



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Delays in Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and Submission of Supplemental Reply Comments

In late April and early May, the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) experienced some delays in publicly posting comments that had been submitted through ECFS, due to a surge in the volume of comments received in some proceedings. The current ECFS infrastructure converts all filed comments to .pdf format before publicly posting in ECFS. Commenters were able to submit filings in a timely manner during this period. However, given constraints in the ECFS legacy infrastructure, and due to the high volume of comments submitted during this period, the conversion process resulted in some delays in posting comments, despite the expansion of capacity.

This ECFS issue does not affect any interested party's ability to file comments, and it appears that the vast majority of comments have been, and will continue to be, entered into ECFS promptly enough to enable the preparation of complete reply comments by the scheduled due dates. The records remain open in the affected rulemaking proceedings, and to the extent that interested parties wish to inform the Commission of their view of any comments that were subject to delays in posting, they may, of course, employ the usual procedure for filing supplemental comments. The Commission's rules permit parties to supplement their reply comments to address late-posted pleadings. Such supplements, just as any written ex parte filings, will be considered by the Commission and made part of the administrative record. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

Thus, we do not find it necessary to grant a broad extension of comment deadlines in pending rulemaking proceedings. The Commission expects that already-planned system upgrades to ECFS that are expected in the near future will limit the likelihood of such delays in the future.

This Public Notice is issued by the Consumer and Governmental Affairs, International, Media, Public Safety and Homeland Security, Wireline Competition, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus, and the Offices of the Managing Director, and Engineering and Technology.