

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Les Smith at 202-418-0217 or via internet at lesmith@fcc.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Approval Number:* 3060-0433.  
*Title:* Basic Signal Leakage

Performance Report.

*Form Number:* FCC Form 320.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Business and other for-profit entities.

*Number of Respondents:* 33,000.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 20 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Annually.

*Total Annual Burden:* 660,000 hours.

*Estimated Cost to Respondents:* \$3,750.

*Needs and Uses:* Cable television system operators who use frequencies in the bands 108-137 and 225-400 MHz (aeronautical frequencies) are required to file a cumulative signal leakage index (CLI) derived under Section 76.611(a)(1) or the results of airspace measurements derived under Section 76.611(a)(2). This filing must include a description of the method by which compliance with basic signal leakage criteria is achieved and the method of calibrating the measurement equipment. This yearly filing is done in accordance with Section 76.615 with the use of FCC Form 320. The data collected on the FCC Form 320 are used by Commission staff to ensure the safe operation of aeronautical and marine radio services, and to monitor for compliance of cable aeronautical usage in order to minimize future interference to these safety of life services.

*OMB Approval Number:* 3060-0289.

*Title:* Section 76.601 Performance tests.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Business and other for-profit entities.

*Number of Respondents:* 10,838.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 0.5-70 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Performance tests conducted semi-annually; other aspects of this collection conducted on occasion.

*Total Annual Burden:* 328,379 hours.

*Estimated Cost to Respondents:* \$2,759.50.

*Needs and Uses:* Section 76.601 requires every cable system operator to maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that system delivers to its subscribers. Section 76.601(c) and (d) requires cable systems with over 1,000 subscribers to conduct semi-annual proof of performance tests and triennial proof of performance tests for color testing. Section 76.601 also states that prior to additional testing pursuant to Section 76.601(d), the local franchising authority shall notify the cable operator who will be allowed thirty days to come into compliance with any perceived signal quality problems which need to be corrected. The performance test data and channel listings are used in field inspections by Commission staff and franchise authorities to ensure that an acceptable quality signal is being provided to cable subscribers, and to ensure that there are no signal leakage problems which could cause interference with over-the-air radio frequencies involving safety-of-life functions (i.e., police, fire, forestry, aeronautical, amateur radio).

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**

*Secretary.*

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BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

[Report No. AUC-9820-B (Auction No. 20); DA 98-1796]

**Auction of 156-162 MHz VHF Public Coast Station Service Licenses**

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Public Notice announces the procedures and minimum opening bids for the upcoming 156-162 MHz VHF Public Coast Station Service ("VHF Public Coast Service") auction. On July 23, 1998, the Commission released a Public Notice, seeking comment on the establishment of reserve prices or minimum opening bids for the VHF Public Coast Service auction, in accordance with the Balanced Budget

Act of 1997. In addition, the Commission also sought comment on a number of procedures to be used in the VHF Public Coast Service auction.

**DATES:** The auction is scheduled for December 3, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** See the text of the Public Notice and attachments for information regarding important addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *Media Contact:* Meribeth McCarrick, 202-418-0654.

*Auctions information:* Jeff Garretson, Bob Reagle, or Anne Napoli, 202-418-0660.

*VHF Public Coast Service information:* Scot Stone, 202-418-0680.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of a Public Notice released on September 4, 1998, and corrected by subsequent Public Notices released on September 8, 1998, and September 21, 1998. The complete text of this corrected Public Notice, including all attachments, is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Reference Center (Room 5608), 2025 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20554, or on the Commission's World Wide Web page, located at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions>. Copies also may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc. (ITS, Inc.), 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, (202) 857-3800.

**Synopsis of the Public Notice**

*I. Introduction*

The VHF Public Coast Service Licenses to Be Auctioned:

1. The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") will hold an auction for 42 licenses to operate in the 156-162 MHz band. These licenses encompass the United States, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Specifically, the licenses include: (1) One license in each of nine geographic areas known as Maritime VHF Public Coast Station Service Areas ("VPCs"), and (2) one license in each of 33 geographic areas known as Inland VPCs. The licenses include the following channels:

	Channel pairs (total kHz available)
(1) <i>Maritime VPCs:</i> Maritime Border VPCs: VPCs 1, 5, 7 .....	24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 (500 kHz).
Maritime Non-Border VPCs and Maritime Border VPC 9: VPCs 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 .....	24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 84, 85, 86, 87 (450 kHz).
(2) <i>Inland VPCs:</i>	

	Channel pairs (total kHz available)
Inland Border VPCs: VPCs 10, 11, 28, 29, 30 .....	24, 26, 27, 28, 85, 86, 87 (350 kHz).
Inland Non-Border VPCs: VPCs 12-15, 23-27, 33-34, 36-39, 41-42 .....	24, 26, 27, 28, 85, 86, 87 (350 kHz).
VPCs 16-22, 31-32, 35, 40 .....	24, 26, 27, 28, 84, 86, 87 (350 kHz).

**Auction Date:** The auction will commence on December 3, 1998. The initial schedule for bidding will be announced by public notice at least one week before the start of the auction. Unless otherwise announced, bidding will be conducted on each business day until bidding has stopped on all licenses.

**Bidding Methodology:** Simultaneous multiple round bidding. Bidding will be permitted only from remote locations, either electronically (by computer) or telephonically.

**Pre-Auction Deadlines:**

- Auction Seminar: October 20, 1998
- Short Form Application (FCC Form 175): November 2, 1998; 5:30 p.m. ET
- Upfront Payments (via wire transfer): November 16, 1998; 6:00 p.m. ET
- Orders for Remote Bidding Software: November 17, 1998; 5:30 p.m. ET
- Mock Auction: December 1, 1998

**Telephone Contacts:**

- FCC National Call Center: (888) CALL-FCC ((888) 225-5322). For Bidder Information Packages, General Auction Information, and Seminar Registration, press option #2 at the prompt. Hours: 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m. ET.
- FCC Technical Support Hotline: (202) 414-1250 (voice), (202) 414-1255 (text telephone (TTY)); Hours of service: 8 a.m.–6 p.m. ET, Monday–Friday; 9 a.m.–5 p.m. ET, weekend of October 31–November 1.

**List of Attachments:**

- Attachment A—Summary of 156–162 MHz VHF Public Coast Station Licenses to be Auctioned, Upfront Payments, Minimum Opening Bids
- Attachment B—Guidelines for Completing FCC Forms 175 and 159 and Exhibits
- Attachment C—Electronic Filing and Review of FCC Form 175
- Attachment D—Summary Listing of Documents from the Commission and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Addressing Application of the Anti-Collusion Rules

## II. Background

2. In July 1998, the Commission restructured the licensing framework that governs VHF Public Coast Stations. Pursuant to the *Third Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order (“Public Coast Third Report and*

*Order”*), 63 FR 40059 (July 27, 1998), site-specific licensing has been replaced with a geographic-based system, which will be used in the upcoming auction. This geographic-based licensing methodology is similar to that used in other commercial mobile radio services (“CMRS”). The geographic areas for the inland VPC licenses were based upon Economic Areas (EAs), developed by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the geographic areas for the maritime VPC licenses were roughly based on U.S. Coast Guard Districts. Service and operational requirements for VHF Public Coast Stations are contained in part 80 of the Commission’s rules.

