

69. On page 15983, insert a new 16th line from the bottom of column three to read "SSN: Social Security Number".

70. On page 15983, in line 12 from the bottom of column three, remove the word "System" and replace it with "Services/System".

Dated: June 23, 1998.

Peggy Wood,

*Deputy Director, Travel and Transportation,
Management Policy Division.*

[FR Doc. 98-17107 Filed 6-29-98; 8:45am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 61

[DA 98-914]

Electronic Tariff Filing System

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission adopted a Report and Order which requires that incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs) use the Common Carrier Bureau's (Bureau) Electronic Tariff Filing System (ETFS) to officially file tariffs and associated documents. The Order amends the Commission's tariff filing rules to accommodate mandatory electronic filing. This Order applies the mandatory electronic filing requirement to incumbent LECs only. However, ETFS also enables interested parties to access and download these documents over the Internet, and to file petitions to reject, or suspend and investigate tariff filings electronically.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Todd R. Mitchell or Geneva S. Butler, Competitive Pricing Division, Common Carrier Bureau, (202) 418-1520.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Order adopted on May 28, 1998, and released on May 28, 1998. The full text of the Order is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the Commission's Public Reference Room, Room 239, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may be purchased from the Commission's duplication contractor, International Transcription Services Inc. (ITS), (202) 857 3800, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

1. The amended rules also provide that the official filing date is the date on which the document is received by ETFS. The date of receipt shall be determined by the time of the end of the

electronic transmission with 5:30 pm Eastern Time as the cut-off time for filings. Thus, if the transmission of a filing ends after 5:30 pm Eastern Time on a business day, the official filing date will be the next business day. If the time of termination of the filing is on a day that is not a business day, such as, a weekend or holiday, the official filing date will be the next business day. ETFS automatically establishes the date of filing in accordance with these requirements. Parties filing electronically must request and receive a receipt at the end of each filing session in order to complete the transmission. The receipt, which will be received at the filer's computer, will provide details of the filing session, including the official receipt date and time, and will serve as the filing party's official documentation that the filing was received by the Commission. The Commission requires that all incumbent LECs file all of their tariff base documents electronically within the first five business days of July, 1998. Nonmajor rules, such as implementation of electronic tariff filing, and rules implementing the Telecommunications Act of 1996 can go into effect as determined by the agency as long as Contract With America Advancement Act (CWAAA) and required abstracts have been filed with Congress. ETFS has met these requirements, therefore the waiting period for **Federal Register** printing is not required.

2. Access to ETFS is via the Common Carrier Bureau's web page: <<http://www.fcc.gov/ccb>>, for the incumbent LECs and other interested parties. Access to the web page is through an Internet Service Provider (ISP) with software that includes a browser program, preferably Netscape 3.0 or later versions. To view documents in ETFS effectively, a user must have Adobe Acrobat plug-in for browser software. An ETFS user's manual is available for viewing or downloading, as well as, in paper form from the Commission's commercial copy contractor, ITS. A computer terminal is available in the Commission's Public Reference Room, Room 239, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC, for accessing ETFS. The Commission has established an e-mail address (etfs@fcc.gov) and an information line (202) 418-7700, for questions and comments. Bureau, 202-418-1520.

Paperwork Reduction Act:

The Federal Communications Commission received Office of Management and Budget approval for the following public information collection pursuant to the Paperwork

Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number.

OMB Control No.: 3060-0745.

Expiration Date: 12/31/2000.

Title: Implementation of the Local Exchange Carrier Tariff Streamlining Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996—CC Docket No. 96-187.

Form No.: N/A.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1400 respondents; .33 hours per response (avg.); 462 total annual burden hours (estimates for electronic filing only).

