)(A), are entitled to have the total amount of the discount treated as a contribution to the preservation and advancement of universal service.

DATES: Effective November 16, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda P. Armstrong, Assistant Division Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, Accounting Policy Division, (202) 418-7400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Fourteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45 released on November 3, 1999. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20554.

I. Introduction

1. In this Order, we reconsider the Commission's conclusion in the *Universal Service Order*, 62 FR 32862 (June 17, 1997), that only eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) may be credited by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for serving eligible rural health care providers pursuant to section 254(h)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (Act), as amended. We find that the Commission's initial interpretation of section 254(h)(1)(A) was too narrow, and that the record compels us to reconsider our earlier interpretation. We conclude that all telecommunications carriers that provide supported services to eligible rural health care providers at a discount, pursuant to section 254(h)(1)(A), are entitled to have the total amount of the discount treated as a contribution to the preservation and advancement of universal service. Accordingly, we direct USAC to apply, as a credit against a carrier's universal service contribution obligation, the amount equal to the difference between the lower, urban rate that a carrier charges eligible health care providers for supported telecommunications services