### III. Due Diligence

3. Potential bidders are reminded that there are a number of incumbent VHF Public Coast Station licensees and Private Land Mobile Radio (PLMR) licensees already operating in the 156–162 MHz band. Such incumbents must be protected from harmful interference by VHF Public Coast Station geographic area licensees in accordance with the Commission’s Rules. These limitations may restrict the ability of such VPC geographic area licensees to use certain portions of the electromagnetic spectrum or provide service to certain areas in their geographic license areas.

4. In addition, potential bidders seeking licenses for geographic areas that are near the Canadian border should be aware of agreements between the United States and Canada that affect the assignment and use of VHF frequencies in certain parts of maritime and inland border VPCs. Potential bidders are solely responsible for investigating and evaluating the degree to which these matters may affect spectrum availability in areas where they seek maritime or inland border VPC licenses.

5. Licensing information is contained in the Commission’s licensing database, which is available for inspection in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau’s Public Reference Rooms, located at 2025 M Street, NW, Room 5608, Washington, DC 20554, and 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. In addition, potential bidders may search for information regarding incumbent VHF Public Coast station and PLMR licensees

on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb>. In particular, information can be accessed by downloading databases by selecting “WTB Database Files” (<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/databases.html>), or searching on-line by selecting “Search WTB Databases” (<http://gulfoss.fcc.gov:8080/cgi-bin/ws.exe/beta/genmen/index.htm>). Any telephone inquires regarding these matters should be directed to the Technical Support Hotline at (202) 414-1250 (voice) or (202) 414-1255 (text telephone (TTY)).

### IV. The Commission Makes No Representations or Guarantees Regarding the Accuracy or Completeness of Information That Has Been Provided by Incumbent Licensees and Incorporated Into the Database

Potential bidders are strongly encouraged to physically inspect any sites located in or near the geographic area for which they plan to bid.

6. Participation: Those wishing to participate in the auction must:

- Submit a short form application (FCC Form 175) by the above-listed deadline.
- Submit a sufficient upfront payment and an FCC Remittance Advice Form (FCC Form 159) by the above-listed deadline.
- Comply with all provisions outlined in this Public Notice.

7. Prohibition of Collusion: To ensure the competitiveness of the auction process, the Commission’s Rules prohibit applicants for the same geographic license area from communicating with each other during the auction about bids, bidding strategies, or settlements. This prohibition begins with the filing of short-form applications, and ends on the down payment due date. In the VHF Public Coast Service auction, for example, the rule would apply to any applicants bidding for the same VPC. Therefore, applicants that apply to bid for “all markets” would be precluded from communicating with all other applicants after filing the FCC Form 175. However, applicants may enter into bidding agreements before filing their FCC Form 175 short-form applications, as long as they disclose the existence of the agreement(s) in their Form 175 short-form applications. See 47 CFR

1.2105(c). By signing their FCC Form 175 short form applications, applicants are certifying their compliance with § 1.2105(c). In addition, § 1.65 of the Commission's Rules requires an applicant to maintain the accuracy and completeness of information furnished in its pending application and to notify the Commission within 30 days of any substantial change that may be of decisional significance to that application. See 47 CFR 1.65. Thus, § 1.65 requires an auction applicant to notify the Commission of any violation of the anti-collusion rules upon learning of such violation. Bidders are therefore required to make such notification to the Commission immediately upon discovery.

8. Bidder Information Package: More complete details about this auction are contained in a Bidder Information Package. The Commission will provide one copy to each company free of charge. Additional copies may be ordered at a cost of \$16.00 each, including postage, payable by Visa or Master Card, or by check payable to "Federal Communications Commission" or "FCC." To place an order, contact the FCC National Call Center at (888) CALL-FCC ((888) 225-5322, press option #2 at the prompt). Prospective bidders that have already contacted the FCC at this number expressing an interest in this auction will receive a Bidder Information Package in approximately four weeks, and need not call again unless they wish to order additional copies.

9. Relevant Authority: Prospective bidders must familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Commission's rules relating to the VHF Public Coast Service, contained in Title 47, part 80 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and those relating to application and auction procedures, contained in Title 47, part 1 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

10. Prospective bidders must also be thoroughly familiar with the procedures, terms and conditions contained in the *Public Coast Third Report and Order*, and in Sections I through III of Amendment of part 80 of the Commission's rules Concerning Maritime Communications, *Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, PR Docket No. 92-257, RM-7956, 8031, 8352, FCC 97-217, 12 FCC Rcd 16949 (1997) 62 FR 40281 (July 28, 1997), 62 FR 37533 (July 14, 1997) ("*Public Coast Second Report and Order*").

11. The terms contained in the Commission's Rules, relevant orders, public notices and bidder information package are not negotiable. The Commission may amend or supplement

the information contained in its public notices or the bidder information package at any time, and will issue public notices to convey any new or supplemental information to bidders. It is the responsibility of all prospective bidders to remain current with all Commission Rules and with all public notices pertaining to this auction. Copies of most Commission documents, including public notices, can be retrieved from the FCC Internet node via anonymous ftp @ftp.fcc.gov or the FCC World Wide Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/auctions>. Additionally, documents may be obtained for a fee by calling the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc. (ITS), at (202) 857-3800. When ordering documents from ITS, please provide the appropriate FCC number (e.g., FCC 98-151 for the *Public Coast Third Report and Order* and FCC 97-217 for the *Public Coast Second Report and Order*).

12. Bidder Alerts: All applicants must certify on their FCC Form 175 applications under penalty of perjury that they are legally, technically, financially and otherwise qualified to hold a license, and not in default on any payment for Commission licenses (including down payments) or delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency. Prospective bidders are reminded that submission of a false certification to the Commission is a serious matter that may result in severe penalties, including monetary forfeitures, license revocations, exclusion from participation in future auctions, and/or criminal prosecution.

#### V. The Commission Makes No Representations or Warranties About the Use of This Spectrum for Particular Services

Applicants should be aware that an FCC auction represents an opportunity to become an FCC licensee in this service, subject to certain conditions and regulations. An FCC auction does not constitute an endorsement by the FCC of any particular services, technologies or products, nor does an FCC license constitute a guarantee of business success. Applicants should perform their individual due diligence before proceeding as they would with any new business venture.

13. As is the case with many business investment opportunities, some unscrupulous entrepreneurs may attempt to use the VHF Public Coast Service auction to deceive and defraud unsuspecting investors. Common warning signals of fraud include the following:

- The first contact is a "cold call" from a telemarketer, or is made in response to an inquiry prompted by a radio or television infomercial.
- The offering materials used to invest in the venture appear to be targeted at IRA funds, for example by including all documents and papers needed for the transfer of funds maintained in IRA accounts.
- The amount of the minimum investment is less than \$25,000.
- The sales representative makes verbal representations that: (a) The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), FCC, or other government agency has approved the investment; (b) the investment is not subject to state or federal securities laws; or (c) the investment will yield unrealistically high short-term profits. The offering materials often include copies of actual FCC releases, or quotes from FCC personnel, giving the false appearance of FCC knowledge or approval of the solicitation.