Estimated Annual Reporting and Record Keeping Cost Burden: \$170,000.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Description: In the Tariff Streamlining Report and Order, the Commission adopted regulations implementing the tariff streamlining provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Commission determined, *inter alia*, that it would establish a program of mandatory electronic filing of tariffs and associated documents by incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs). The Commission delegated authority to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau), to establish this program. This Order amends rules to accommodate the Commission's Electronic Tariff Filing System (ETFS). Incumbent LECs must use the Bureau's ETFS to officially file tariffs and associated documents beginning July 1, 1998. Other parties may also file documents using ETFS, such as petitions to reject, or suspend and investigate tariff filings beginning July 1, 1998. Obligation to respond: Mandatory.

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is as noted above. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Ordering Clause

Accordingly, *It Is Ordered*, pursuant to sections 1, 4(i), 10, 201-205, of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 160, 201-205, and the authority delegated pursuant to sections 0.91 and 0.291 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 0.91, 0.291, and paragraph 48 of the Tariff Streamlining Order, 12 FCC Rcd 2170, page 2195 (1997), part 61 of the Commission's rules is amended as set forth in the rule changes.

It Is Further Ordered that these rules shall become effective July 1, 1998.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 61

Tariffs.

Federal Communications Commission.

Patrick J. Donovan,

*Deputy Chief, Competitive Pricing Division,
Common Carrier Bureau.*

Rule Changes

For the reasons discussed in the preamble part 61 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as follows:

1. The authority citation for part 61 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Section 1, 4(i), 4(j), 201–205, and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 201–205, and 403, unless otherwise noted.

2. Add new §§ 61.13 through 61.17 and a new undesignated center heading after the heading “GENERAL RULES” to read as follows:

Rules for Electronic Filing

Sec. 61.13 Scope.

Sec. 61.14 Method of filing publications.

Sec. 61.15 Letters of transmittal and cover letters.

Sec. 61.16 Base documents.

Sec. 61.17 Method of filing applications for special permission.

Rules for Electronic Filing

§ 61.13 Scope.

(a) This applies to all tariff publications of carriers required to file tariff publications electronically, and any tariff publication that a carrier chooses to file electronically.

(b) All incumbent local exchange carriers are required to file tariff publications electronically.

(c) All tariff publications shall be filed in a manner that is compatible and consistent with the technical requirements of the Electronic Tariff Filing System.

§ 61.14 Method of filing publications.

(a) Publications filed electronically must be addressed to “Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554.” The Electronic Tariff Filing System will accept filings 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The official filing date of a publication received by the Electronic Tariff Filing System will be determined by the date and time the transmission ends. If the transmission ends after the close of a business day, as that term is defined in § 1.4(e)(2) of this Chapter, the filing will be date and time stamped as of the opening of the next business day.

(b) In addition, except for issuing carriers filing tariffing fees

electronically, for all tariff publications requiring fees as set forth in part 1, subpart G of this chapter, issuing carriers must submit the original of the transmittal letter, (without attachments), FCC Form 159, and the appropriate fee to the Mellon Bank, Pittsburgh, PA, at the address set forth in § 1.1105 of this chapter. Issuing carriers submitting tariff fees electronically should submit a copy of the Form 159 and the original transmittal letter to the Secretary of the Commission in lieu of the Mellon Bank. The Form 159 should display the Electronic Audit Code in the box in the upper left hand corner marked “reserved”. Issuing carriers should submit these fee materials on the same day as the transmission in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Carriers that are required to file publications electronically may not file those publications on paper or other media unless specifically required to do so by the Commission.

(d) Carriers that are required to file publications electronically need only transmit one set of files to the Commission. No other copies to any other party are required.

(e) Carriers that are required to file publications electronically must continue to comply with the format requirements set forth in part 61.

§ 61.15 Letters of transmittal and cover letters.

(a) All tariff publications filed with the Commission electronically must be accompanied by a letter of transmittal. All letters of transmittal must:

(1) Concisely explain the nature and purpose of the filing;

(2) Specify whether supporting information is required for the new tariff or tariff revision, and specify the Commission rule or rules governing the supporting information requirements for that filing;

(3) Contain a statement indicating the date and method of filing of the original of the transmittal as required by § 61.14(b).

