

#### §0.445

#### 47 CFR Ch. I (10–1–09 Edition)

agencies be given in advance of submission of the information to the Commission if submission is required by statute or by the provisions of this chapter; but the notice provisions of paragraph (d) of this section will apply to such required submissions.

(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (d)(2) and (d)(3) of this section, a party who furnished records to the Commission with a request for confidential treatment, see §0.459, will be notified at the time that the request for disclosure is submitted and will be afforded ten calendar days in which to submit an opposition to disclosure. This notification may be made either individually or by public notice.

(2) If the agency requesting the records provides in writing to the satisfaction of the Commission that notice to the party who furnished the records to the Commission will interfere unduly with its law enforcement, national security or homeland defense activities and further states that it will notify that party of the Commission's disclosure once the potential for such interference is eliminated, the Commission will not give notice of disclosure.

(3) A party who furnished records to the Commission in confidence will not be afforded prior notice when the disclosure is made to the Comptroller General of the United States, in the Government Accountability Office. Such a party will instead be notified of disclosure of the records to the Comptroller General either individually or by public notice.

(4) If disclosure is opposed and the Commission decides to make the records available to the other agency, the party who furnished the records to the Commission will be afforded ten calendar days from the date of the ruling to move for a judicial stay of the Commission's action. If the party does not move for stay within this period, the records will be disclosed.

(e) Except as provided in paragraph (d)(3) of this section, nothing in this section is intended to govern disclosure of information to Congress or the Comptroller General.

#### **§0.445 Publication, availability and use of opinions, orders, policy statements, interpretations, administrative manuals, and staff instructions.**

(a) Adjudicatory opinions and orders of the Commission, or its staff acting on delegated authority, are sent to the parties by mail, delivery service, or e-mail, unless the Commission determines that individual delivery would be unduly burdensome and instead issues a public notice of its decision. As part of the record, these documents are generally available for inspection in accordance with §0.453 and §0.455. In addition, many adjudicatory orders and opinions are available on the Commission's Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov>. In appropriate circumstances, the Commission may redact the copy made available to the public in order to protect information not routinely available to the public under §0.457, which is treated confidentially pursuant to a request under §0.459, or which is confidential pursuant to other statutes, regulations or orders.

(b) Texts adopted by the Commission or a member of its staff on delegated authority and released through the Office of Media Relations are published in the FCC Record. Older materials of this nature are available in the FCC Reports. In the event that such older materials are not published in the FCC Reports, reference should be made to the FEDERAL REGISTER or Pike and Fischer Communications Regulation.

(c) All rulemaking documents or summaries thereof are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and are available on the Commission's Web site. The complete text of the Commission decision also is released by the Commission and is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the Office of Media Relations, the Reference Information Center, via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), or as otherwise specified in the rulemaking document published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The complete texts of rulemaking decisions may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor.

(d) Formal policy statements and interpretations designed to have general applicability are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the FCC Record, FCC

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Reports, or Pike and Fischer Communications Regulation. Commission decisions and other Commission documents not entitled formal policy statements or interpretations may contain substantive interpretations and statements regarding policy, and these are published as part of the document in the FCC Record, FCC Reports or Pike and Fischer Communications Regulation. General statements regarding policy and interpretations furnished to individuals, in correspondence or otherwise, are not ordinarily published.

(e) If the documents described in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the FCC Record, FCC Reports, or Pike and Fischer Communications Regulation, they are indexed, and they may be relied upon, used or cited as precedent by the Commission or private parties in any manner. If they are not so published, they may not be relied upon, used or cited as precedent, except against persons who have actual notice of the document in question or by such persons against the Commission. No person is expected to comply with any requirement or policy of the Commission unless he or she has actual notice of that requirement or policy or a document stating it has been published as provided in this paragraph. Nothing in this paragraph, however, shall be construed as precluding a reference to a recent document that is pending publication.

(f) Subparts A and B of this part describe the functions of the staff and list the matters on which authority has been delegated to the staff. All general instructions to the staff and limitations upon its authority are set forth in those subparts or in decisions of the Commission published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Instructions to the staff in particular matters or cases are privileged and/or protected and are not published or made available for public inspection.

(g) To the extent required to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, or to prevent disclosure of information required or authorized to be withheld by another statute, the Commission may delete identifying details or confidential information when it makes available or publishes any

document described in this section. The justification for any such deletion will be fully explained in a preamble to the document.

### **§0.451 Inspection of records: Generally.**

(a) *Records which are routinely available for public inspection.* Sections 0.453 and 0.455 list those Commission records which are routinely available for public inspection and the places at which those records may be inspected. Procedures governing requests for inspection of such records are set out in §0.460.

(b) *Records which are not routinely available for public inspection.* Records which are not listed in §0.453 or §0.455 are not routinely available for public inspection. Such records fall into two categories.

(1) The first category consists of those records or kinds of records listed in §0.457 and of particular records withheld from public inspection under §0.459. The Commission has determined that there is a statutory basis for withholding these records from public inspection. In some cases, the Commission is prohibited from permitting the inspection of records. In other cases, the records are the property of another agency, and the Commission has no authority to permit their inspection. In still other cases, the Commission is authorized, for reason of policy, to withhold records from inspection, but is not required to do so.

(2) The second category consists of records that are not listed in §0.453, §0.455, or §0.457 and have not been withheld from inspection under §0.459. In some cases, these records have not been identified for listing. In other cases (*e.g.*, the general correspondence files), the Commission is unable to determine either that all records in a class should be routinely available for inspection or that all records in that class should not be routinely available for inspection, and individualized determination is required.

(3) Procedures governing requests for inspection of these records are set forth in §0.461.

(4) Procedures governing demands by competent authority for inspection of these records are set forth in §0.463.