14. Information about deceptive telemarketing investment schemes is available from the FTC at (202) 326-2222 and from the SEC at (202) 942-7040. Complaints about specific deceptive telemarketing investment schemes should be directed to the FTC, the SEC, or the National Fraud Information Center at (800) 876-7060. Consumers who have concerns about specific VHF Public Coast Service proposals may also call the FCC National Call Center at (888) CALL-FCC ((888) 225-5322).

#### VI. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements

15. Licensees must comply with the Commission's rules regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The construction of a wireless antenna facility is a federal action and licensees must comply with the Commission's NEPA rules for each wireless facility. See 47 CFR 1.1305-1.1319. The Commission's NEPA rules require that, among other things, licensees consult with expert agencies having NEPA responsibilities including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Army Corp of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (through the local authority with jurisdiction over floodplains). Licensees must prepare environmental assessments for wireless facilities that may have a significant impact in or on wilderness areas, wildlife preserves, threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats, historical or

archaeologic sites, Indian religious sites, floodplains, and surface features. Licensees must also prepare environmental assessments for wireless facilities that include high intensity white lights in residential neighborhoods or excessive radiofrequency emission.

### VII. Eligibility for Very Small and Small Business Provisions

#### A. General Eligibility Criteria

16. As described above, this auction offers one license in each of nine geographic areas known as Maritime VPCs, and one license in each of 33 geographic areas known as Inland VPCs. The Commission's goal in adopting special small business provisions is to promote and facilitate the participation of small businesses in the VHF Public Coast Service auction and in the provision of this and other CMRS services.

##### (1) Determination of Revenues

17. For purposes of determining which entities qualify as very small businesses or small businesses, the Commission will consider the gross revenues of the applicant, its controlling interests, and the affiliates of the applicant and its controlling interests. Therefore, the gross revenues of all of the above entities must be disclosed separately and in the aggregate as Exhibit C to an applicant's FCC Form 175. The Commission does not impose specific equity requirements on controlling interests. Once principals or entities with a controlling interest are determined, only the revenues of those principals or entities will be counted in determining small business eligibility. The term "controlling interest" includes both de facto and de jure control of the applicant. Typically, de jure control is evidenced by ownership of at least 50.1 percent of an entity's voting stock. De facto control is determined on a case-by-case basis. The following are some common indicia of control:

- The entity constitutes or appoints more than 50 percent of the board of directors or management committee;
- The entity has authority to appoint, promote, demote, and fire senior executives that control the day-to-day activities of the licensee; or
- The entity plays an integral role in management decisions.

##### (2) Very Small or Small Business Consortiums

18. A consortium of small businesses or very small businesses is a conglomerate organization formed as a joint venture between or among

mutually independent business firms, each of which individually satisfies the definition of very small or small business in § 80.1252(b)(1) or (2). Thus, each consortium member must disclose its gross revenues along with those of its affiliates, controlling interests, and controlling interests' affiliates. The Commission notes that although the gross revenues of the consortium members will not be aggregated for purposes of determining eligibility for very small or small business credits, this information must be provided to ensure that each individual consortium member qualifies for any bidding credit awarded to the consortium.

##### (3) Application Showing

19. Applicants should note that they will be required to file supporting documentation as Exhibit C to their FCC Form 175 short form applications to establish that they satisfy the eligibility requirements to qualify as a very small business or small business (or consortiums of very small or small businesses) for this auction. See 47 CFR 80.1252 and 1.2105. Specifically, for the VHF Public Coast Service auction, applicants applying to bid as very small or small businesses (or consortiums of very small or small businesses) will be required to file as Exhibit C to their FCC Form 175 short form applications, all information required under §§ 1.2105(a) and 1.2112(a). In addition, these applicants must disclose, separately and in the aggregate, the gross revenues for the preceding three years of each of the following: (1) The applicant; (2) the applicant's affiliates; (3) the applicant's attributable investors; and (4) the affiliates of the applicant's attributable investors. Certification that the average gross revenues for the preceding three years do not exceed the applicable limit is not sufficient. A statement of the total gross revenues for the preceding three years is also insufficient. The applicant must provide a schedule of gross revenues for each of the preceding three years, as well as a statement of total average gross revenues for the three-year period. If the applicant is applying as a consortium of very small or small businesses, each consortium member must provide this information.

#### B. Bidding Credits

20. Qualifying VHF Public Coast Service applicants are eligible for bidding credits. The size of a VHF Public Coast Service bidding credit depends on the average gross revenues for the preceding three years of the bidder and its controlling interests and affiliates:

- A bidder with average gross revenues not to exceed \$15 million for the preceding three years receives a 25 percent discount on its winning bids for VHF Public Coast Service licenses; and,
- A bidder with average gross revenues not to exceed \$3 million for the preceding three years receives a 35 percent discount on its winning bids for VHF Public Coast Service licenses.

21. Bidding credits are not cumulative: qualifying applicants receive either the 25 percent or the 35 percent bidding credit, but not both. The definitions of very small business and small business (or consortiums of very small or small businesses) (including calculation of gross annual revenue) are set forth in 47 CFR 80.1252(b)(1)(2) and (5).

22. VHF Public Coast Service bidders should note that unjust enrichment provisions apply to winning bidders that use bidding credits and subsequently assign or transfer control of their licenses to an entity not qualifying for the same levels of bidding credits. See 47 CFR 1.2111. Finally, VHF Public Coast Service bidders should also note that there are no installment payment plans in the VHF Public Coast Service auction.

### VIII. Pre-Auction Procedures

#### A. Short-Form Application (FCC Form 175)—Due November 2, 1998

23. In order to be eligible to bid in this auction, applicants must first submit an FCC Form 175 application. This application must be received at the Commission by 5:30 p.m. ET on November 2, 1998. Late applications will not be accepted.

24. There is no application fee required when filing an FCC Form 175. However, to be eligible to bid, an applicant must submit an upfront payment.

##### (1) Filing Options

25. Auction applicants are strongly encouraged to file their applications electronically in order to take full advantage of the greater efficiencies and convenience of electronic filing, bidding and access to bidding data. For example, electronic filing enables the applicant to: (a) Receive interactive feedback while completing the application; and (b) receive immediate acknowledgment that the FCC Form 175 has been submitted for filing. In addition, only those applicants that file electronically will have the option of bidding electronically. However, manual filing (via hard copy) is also permitted. Please note that manual filers will not be

permitted to bid electronically and must bid telephonically, unless the FCC Form 175 is amended electronically prior to the resubmission date for incomplete or deficient applications. The following is a brief description of each filing method.

(a) Electronic Filing

26. Applicants wishing to file electronically may generally do so on a 24-hour basis beginning October 12, 1998. The window for filing the FCC Form 175 electronically will remain open until 5:30 p.m. ET on November 2, 1998. Applicants are strongly encouraged to file early, and applicants are responsible for allowing adequate time for filing their applications. Applicants may update or amend their electronic applications until the filing deadline of November 2, 1998. Applicants who file electronically must press the "Submit Form 175" button on the "Submit" page to successfully submit their FCC Form 175s. Information about installing and running the FCC Form 175 application software is included in Attachment D to this Public Notice. Technical support is available at (202) 414-1250 (voice) or (202) 414-1255 (text telephone (TTY)); the hours of service are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ET, the weekend of October 31-November 1.