(b) Carriers filing tariffs electronically pursuant to the notice requirements of section 204(a)(3) of the Communications Act shall display prominently, in the upper right hand corner of the letter of transmittal, a statement that the filing is made pursuant to that section and whether the tariff is filed on 7 or 15 days notice.

(c) Any carrier filing a new or revised tariff made on 15 days’ notice or less shall include in the letter of transmittal the name, room number, street address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the individual designated by the filing carrier to receive personal or

facsimile service of petitions against the filing as required under § 1.773(a)(4) of this chapter.

(d) The letter of transmittal must specifically reference by number any special permission necessary to implement the tariff publication. Special permission must be granted prior to the filing of the tariff publication and may not be requested in the transmittal letter.

(e) The letter of transmittal must be substantially in the format established in §§ 61.33(g) and 61.33(h)(1).

(f) All submissions of documents other than a new tariff or revisions to an existing tariff, such as Base Documents or Tariff Review Plans, must be accompanied by a cover letter that concisely explains the nature and purpose of the filing. Publications submitted under this paragraph are not required to submit a tariffing fee.

§ 61.16 Base documents.

(a) The Base Document is a complete tariff which incorporates all effective revisions, as of the last day of the preceding month. The Base Document should be submitted with a cover letter as specified in § 61.15(f) of this part and identified as the *Monthly Updated Base Document*.

(b) Initially, carriers that currently have tariffs on file with the commission must file a Base Document within five days of the initiation of mandatory electronic filing.

(c) Subsequently, if there have been revisions that became effective up to and including the last day of the preceding month, a new Base Document must be submitted within the first five business days of the current month that will incorporate those revisions.

§ 61.17 Method of filing applications for special permission.

(a) An application for special permission filed electronically must be addressed to “Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554.” The Electronic Tariff Filing System will accept filings 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The official filing date of a publication received by the Electronic Tariff Filing System will be determined by the date and time the transmission ends. If the transmission ends after the close of a business day, as that term is defined in § 1.4(e)(2) of this chapter, the filing will be date and time stamped as of the opening of the next business day.

(b) In addition, except for issuing carriers filing tariffing fees electronically, for special permission applications requiring fees as set forth in part 1, subpart G of this chapter,

issuing carriers must submit the original of the application letter (without attachments), FCC Form 159, and the appropriate fee to the Mellon Bank, Pittsburgh, PA, at the address set forth in § 1.1105 of this chapter. Issuing carriers submitting tariffing fees electronically should submit a copy of the Form 159 and the original application letter to the Secretary of the Commission in lieu of the Mellon Bank. The Form 159 should display the Electronic Audit Code in the box in the upper left hand corner marked "reserved". Issuing carriers should submit these fee materials on the same day as the transmission in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) In addition, the requirements of § 61.153(c) are applicable, except the additional copy addressed to the Chief, Tariff and Pricing Analysis Branch is not required.

3. Section 61.52 is amended by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 61.52 Form, size, type, legibility, etc.

* * * * *

(c) Incumbent local exchange carriers shall file all tariff publications and associated documents, such as transmittal letters, requests for special permission, and supporting information, electronically in accordance with the requirements set forth in § 61.13 through § 61.17.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 300

[Docket No. 980225048-8059-02; I.D. 062398A]

Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Washington Sport Fishery

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Inseason action.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces changes to the regulations for the Area 2A sport fishery off the south coast of Washington. A subsection of the south coast of Washington area, from the Queets River south to 47°00'00" N. lat., and east of 124°40'00" W. long. will be open 7 days per week, beginning June 26, 1998, until 36,648 lb (16.6 mt) are estimated to have been taken, after which time all sport fishing for halibut

in the south coast of Washington area between the Queets River and Leadbetter Point will be closed. The purpose of this action is to allow halibut taken as bycatch in shallow-depth sport fishing trips to be retained, rather than discarded.

