

SAFEGUARDS:

All records are maintained in secured areas with restricted access or are accessed by unique passwords or log-in procedures. Only EPA personnel and agency contractors with a need-to-know in order to perform their duties may access the information.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

File is cumulative and is maintained indefinitely.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Director, Peer Review Division,
National Center for Environmental
Research and Quality Assurance Mail
(Code 8703), USEPA, 401 M St., SW,
Washington, DC 20460.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Contact the system manager at the above address. You may be required to provide information to verify your identity.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:

Same as "Notification Procedure," above. In addition, please specify the record you wish to access.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Same as "Notification Procedure," above. In addition, please specify the record you wish corrected, the requested correction, and justification for the correction.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information is obtained from the individual reviewers and EPA and other Federal agency personnel.

SYSTEMS EXEMPTED FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACT:

None.

[FR Doc. 97-24413 Filed 9-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50P

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

[CC Docket 96-45; DA 97-1957]

**Common Carrier Bureau Seeks
Comment on Universal Service
Support Distribution Options for
Schools, Libraries, and Rural Health
Care Providers**

Released: September 10, 1997.

Potential for Exhaustion of Funds

On May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) released a Report and Order on Universal Service CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-157 62 FR 32862

(June 17, 1997) (*Order*).¹ In the *Order*, the Commission determined that funds for eligible schools, libraries, and rural health care providers will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis beginning January 1, 1998. The Commission also established a \$2.25 billion annual cap on universal service support for schools and libraries and a \$400 million annual cap for rural health care providers. Eligible schools and libraries will be required to participate in a competitive bidding process to select their service providers and will be permitted to submit funding requests once they have made agreements for specific eligible services. The Administrator will commit funds based on those agreements on a first-come first-served basis until only \$250 million in funds remains available. Thereafter, a system of priorities will govern the distribution of the remaining \$250 million to provide an opportunity for only the most economically disadvantaged schools and libraries to receive support. In light of the need to implement the necessary administrative processes, funding for the period beginning January 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 1998 will be limited to \$1 billion for schools and libraries. Similarly, disbursement to rural health care providers will be limited to \$100 million in the first quarter of 1998.

In response to concerns expressed about distributing support to schools, libraries, and rural health care providers on a first-come, first-serve basis, we seek comment on the following issues:

(1) Whether a "window" period should be established in which all beneficiaries filing within that period would be given equal priority. We seek comment on the length of the period in which any such window should remain open and as to whether there should be a "rolling" or ongoing series of windows, e.g., a series of two-week windows during which all beneficiaries filing within that two-week period would be given equal priority.

(2) Whether to clarify that the rules of priority for distributing funds to schools and libraries set forth in § 54.507 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 54.507, apply to the \$1 billion available between January 1, 1998 through June 30, 1998. That is, if expenditures between January 1, 1998 and June 30, 1998 reach the level where only \$250 million remains before the \$1 billion cap is reached, the remaining funds will

be distributed in accordance with the rules of priority.²

(3) We also seek comment on whether a mechanism to prioritize requests from rural health care providers should be adopted in the event that requests exceed available funds. For example, should a mechanism be established to ensure that funds are distributed to rural health care providers located in all regions of the country? We seek comment on whether such a mechanism should be permanent or should apply only in the first quarter of 1998, when collection for rural health care is limited to \$100 million.

(4) We also seek comment on whether other methods might ensure a broad and fair distribution of funds, particularly at the earliest stages of these support programs.

Allocation of Aggregated Requests for Funds

In the *Order*, the Commission held that schools and libraries may apply for funds on an individual basis, by school district, by state, or by consortium. In the event that a school district or a state applies for support on behalf of its schools, the school district or state may compute the discounts on an individual school basis or may compute an average discount. The state or school district shall strive to ensure that each school receives the full benefit of the discount to which it is entitled. On July 31, 1997, the "E-Rate Implementation Working Group," comprised of the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Rural Utilities Service, and Education and Library Network Coalition, filed a report with the Commission in CC Docket 96-45 in response to the Commission's request for recommendations on certain issues regarding universal service support for schools and libraries.³ The Working Group Report proposes a method for allocating support to individual institutions that apply for funds on an aggregated (e.g., statewide or districtwide) basis. We seek comment on that proposal. Copies of the report

² Although the text of the *Order* discusses the trigger mechanism only with respect to the full \$2.25 billion cap per funding year, we note that § 54.507(g) of the Commission's rules states that the trigger mechanism applies when only \$250 million remains in any funding year, which includes the period from January 1, 1998 through June 30, 1998.