(b) Manual Filing

27. Auction applicants will be permitted to file their FCC Form 175 applications in hard copy. When any manually filed FCC Form 175 and 175-S exceeds five pages in length, the FCC requires that all attachments be submitted on a 3.5-inch diskette, or the entire application be filed in a microfiche version. Manual filers must use the August 1998 version of FCC Form 175 and FCC Form 175-S (if necessary). Earlier versions of the FCC Form 175 will not be accepted for filing. Copies of the FCC Form 175 can be obtained by calling the Commission's Forms Distribution Center at (800) 418-FORM ((800) 418-3676) (outside Washington, DC) or (202) 418-FORM ((202) 418-3676) (in the Washington area). Copies of the FCC Form 175 can also be obtained via Fax-On-Demand at (202) 418-0177 (the document retrieval number for the FCC Form 175 is 000175, and 001751 for the FCC Form 175-S), or downloaded from the Commission's World Wide Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>. If applicants have any questions concerning availability of the FCC Form 175, they should call the FCC Records Management Branch at (202) 418-0210.

28. Manual applications may be submitted by hand delivery (including private "overnight" courier) or by U.S. mail (certified mail with return receipt recommended), addressed to: FCC Form 175 Filing, Auction No. 20, Federal Communications Commission, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Auctions & Industry Analysis Division, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. NOTE: Manual applications delivered to any other location will not be accepted.

(2) Completion of the FCC Form 175

29. Applicants should carefully review 47 CFR 1.2105, and must complete all items on the FCC Form 175 (and Form 175-S, if applicable). Instructions for completing the FCC Form 175 are in Attachment B of this Public Notice. Applicants who file electronically must press the "Submit Form 175" button on the "Submit" page to successfully submit their FCC Form 175.

30. Failure to sign a manually filed FCC Form 175 will result in dismissal of the application and loss of the ability to participate in the auction. Only original signatures will be accepted for manually filed applications.

(3) Electronic Review of FCC Form 175

The FCC Form 175 review software may be used to review and print applicants' FCC Form 175 applications. In other words, applicants that file electronically may review their own completed FCC Form 175. Applicants may also view other applicants' completed FCC Form 175s after the filing deadline has passed and the FCC has issued a public notice explaining the status of the applications. For this reason, it is important that applicants do not include their Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs) on any Exhibits to their FCC Form 175 applications. There is a fee of \$2.30 per minute for accessing this system. See Attachment C for details.

B. Application Processing and Minor Corrections

32. After the deadline for filing the FCC Form 175 applications has passed, the FCC will process all timely applications to determine which are acceptable for filing, and subsequently will issue a public notice identifying: (1) Those applications accepted for filing (including FCC account numbers and the licenses for which they applied); (2) those applications rejected; and (3) those applications which have minor defects that may be corrected, and the deadline for filing such corrected applications.

33. As described more fully in the Commission's Rules, after the November 2, 1998, short form filing deadline, applicants may make only minor corrections to their FCC Form 175 applications. Applicants will not be permitted to make major modifications to their applications (e.g., change their license selections, change the certifying official or change control of the applicant). See 47 CFR 1.2105.

C. Upfront Payments—Due November 16, 1998

34. To be eligible to bid in the auction, applicants must submit an upfront payment accompanied by FCC Remittance Advice Form (FCC Form 159). Manual filers must use the July 1997 version of FCC Form 159. Electronic filers of the FCC Form 175 will have access to an electronic version of Form 159 after completing the FCC Form 175. Earlier versions of this form will not be accepted. Upfront payments must be received at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, PA, by 6 p.m. ET on November 16, 1998.

Please note that:

- All payments must be made in U.S. dollars.
- All payments must be made by wire transfer.
- Upfront payments for Auction No. 20 go to a lockbox number different from the ones used in previous FCC auctions, and different from the lockbox number to be used for post-auction payments.
- Failure to deliver the upfront payment by the November 16, 1998 deadline will result in dismissal of the application and disqualification from participation in the auction.

(1) Making Auction Payments by Wire Transfer

35. Wire transfer payments must be received by 6 p.m. ET on November 16, 1998. To avoid untimely payments, applicants should discuss arrangements (including bank closing schedules) with their banker several days before they plan to make the wire transfer, and allow sufficient time for the transfer to be initiated and completed before the deadline. Applicants will need the following information:

*ABA Routing Number:* 043000261.

*Receiving Bank:* Mellon Pittsburgh.  
*BNF:* FCC/AC 911-6878.

*OBI Field:* (Skip one space between each information item) "Auctionpay".  
*Taxpayer Identification no.* (Same as FCC Form 159, block 26).

*Payment Type Code* (Enter "APWU").  
*Fcc Code 1* (Same as FCC Form 159, block 23A: "20").

*Payer Name* (Same as FCC Form 159, block 2).

*Lockbox No.:* #358400

**Note:** The BNF and Lockbox number are specific to the upfront payments for this auction; do not use BNF or Lockbox numbers from previous auctions.

36. Applicants must fax a completed FCC Form 159 to Mellon Bank at (412) 236-5702 at least one hour before placing the order for the wire transfer (but on the same business day). On the cover sheet of the fax, write "Wire Transfer—Auction Payment for Auction Event No. 20." Bidders may confirm receipt of their upfront payment at Mellon Bank by contacting their sending financial institution.

(2) FCC Form 159

37. Each upfront payment must be accompanied by a completed FCC Remittance Advice Form (FCC Form 159). Proper completion of FCC Form 159 is critical to ensuring correct credit of upfront payments. Detailed instructions for completion of FCC Form 159 are included in Attachment B to this Public Notice and will also be included in the Bidder Information Package.

(3) Amount of Upfront Payment

38. The following upfront payment amounts will apply in the VHF Public Coast Service auction. For Maritime VPC licenses, an upfront payment of  $\$.0007 * \text{MHz} * \text{Pop}$  (rounded up to the next dollar and with a minimum upfront payment of \$2,500); and for Inland VPC licenses, an upfront payment of  $\$.0075 * \text{MHz} * \text{Pop}$  (rounded up to the next dollar and with a minimum upfront payment of \$2,500).

39. Upfront payments are not attributed to specific licenses, but instead will be translated to bidding units to define the bidder's maximum bidding eligibility. The amount of the upfront payment will be translated into bidding units on a one-to-one basis, *e.g.*, a \$25,000 upfront payment provides the bidder with 25,000 bidding units. The total upfront payment defines the maximum amount of bidding units on which the applicant will be permitted to bid (including standing high bids) in any single round of bidding. Thus, an applicant does not have to make an upfront payment to cover all licenses for which the applicant has applied, but rather to cover the maximum number of bidding units associated with licenses the bidder wishes to place bids on and hold high bids on at any given time. In order to be able to place a bid on a license, in addition to having specified that license on the FCC Form 175, a

bidder must have an eligibility level that meets or exceeds the number of bidding units assigned to that license. At a minimum, an applicant's total upfront payment must be enough to establish eligibility to bid on at least one of the licenses applied for on the FCC Form 175, or else the applicant will not be eligible to participate in the auction.

