

and 76.923, may be heard in state or local courts.

(b) Any participant at the franchising authority level in a ratemaking proceeding may file an appeal of the franchising authority's decision with the Commission within 30 days of release of the text of the franchising authority's decision as computed under § 1.4(b) of this chapter. Appeals shall be served on the franchising authority or other authority that issued the rate decision. Where the state is the appropriate decisionmaking authority, the state shall forward a copy of the appeal to the appropriate local official(s). Oppositions may be filed within 15 days after the appeals is filed, and must be served on the party(ies) appealing the rate decision. Replies may be filed 7 days after the last day for oppositions and shall be served on the parties to the proceeding.

(c) An operator that uses the annual rate adjustment method under Section 76.922(e) may include in its next true up under Section 76.922(e)(3) any amounts to which the operator would have been entitled but for a franchising authority decision that is not upheld on appeal.

[58 FR 29753, May 21, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 17974, Apr. 15, 1994; 60 FR 52121, Oct. 5, 1995]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 60 FR 52121, Oct. 5, 1995, in § 76.944, paragraph (c) was added. This paragraph contains information collection and recordkeeping requirements and will not become effective until 30 days after approval has been given by the Office of Management and Budget.

§ 76.945 Procedures for Commission review of basic service rates.

(a) Upon assumption of rate regulation authority, the Commission will notify the cable operator and require the cable operator to file its basic rate schedule with the Commission within 30 days, with a copy to the local franchising authority.

(b) Basic service and equipment rate schedule filings for existing rates or proposed rate increases (including increases in the baseline channel change that results from reductions in the number of channels in a tier) must use the official FCC form, a copy thereof, or a copy generated by FCC software. Failure to file on the official FCC form

or a copy may result in the imposition of sanctions specified in § 76.937(d). Cable operators seeking to justify the reasonableness of existing or proposed rates above the permitted tier rate must submit a cost-of-service showing sufficient to support a finding that the rates are reasonable.

(c) Filings proposing annual adjustments or rates within the rates regulation standards in §§ 76.922 and 76.923, must be made 30 days prior to the proposed effective date and can become effective on the proposed effective date unless the Commission issues an order deferring the effective date or denying the rate proposal. Petitions opposing such filings must be filed within 15 days of public notice of the filing by the cable operator and be accompanied by a certificate that service was made on the cable operator and the local franchising authority. The cable operator may file an opposition within five days of filing of the petition, certifying to service on both the petitioner and the local franchising authority.

(d) Filings proposing a rate not within the rate regulation standards of §§ 76.922 and 76.923, must be made 90 days before the requested effective date. Petitions opposing such filings must be filed within 30 days of public notice of the filing, and be accompanied by a certificate that service was made on the cable operator and the local franchising authority. The cable operator may file an opposition within 10 days of the filing of the petition, and certifying that service was made on the petitioner and the local franchising authority.

[58 FR 29753, May 21, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 17974, Apr. 15, 1994]

§ 76.946 Advertising of rates.

Cable operators that advertise rates for basic service and cable programming service tiers shall be required to advertise rates that include all costs and fees. Cable systems that cover multiple franchise areas having differing franchise fees or other franchise costs, different channel line-ups, or different rate structures may advertise a complete range of fees without specific identification of the rate for each individual area. In such circumstances, the operator may advertise a "fee plus"

Federal Communications Commission

§ 76.953

rate that indicates the core rate plus the range of possible additions, depending on the particular location of the subscriber.

[59 FR 17974, Apr. 15, 1994]

§ 76.950 Complaints regarding cable programming service rates.

(a) A franchising authority may file with the Commission a complaint challenging the reasonableness of its cable operator's rate for cable programming service, or the reasonableness of the cable operator's charges for installation or rental of equipment used for the receipt of cable programming service. The franchise authority may file a complaint with the Commission only upon receipt of more than one subscriber complaint made to the franchise authority within 90 days after the effective date of the challenged rate increase.

(b) This section shall not apply to cable programming services provided after March 31, 1999.

[61 FR 18979, Apr. 30, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 35950, July 2, 1999]

§ 76.951 Standard complaint form; other filing requirements.

(a) Any complaint regarding a cable operator's rate for cable programming service or associated equipment must be filed using standard complaint form, FCC 329.

(b) The following information must be provided on the standard complaint form:

(1) The name, mailing address and phone number of the franchising authority that is filing the complaint;

(2) The name, mailing address, and FCC community unit identifier of the relevant cable operator;

(3) A description of the cable programming service or associated equipment involved and, if applicable, how the service or associated equipment has changed;

(4) The current rate for the cable programming service or associated equipment at issue and, if the complainant is challenging the reasonableness of a rate increase, the most recent rate for the service or associated equipment immediately prior to the rate increase;

(5) If the complainant is filing a corrected complaint, an indication of the date the complainant filed the prior complaint and the date the complainant received notification from the Commission that the prior complaint was defective;

(6) A certification that a copy of the complaint, including all attachments, is being served contemporaneously via certified mail on the cable operator;

(7) An indication that the complainant franchising authority received more than one subscriber complaint within 90 days of the operator's imposition of the rate in question; and

(8) A certification that, to the best of the complainant's knowledge, the information provided on the form is true and correct.

[61 FR 18979, Apr. 30, 1996]

§ 76.952 Information to be provided by cable operator on monthly subscriber bills.

All cable operators must provide the following information to subscribers on monthly bills:

(a) The name, mailing address and phone number of the franchising authority, unless the franchising authority in writing requests the cable operator to omit such information.

(b) The FCC community unit identifier for the cable system.

[58 FR 29753, May 21, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 17960, Apr. 15, 1994; 64 FR 35950, July 2, 1999]

§ 76.953 Limitation on filing a complaint.

(a) *Complaint regarding a rate change.* A complaint alleging an unreasonable rate for cable programming service or associated equipment may be filed against a cable operator only in the event of a rate change, including an increase or decrease in rates, or a change in rates that results from a change in a system's service tiers. A rate change may involve an implicit rate increase (such as deleting channels from a tier without a corresponding lowering of the rate for that tier). A complaint regarding a rate change for cable programming service or associated equipment may be filed against a cable operator only in the event of a rate change.