³ U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Rural Utilities Service, Education and Library Networks, *Report by the E-Rate Implementation Working Group* (July 31, 1997) (Working Group Report).

¹ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, *Report and Order*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-157 (released May 8, 1997) 62 FR 32862 (June 17, 1997).

are available for review and copying at the FCC Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554 or on the Internet at www.ed.gov/Technology.

Procedure for Filing

Comments should be filed in CC Docket No. 96-45 on or before September 25, 1997, and should include the DA number shown on this Public Notice. Pursuant to § 1.3 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.3, we find good cause to waive § 1.415 (c) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, providing for replies to original comments. Dispensing with reply comments is crucial due to the urgent need to provide definitive guidance to the schools, libraries, and rural health care providers that are applying for services supported by the universal service support mechanisms currently scheduled to begin by January 1, 1998. Interested parties must file an original and four copies of their comments with the Office of Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Parties should send eight copies of their comments to Sheryl Todd, Universal Service Branch, Accounts and Audits Division, Federal Communications Commission, 2100 M St. N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20554. Parties should send one copy of their comments to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Pursuant to § 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 CFR 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

For further information, please contact: Richard D. Smith or Lori Wright, Common Carrier Bureau, (202) 418-7400.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-24554 Filed 9-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Public Information Collection Approved by Office of Management and Budget

September 10, 1997.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the following public

information collection pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 96-511. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Questions concerning the OMB control numbers and expiration dates should be directed to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, (202) 418-0214.

Federal Communications Commission

OMB Control No.: 3060-0319.

Expiration Date: 9/30/2000.

Title: Application for Assignment of Authorization or Consent to Transfer of Control of a Licensee.

Form No.: 490.

Estimated Annual Burden: 32,063 annual hour; average .5-3 hours per respondent; 28,500 respondents.

Description: FCC Form 490 is filed to solicit Commission approval to assign a radio station authorization to another party or to transfer control of a licensee. The requested information is used by the Commission in carrying out its duties set forth in section 308, 298 and 310 of the Communications Act. This collection is being revised to account for the changes proposed in the Fifth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Use of the 220-222 MHz Band by the Private Land Mobile Radio Service, the Commission concluded that any holder of a Phase II EA, Regional or nationwide 220 MHz license will be permitted to partition portions of its authorization. In this collection the Commission also received generic approval from OMB to use this form in future disaggregation and partitioning for a variety of spectrum based services licensed by the Commission. Specific Rules will be adopted in Reports and Orders or by Public Notice for each service subject to disaggregation and partitioning.

OMB Control No.: 3060-0105.

Expiration Date: 9/30/2000.

Title: Licensee Qualification Report.

Form No.: FCC 430.

Estimated Annual Burden: 21,511 annual hours; .5-2 hours per respondent; 24,583 respondents.

Description: FCC Form 430 enables the Commission to determine whether applicants are legally qualified to become or remain common carrier telecommunications licensees. Without this information, the Commission would be unable to fulfill its responsibilities under the Communications Act to make a finding as to the legal qualifications of

an applicant or licensee. To reduce paperwork applicants may submit letters in lieu of completing the FCC 430 in those cases where there is no change to the required information. This collection is being revised to account for the changes proposed in the Fifth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Use of the 220-222 MHz Band by the Private Land Mobile Radio Service, the Commission concluded that any holder of a Phase II EA, Regional or nationwide 220 MHz license will be permitted to partition portions of its authorization. In the Fifth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Redesignation of 27.5 GHz Frequency Band, Establishing Rules and Policies for LMDS the Commission proposed that this form be used to complete the disaggregation and partitioning of LMDS. In this collection the Commission received generic approval from OMB to use this form in future disaggregation and partitioning for a variety of spectrum based services licensed by the Commission. Specific rules will be adopted in reports and orders or by public notice for each service subject to disaggregation and partitioning.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-24353 Filed 9-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CS Docket No. 97-55; FCC 97-321]

Commission Seeks Comment on Revised Industry Proposal for Rating Video Programming

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission has adopted a public notice requesting comment on the revised industry proposal for the establishment of a voluntary video programming rating system. The revised industry proposal changes some of the descriptors associated with the age-based categories of programming, and in certain categories, adds symbols that indicate the type of material included in a particular program. In addition, the revised proposal states that the icons and associated content symbols will appear for 15 seconds at the beginning of all rated programming and that the size of the icons will be increased. According to the revised proposal, five representatives of the advocacy community will also be added to the