40. In calculating the upfront payment amount, an applicant should determine the maximum number of bidding units it may wish to bid on in any single round, and submit an upfront payment covering that number of bidding units. Bidders should check their calculations carefully as there is no provision for increasing a bidder's maximum eligibility after the upfront payment deadline.

**Note:** An applicant may, on its FCC Form 175, apply for every license being offered, but its actual bidding in any round will be limited by the bidding units reflected in its upfront payment.

(4) Applicant's Wire Transfer Information for Purposes of Refunds

41. The Commission will use wire transfers for all Auction No. 20 refunds. To avoid delays in processing refunds, applicants should include wire transfer instructions with any refund request they file; they may also provide this information in advance by faxing it to the FCC Billings and Collections Branch, ATTN: Linwood Jenkins or Geoffrey Idika, at (202) 418-2843. Please include the following information:

Name of Bank  
ABA Number  
Account Number to Credit  
Correspondent Bank (if applicable)  
ABA Number  
Account Number  
Contact and Phone Number

(Applicants should also note that implementation of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires the FCC to obtain a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before it can disburse refunds.)

D. Auction Registration

42. Approximately ten days before the auction, the FCC will issue a public notice announcing all qualified bidders for the auction. Qualified bidders are those applicants whose FCC Form 175 applications have been accepted for filing and that have timely submitted upfront payments sufficient to make them eligible to bid on at least one of the licenses for which they applied.

43. All qualified bidders are automatically registered for the auction. Registration materials will be distributed prior to the auction by two separate overnight mailings, each

containing part of the confidential identification codes required to place bids. These mailings will be sent only to the contact person at the applicant address listed in the FCC Form 175.

44. Applicants that do not receive both registration mailings will not be able to submit bids. Therefore, any qualified applicant that has not received both mailings by noon on Wednesday, November 25, 1998 should contact the FCC National Call Center at (888) CALL-FCC ((888) 225-5322, press option #2 at the prompt). Receipt of both registration mailings is critical to participating in the auction and each applicant is responsible for ensuring it has received all of the registration material. Qualified bidders should note that lost login codes, passwords or bidder identification numbers can be replaced only by appearing in person at the FCC Auction Headquarters located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Only an authorized representative or certifying official, as designated on an applicant's FCC Form 175, may appear in person with two forms of identification (one of which must be a photo identification) in order to receive replacement codes.

E. Remote Electronic Bidding Software

45. Qualified bidders that file or amend the FCC Form 175 electronically are allowed to bid electronically, but must purchase remote electronic bidding software for \$175.00 by November 17, 1998. (Auction software is tailored to a specific auction, so software from prior auctions will not work for Auction No. 20.) A software order form is included in the Bidder Information Package.

F. Auction Seminar

46. On October 20, 1998, the FCC will sponsor a seminar for the VHF Public Coast Service auction in Washington, DC. The seminar will provide attendees with information about pre-auction procedures, conduct of the auction, FCC remote bidding software, and the VHF Public Coast service and auction rules.

47. To register, complete the registration form to be included in the upcoming Bidder Information Package. The registration form will include details about the time and location of the seminar. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

G. Mock Auction

48. All applicants whose FCC Form 175 and 175-S have been accepted for filing will be eligible to participate in a mock auction beginning December 1, 1998. The mock auction will enable applicants to become familiar with the

electronic software prior to the auction. Free demonstration software will be available for use in the mock auction. Participation by all bidders is strongly recommended. Details will be announced by public notice.

#### IX. Auction Event

49. The first round of the auction will begin on December 3, 1998. The initial round schedule will be announced in a Public Notice listing the qualified bidders, to be released approximately 10 days before the start of the auction.

##### A. Auction Structure

###### (1) Simultaneous Multiple Round Auction

50. The 42 VHF Public Coast Service licenses, including Maritime and Inland VPC licenses, will be awarded through a single, simultaneous multiple round auction. Unless otherwise announced, bids will be accepted on all licenses in each auction round.

###### (2) Maximum Eligibility and Activity Rules

51. For the VHF Public Coast Service auction, the amount of the upfront payment submitted by a bidder determines the initial maximum eligibility (in bidding units) for each bidder. Upfront payments are not attributed to specific licenses, but instead will be translated into bidding units to define a bidder's initial maximum eligibility. The total upfront payment defines the maximum number of bidding units on which the applicant will initially be permitted to bid. The Commission notes that there is no provision for increasing a bidder's maximum eligibility during the course of an auction.

52. In order to ensure that the auction closes within a reasonable period of time, an activity rule requires bidders to bid actively throughout the auction, rather than wait until the end before participating. Bidders are required to be active on a specific percentage of their maximum eligibility during each round of the auction.

53. A bidder is considered active on a license in the current round if it is either the high bidder at the end of the previous bidding round and does not withdraw the high bid in the current round, or if it submits an acceptable bid in the current round. A bidder's activity level in a round is the sum of the bidding units associated with licenses on which the bidder is active. The minimum required activity level is expressed as a percentage of the bidder's maximum bidding eligibility, and increases as the auction progresses.

###### (3) Activity Rule Waivers and Reducing Eligibility

54. Each bidder will be provided five activity rule waivers that may be used in any round during the course of the auction. Use of an activity rule waiver preserves the bidder's current bidding eligibility despite the bidder's activity in the current round being below the required minimum level. An activity rule waiver applies to an entire round of bidding and not to a particular license.

55. The FCC auction system assumes that bidders with insufficient activity would prefer to use an activity rule waiver (if available) rather than lose bidding eligibility. Therefore, the system will automatically apply a waiver (known as an "automatic waiver") at the end of any round where a bidder's activity level is below the minimum required unless: (1) There are no activity rule waivers available; or (2) the bidder overrides the automatic application of a waiver by reducing eligibility, thereby meeting the minimum requirements.

56. A bidder with insufficient activity that wants to reduce its bidding eligibility rather than use an activity rule waiver must affirmatively override the automatic waiver mechanism during the round by using the reduce eligibility function in the software. In this case, the bidder's eligibility is permanently reduced to bring the bidder into compliance with the activity rules. Once eligibility has been reduced, a bidder will not be permitted to regain its lost bidding eligibility.

57. Finally, a bidder may proactively use an activity rule waiver as a means to keep the auction open without placing a bid. If a bidder submits a proactive waiver (using the proactive waiver function in the bidding software) during a round in which no bids are submitted, the auction will remain open and the bidder's eligibility will be preserved. An automatic waiver invoked in a round in which there are no new valid bids or withdrawals will not keep the auction open.

###### (4) Auction Stages

58. The VHF Public Coast Service auction will be composed of three stages, each defined by an increasing activity rule. Below are the proposed activity levels for each stage of the auction. The FCC reserves the discretion to further alter the activity percentages before and/or during the auction.

59. Stage One: In each round of the first stage of the auction, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility is required to be active on

licenses encompassing at least 80 percent of its current bidding eligibility. Failure to maintain the requisite activity level will result in a reduction in the bidder's bidding eligibility in the next round of bidding (unless an activity rule waiver is used). During Stage One, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the current round activity by five-fourths ( $5/4$ ).

60. Stage Two: In each round of the second stage, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility is required to be active on 90 percent of its current bidding eligibility. During Stage Two, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the current round activity by ten-ninths ( $10/9$ ).