DATES: Effective June 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to William Stelle, Jr., Regional Administrator, Northwest Region, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way, Seattle, WA 98115. Information relevant to this action is available for public review during business hours at this address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yvonne deReynier, 206-526-6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific halibut off Washington, Oregon, and California is implemented in the annual management measures for the Pacific halibut fisheries published on March 17, 1998 (63 FR 13000). In accordance with those regulations, the sport fishery in the area from Queets River, Washington, to Leadbetter Point, Washington opened on May 1 and has continued for 5 days per week (Sunday through Thursday) since that opening. The 1998 subarea quota for this fishery is 36,648 lb (16.1 mt). This all-depth sport fishery in this area is scheduled to close when 1,000 lb (0.45 mt) are projected to remain in the subarea quota. Immediately following that closure, the season would reopen in the shallow-depth area from the Queets River (47°31'42" N. lat.) south to 47°00'00" N. lat. and east of 124°40'00" W. long., and continue every day until the full 36,648 lb (16.1 mt) subarea quota is estimated to have been taken.

The best available data on June 16, 1998, indicates that as of June 14, 1998, 31,327 lb (14.2 mt) of halibut have been taken in the area from the Queets River south to Leadbetter Point, Washington. Catch rate attainment for this subarea is significantly slower than it has been in past years, lengthening the directed sport season over past season durations. While a longer than usual halibut season has been beneficial to area sport fishery operations, the lengthened 5 day per week fishery has had an unanticipated impact on sport fishing trips directed at species other than halibut. Because the halibut fishery is restricted to 5 days per week, halibut must be discarded when caught incidentally on fishing trips directed at other species on days when halibut may not be landed (Friday and Saturday). A small number of halibut are taken from the shallow depth area, where a significant rockfish sport fishery occurs. Allowing halibut landings for 7 days per week from this area will eliminate

unnecessary discard of incidentally-caught halibut. Any halibut landed from the shallow-depth fishery on a Friday or a Saturday will count against the all-depth fishing quota of 35,648 lb (16.1 mt). NMFS has determined, in consultation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), that the directed halibut fishery for this area has been proceeding at a sufficiently slow rate to justify allowing Friday and Saturday halibut landings from the shallow depth fishing trips that are generally directed at species other than halibut, but which may catch halibut incidentally.

Section 24 of the 1998 Pacific halibut regulations provides NMFS with the flexibility to make certain inseason management changes including, among other things, modification of sport fishing periods, and modification of sport fishery days per calendar week. In consultation with WDFW, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), NMFS has determined that the remaining quota for this area is sufficient to open the shallow depth fishery for 7 days per week, beginning June 26, 1998. The all-depth fishery will continue as originally specified in the annual management measures, until 35,648 lb (16.6 mt) are estimated to have been taken from the south coast of Washington area. Once 35,648 lb (16.1 mt) are estimated to have been taken, the shallow depth subarea within the south coast of Washington area (from the Queets River south to 47°00'00" N. lat. and east of 124°40'00" W. long.) will remain open every day until 36,648 lb (16.6 mt) are estimated to have been taken, or until September 30, whichever occurs first.

NMFS Action

For the reasons stated above, NMFS announces the following change to the 1998 annual management measures (63 FR 13000, March 17, 1998, as amended). For the Washington south coast subarea, section 23(4)(C)(iii)(A) is amended as follows:

(iii) In the area between the Queets River, WA and Leadbetter Point, WA (46°38'10" N. lat.), the quota for landings into ports in this area is 36,648 lb (16.6 mt).

(A) The fishing season that began on May 3 continues 5 days a week (Sunday through Thursday) until 35,648 lb (16.1) are estimated to have been taken and the season is closed by the Commission. Within the area described in this section, above, the area from the Queets River south to 47°00'00" N. lat. and east of 124°40'00" W. long. is open 7 days per week, and continues every day until