61. Stage Three: In each round of the third stage, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility is required to be active on 98 percent of its current bidding eligibility. In this final stage, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the current round activity by fifty-fortyninths ( $50/49$ ). CAUTION: Since activity requirements increase in each auction stage, bidders must carefully check their current activity during the bidding round of the first round following a stage transition. This is especially critical for bidders that have standing high bids and do not plan to submit new bids. In past auctions, some bidders have inadvertently lost bidding eligibility or used an activity rule waiver because they did not reverify their activity status at stage transitions. Bidders may check their activity against the required minimum activity level by using the bidding software's bidding module.

###### (5) Stage Transitions

62. The auction will start in Stage One. Under the FCC's general guidelines it will advance to the next stage (i.e., from Stage One to Stage Two, and from Stage Two to Stage Three) when, in each of three consecutive rounds of bidding, the high bid has increased on 10 percent or less of the licenses being auctioned (as measured in bidding units). However, the Bureau will retain the discretion to regulate the pace of the auction by announcement. This determination will be based on a variety of measures of bidder activity, including, but not limited to, the auction activity level, the percentages of licenses (as measured in bidding units) on which there are new bids, the number of new bids, and the percentage increase in revenue.

## (6) Auction Stopping Rules

63. Barring extraordinary circumstances, bidding will remain open on all licenses until bidding stops on every license. Thus, the auction will close for all licenses when one round passes during which no bidder submits a new acceptable bid on any license, applies a proactive waiver, or withdraws a previous high bid.

64. The Bureau retains the discretion, however, to keep an auction open even if no new acceptable bids or proactive waivers are submitted, and no previous high bids are withdrawn. In this event, the effect will be the same as if a bidder had submitted a proactive waiver. Thus, the activity rule will apply as usual, and a bidder with insufficient activity will either lose bidding eligibility or use an activity rule waiver (if it has any left).

65. Further, in its discretion, the Bureau reserves the right to declare that the auction will end after a specified number of additional rounds ("special stopping rule"). If the FCC invokes this special stopping rule, it will accept bids in the final round(s) only for licenses on which the high bid increased in at least one of the preceding specified number of rounds. The FCC intends to exercise this option only in extreme circumstances, such as where the auction is proceeding very slowly, where there is minimal overall bidding activity, or where it appears likely that the auction will not close within a reasonable period of time. Before exercising this option, the FCC is likely to attempt to increase the pace of the auction by, for example, moving the auction into the next stage (where bidders would be required to maintain a higher level of bidding activity), increasing the number of bidding rounds per day, and/or increasing the amount of the minimum bid increments for the limited number of licenses where there is still a high level of bidding activity.

## (7) Auction Delay, Suspension, or Cancellation

66. By public notice or by announcement during the auction, the Bureau may delay, suspend or cancel the auction in the event of natural disaster, technical obstacle, evidence of an auction security breach, unlawful bidding activity, administrative or weather necessity, or for any other reason that affects the fair and competitive conduct of competitive bidding. In such cases, the Bureau, in its sole discretion, may elect to: resume the auction starting from the beginning of the current round; resume the auction starting from some previous round; or

cancel the auction in its entirety. Network interruption may cause the Bureau to delay or suspend the auction. The Commission emphasizes that exercise of this authority is solely within the discretion of the Bureau, and its use is not intended to be a substitute for situations in which bidders may wish to apply their activity rule waivers.

## B. Bidding Procedures

## (1) Round Structure

67. The initial bidding schedule will be announced by public notice at least one week before the start of the auction, and will be included in the registration mailings. The round structure for each bidding round contains a single bidding round followed by the release of the round results.

68. The FCC has discretion to change the bidding schedule in order to foster an auction pace that reasonably balances speed with the bidders' need to study round results and adjust their bidding strategies. The FCC may increase or decrease the amount of time for the bidding rounds and review periods, or the number of rounds per day, depending upon the bidding activity level and other factors.

## (2) Reserve Price or Minimum Opening Bid

69. The Commission adopts minimum opening bids for each of the licenses in the VHF Public Coast Service auction that are reducible at the discretion of the Bureau. During the course of the auction, the Bureau will not entertain any bidder requests to reduce the minimum opening bid on specific licenses. The formulae for calculating minimum opening bids is as follows:

1. Maritime VPC Licenses:  $\$.001 * \text{MHz} * \text{Pop}$  (rounded up to the next dollar) with a minimum of no less than \$2,500 per license.
2. Inland VPC Licenses:  $\$.011 * \text{MHz} * \text{Pop}$  (rounded up to the next dollar) with a minimum of no less than \$2,500 per license.

## (3) Minimum Accepted Bids

70. Once there is a standing high bid on a license, a bid increment will be applied to that license to establish a minimum acceptable bid for the following round. For the VHF Public Coast Service auction, the Commission will utilize, as described immediately below, an exponential smoothing methodology to calculate minimum bid increments. The Bureau retains the discretion to change the minimum bid increment if it determines that circumstances so dictate. The exponential smoothing methodology has been used in previous auctions.

## Exponential Smoothing

71. The exponential smoothing formula calculates the bid increment based on a weighted average of the activity received on each license in the current and all previous rounds. This methodology will tailor the bid increment for each license based on activity, rather than setting a global increment for all licenses. For every license that receives a bid, the bid increment for the next round for that license will be established as a percentage increment that is determined using the exponential smoothing formula.

72. Using exponential smoothing, the calculation of the percentage bid increment for each license will be based on an activity index, which is calculated as the weighted average of the current activity and the activity index from the previous round. The activity index at the start of the auction (round 0) will be set at 0. The current activity index is equal to a weighting factor times the number of new bids received on the license in the current bidding period plus one minus the weighting factor times the activity index from the previous round. The activity index is then used to calculate a percentage increment by multiplying a minimum percentage increment by one plus the activity index with that result being subject to a maximum percentage increment. The Commission will initially set the weighting factor at 0.5, the minimum percentage increment at 0.1, and the maximum percentage increment at 0.2. Equations

$$A_i = (C * B_i) + ((1 - C) * A_{i-1})$$

$$I_i = \text{smaller of } ((1 + A_i) * N) \text{ and } M$$

Where,

$A_i$  = activity index for the current round (round i)

C = activity weight factor

$B_i$  = number of bids in the current round (round i)

$A_{i-1}$  = activity index from previous round (round i-1),  $A_0$  is 0

$I_i$  = percentage bid increment for the current round (round i)

N = minimum percentage increment

M = maximum percentage increment

Under the exponential smoothing methodology, once a bid has been received on a license, the minimum acceptable bid for that license in the following round will be the new high bid plus the dollar amount associated with the percentage increment (variable  $I_i$  from above times the high bid). This result will be rounded to the nearest thousand if it is over 10,000 or to the nearest hundred if it is under 10,000.

## Examples

## License 1

$C=0.5$ ,  $N=0.1$ ,  $M=0.2$

*Round 1 (2 New Bids, High Bid = \$1,000,000)*

1. Calculation of percentage increment using exponential smoothing:  
 $A_1=(0.5 * 2) + (0.5 * 0)=1$   
 The smaller of  $I_1=(1 + 1) * 0.1=0.2$  or 0.2 (the maximum percentage increment)
2. Minimum bid increment using the percentage increment ( $I_1$  from above)  $0.2 * \$1,000,000=\$200,000$
3. Minimum acceptable bid for round 2= $1,200,000$

*Round 2 (3 New Bids, High Bid = \$2,000,000)*

1. Calculation of percentage increment using exponential smoothing:  
 $A_2=(0.5 * 3) + (0.5 * 1)=2$   
 The smaller of  $I_2=(1 + 2) * 0.1=0.3$  or 0.2 (the maximum percentage increment)
2. Minimum bid increment using the percentage increment is ( $I_2$  from above)  $0.2 * \$2,000,000=\$400,000$
3. Minimum acceptable bid for round 3 =  $\$2,400,000$

*Round 3 (1 New Bid, High Bid = \$2,400,000)*

1. Calculation of percentage increment using exponential smoothing:  
 $A_3=(0.5 * 1) + (0.5 * 2)=1.5$   
 The smaller of  $I_3=(1 + 1.5) * 0.1=0.25$  or 0.2 (the maximum percentage increment)
2. Minimum bid increment using the percentage increment ( $I_3$  from above)  $0.2 * \$2,400,000=\$480,000$
3. Minimum acceptable bid for round 4 =  $\$2,880,000$

## (4) High Bids

73. Each bid will be date-and time-stamped when it is entered into the computer system. In the event of tie bids, the Commission will identify the high bidder on the basis of the order in which bids are received by the Commission, starting with the earliest bid. The bidding software allows bidders to make multiple submissions in a round. As each bid is individually date and time-stamped according to when it was submitted, bids submitted by a bidder earlier in a round will have an earlier date-and time-stamp than bids submitted later in a round.

## (5) Bidding

74. During a bidding round, a bidder may submit bids for as many licenses for which it is eligible, as well as withdraw high bids from previous

bidding rounds, remove bids placed in the same bidding round, or permanently reduce eligibility. Bidders also have the option of making multiple submissions and withdrawals in each bidding round. If a bidder submits multiple bids for a single license in the same round, the system takes the last bid entered as that bidder's bid for the round, and the date-and time-stamp of that bid reflect the latest time the bid was submitted.

75. Please note that all bidding will take place either through the automated bidding software or by telephonic bidding. (Telephonic bid assistants are required to use a script when handling bids placed by telephone. Telephonic bidders are therefore reminded to allow sufficient time to bid, by placing their calls well in advance of the close of a round, because four to five minutes are necessary to complete a bid submission.) There will be no on-site bidding during Auction No. 20.

76. A bidder's ability to bid on specific licenses in the first round of the auction is determined by two factors: (1) the licenses applied for on FCC Form 175; and (2) the upfront payment amount deposited. The bid submission screens will be tailored for each bidder to include only those licenses for which the bidder applied on its FCC Form 175. A bidder also has the option to further tailor its bid submission screens to call up specified groups of licenses.

77. The bidding software requires each bidder to login to the FCC auction system during the bidding round using the FCC account number, bidder identification number, and the confidential security codes provided in the registration materials. Bidders are encouraged to download and print bid confirmations after they submit their bids.

78. The bid entry screen of the Automated Auction System software for the VHF Public Coast Service auction allows bidders to place multiple increment bids which will let bidders increase high bids from one to nine bid increments. A single bid increment is defined as the difference between the standing high bid and the minimum acceptable bid for a license. To place a bid on a license, the bidder must enter a whole number between 1 and 9 in the bid increment multiplier (Bid Mult) field. This value will determine the amount of the bid (Amount Bid) by multiplying the bid increment multiplier by the bid increment and adding the result to the high bid amount according to the following formula:

$$\text{Amount Bid} = \text{High Bid} + (\text{Bid Mult} * \text{Bid Increment})$$

Thus, bidders may place a bid that exceeds the standing high bid by between one and nine times the bid increment. For example, to bid the minimum acceptable bid, which is equal to one bid increment, a bidder will enter "1" in the bid increment multiplier column and press submit.

79. For any license on which the FCC is designated as the high bidder (i.e., a license that has not yet received a bid in the auction or where the high bid was withdrawn and a new bid has not yet been placed), bidders will be limited to bidding only the minimum acceptable bid. In both of these cases no increment exists for the licenses, and bidders should enter "1" in the Bid Mult field. Note that any whole number between 1 and 9 entered in the multiplier column will result in a bid value at the minimum acceptable bid amount. Finally, bidders are cautioned in entering numbers in the Bid Mult field because, as explained in the following section, a high bidder that withdraws its standing high bid from a previous round, even if mistakenly or erroneously made, is subject to bid withdrawal payments.

## (6) Bid Removal and Bid Withdrawal

80. Before the close of a bidding round, a bidder has the option of removing any bids placed in that round. By using the remove bid function in the software, a bidder may effectively "unsubmit" any bid placed within that round. A bidder removing a bid placed in the same round is not subject to withdrawal payments. Removing a bid will affect a bidder's activity for the round in which it is removed. This procedure will enhance bidder flexibility and, the Commission believes, may serve to expedite the course of the auction.

81. Once a round closes, a bidder may no longer remove a bid. However, in the next round, a bidder may withdraw standing high bids from previous rounds using the withdraw bid function (assuming that the bidder has not exhausted its withdrawal allowance). A high bidder that withdraws its standing high bid from a previous round is subject to the bid withdrawal payments specified in 47 CFR 1.2104(g) and 1.2109.

82. In previous auctions, the Commission detected bidder conduct that, arguably, may have constituted strategic bidding through the use of bid withdrawals. While the Commission continues to recognize the important role that bid withdrawals play in an auction, i.e., reducing risk associated with efforts to secure various geographic area licenses in combination, the

Commission concludes that, for the VHF Public Coast Service auction, adoption of a limit on their use to two rounds is the most appropriate outcome. By doing so the Commission believes it strikes a reasonable compromise that will allow bidders to use withdrawals. The Commission's decision on this issue is based upon its experience in prior auctions, particularly the PCS D, E and F block auction, 800 MHz SIR auction, and LADS auction, and is in no way a reflection of its view regarding the likelihood of any speculation or "gaming" in the VHF Public Coast Service auction.

83. The Bureau will therefore limit the number of rounds in which bidders may place withdrawals to two rounds. These rounds will be at the bidder's discretion and there will be no limit on the number of bids that may be withdrawn in either of these rounds. Withdrawals will still be subject to the bid withdrawal payments specified in 47 CFR 1.2104(g), and 1.2109. Bidders should note that abuse of the Commission's bid withdrawal procedures could result in the denial of the ability to bid on a market.

84. If a high bid is withdrawn, the license will be offered in the next round at the second highest bid price, which may be less than, or equal to, in the case of tie bids, the amount of the withdrawn bid, without any bid increment. The FCC will serve as a "place holder" on the license until a new acceptable bid is submitted on that license.

85. Generally, a bidder that withdraws a standing high bid during the course of an auction will be subject to a payment equal to the lower of: (1) The difference between the net withdrawn bid and the subsequent net winning bid; or (2) the difference between the gross withdrawn bid and the subsequent gross winning bid for that license. See 47 CFR 1.2104(g), and 1.2109. No withdrawal payment will be assessed if the subsequent winning bid exceeds the withdrawn bid.

#### (7) Round Results

86. The bids placed during a round are not published until the conclusion of that bidding period. After a round closes, the FCC will compile reports of all bids placed, bids withdrawn, current high bids, new minimum accepted bids, and bidder eligibility status (bidding eligibility and activity rule waivers), and post the reports for public access.

87. Reports reflecting bidders' identities and bidder identification numbers for Auction No. 20 will be available before and during the auction. Thus, bidders will know in advance the

identities of the bidders against which they are bidding.

#### (8) Auction Announcements

88. The FCC will use auction announcements to announce items such as schedule changes and stage transitions. All FCC auction announcements will be available on the FCC remote electronic bidding system, as well as the Internet and the FCC Bulletin Board System.

#### (9) Other Matters

89. After the short-form filing deadline, applicants may make only minor changes to their FCC Form 175 applications. For example, permissible minor changes include deletion and addition of authorized bidders (to a maximum of three) and revision of exhibits. Filers should make these changes on-line, and submit a letter to Amy Zoslov, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 2025 M Street, NW., Room 5202, Washington, DC 20554 (and mail a separate copy to Anne Napoli, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division), briefly summarizing the changes. Questions about other changes should be directed to Anne Napoli of the FCC Auctions and Industry Analysis Division at (202) 418-0660.

#### X. Post-Auction Procedures

##### A. Down Payments and Withdrawn Bid Payments

90. After bidding has ended, the Commission will issue a public notice declaring the auction closed, identifying the winning bids and bidders for each license, and listing withdrawn bid payments due.

91. Within ten business days after release of the auction closing notice, each winning bidder must submit sufficient funds (in addition to its upfront payment) to bring its total amount of money on deposit with the Government to 20 percent of its net winning bids (actual bids less any applicable bidding credits). See 47 CFR 1.2107(b). In addition, by the same deadline all bidders must pay any withdrawn bid amounts due under 47 CFR 1.2104(g). Upfront payments are applied first to satisfy any withdrawn bid liability, before being applied toward down payments.

##### B. Long-Form Application

92. Within ten business days after release of the auction closing notice, winning bidders must submit a properly completed long-form application and required exhibits for each VHF Public

Coast Service license won through the auction. Winning bidders that are small businesses or very small businesses must include an exhibit demonstrating their eligibility for bidding credits. See 47 CFR 1.2112(b). Further filing instructions will be provided to auction winners at the close of the auction.

##### C. Default and Disqualification

93. Any high bidder that defaults or is disqualified after the close of the auction (i.e., fails to remit the required down payment within the prescribed period of time, fails to submit a timely long-form application, fails to make full payment, or is otherwise disqualified) will be subject to the payments described in 47 CFR 1.2104(g)(2). In such event the Commission may re-auction the license or offer it to the next highest bidders (in descending order) at their final bids. See 47 CFR 1.2109(b) and (c). In addition, if a default or disqualification involves gross misconduct, misrepresentation, or bad faith by an applicant, the Commission may declare the applicant and its principals ineligible to bid in future auctions, and may take any other action that it deems necessary, including institution of proceedings to revoke any existing licenses held by the applicant. See 47 CFR 1.2109(d).

##### D. Refund of Remaining Upfront Payment Balance

94. All applicants that submitted upfront payments but were not winning bidders for a VHF Public Coast Service license may be entitled to a refund of their remaining upfront payment balance after the conclusion of the auction. No refund will be made unless there are excess funds on deposit from that applicant after any applicable bid withdrawal payments have been paid.

95. Bidders that drop out of the auction completely may be eligible for a refund of their upfront payments before the close of the auction. However, bidders that reduce their eligibility and remain in the auction are not eligible for partial refunds of upfront payments until the close of the auction. Qualified bidders that have exhausted all of their activity rule waivers, have no remaining bidding eligibility, and have not withdrawn a high bid during the auction must submit a written refund request which includes wire transfer instructions, a Taxpayer Identification Number ("TIN"), and a copy of their bidding eligibility screen print, to: Federal Communications Commission, Billings and Collections Branch, Attn: Regina Dorsey or Linwood Jenkins, 1919 M Street, NW., Room 452, Washington, D.C. 20554.

96. Bidders can also fax their request to the Billings and Collections Branch at (202) 418-2843. Once the request has been approved, a refund will be sent to the address provided on the FCC Form 159. Refund processing generally takes up to two weeks to complete. Questions about refunds should be directed to Linwood Jenkins or Geoffrey Idika at (202) 418-1995.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Amy J. Zoslov,**

*Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 98-26407 Filed 10-1-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency has submitted the following proposed information collection to the Office of Management and Budget for review and clearance in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507).

*Title:* Emergency Management Institute Follow-up Evaluation Survey.

*Type of Information Collection:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*OMB Number:* 3067-0273.

*Abstract:* The purpose of this survey is to determine the extent to which knowledge and/or skills participants obtained at EMI have been beneficial and applicable to the conduct of their present position or emergency management assignment. Feedback will be used in our ongoing course review and revision process. Information will also be used in responding to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) requirements.

*Affected Public:* State, Local or Tribal Government.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,000.

*Estimated Time per Respondent:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1,000.

*Frequency of Response:* Students are expected to complete a survey for each course.

### Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the

proposed information collection to Victoria Wassmer, Desk Officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503 within 30 days of the date of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be made to Muriel B. Anderson, FEMA Information Collections Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW, Room 316, Washington, DC 20472. Telephone number (202) 646-2625. FAX number (202) 646-3524 or email [muriel.anderson@fema.gov](mailto:muriel.anderson@fema.gov).

Dated: September 28, 1998.

**Reginald Trujillo,**

*Director, Program Services Division, Operations Support Directorate.*

[FR Doc. 98-26582 Filed 10-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1246-DR]

### Louisiana; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-1246-DR), dated September 23, 1998, and related determinations.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 23, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Madge Dale, Response and Recovery Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3260.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated September 23, 1998, the President declared a major disaster under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of Louisiana, resulting from Tropical Storm Frances on September 9, 1998, and continuing, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended ("the Stafford Act"). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of Louisiana.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation in the designated areas. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance or Hazard Mitigation will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

The time period prescribed for the implementation of section 310(a), Priority to Certain Applications for Public Facility and Public Housing Assistance, 42 U.S.C. 5153, shall be for a period not to exceed six months after the date of this declaration.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under Executive Order 12148, I hereby appoint Graham Nance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

I do hereby determine the following areas of the State of Louisiana to have been affected adversely by this declared major disaster:

Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes for Individual Assistance. Acadia, Cameron, Jefferson, and Lafourche Parishes for Public Assistance.

All counties within the State of Louisiana are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 83.537, Community Disaster Loans; 83.538, Cora Brown Fund Program; 83.539, Crisis Counseling; 83.540, Disaster Legal Services Program; 83.541, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 83.542, Fire Suppression Assistance; 83.543, Individual and Family Grant (IFG) Program; 83.544, Public Assistance Grants; 83.545, Disaster Housing Program; 83.548, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.)

**James L. Witt,**

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 98-26584 Filed 10-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-01-P

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[FEMA-1244-DR]

### New York; Amendment No. 4 to Notice of a Major Disaster Declaration

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**ACTION:** Notice.