



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 12-959

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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU SEEK COMMENT ON FIRST STUDENT, INC. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF THE JANUARY 1, 2013 VHF-UHF NARROWBANDING DEADLINE

WT Docket 99-87

Comment Date: July 9, 2012

Reply Comment Date: July 19, 2012

By this *Public Notice*, comment is sought on the request, filed on May 4, 2012 and supplemented on June 9, 2012,¹ of First Student Inc. (First Student), a division of FirstGroup America (FGA), for a limited extension of the Commission's VHF-UHF narrowbanding deadline, which requires private land mobile radio (PLMR) licensees in the 150-174 MHz and 450-512 MHz bands to operate using channel bandwidth of no more than 12.5 kHz or equivalent efficiency by January 1, 2013.² First Student seeks a 12-month extension of the deadline, until January 1, 2013, for 279 PLMR stations throughout the United States.³

FGA is North America's largest school bus transportation services company and transports 6,000,000 students to and from school every day. Its operations include more than 600 locations, and a fleet of approximately 50,000 buses. In order to comply with the PLMR narrowbanding mandate, FGA plans to reprogram, replace, and otherwise update its entire radio systems investments, which will require replacement of 12,000 radios and reprogramming of 18,000 radios. FGA will narrowband twenty-four systems per month, and expects to complete narrowbanding for 180 call signs by the end of 2012. It requests an extension of the narrowbanding deadline for the remaining stations subject to the January 1,

¹ See Request for Waiver of FCC Narrowbanding Requirement (filed May 4, 2012); Electronic Communication dated June 9, 2012, from Jennifer A. Thullen, Senior Commodity Specialist, First Student, to Scot Stone, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Supplement).

² See 47 C.F.R. § 90.209(b)(5); see also Implementation of Sections 309(j) and 337 of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended; Promotion of Spectrum Efficient Technologies on Certain Part 90 Frequencies, *Third Memorandum Opinion and Order and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order*, WT Docket No. 99-87, RM-9332, 19 FCC Rcd 25045 (2004).

³ A list of call signs for which FGA requests a waiver is attached to Supplement. Most of the stations are licensed to First Student, but approximately one hundred of the call signs are held in the name of the school district or the local communications provider. In a separate filing submitted on June 9, 2012, First Student listed 180 stations for which it expects to complete narrowbanding by January 1, 2013, and thus does not request a waiver. See Electronic Communication dated June 9, 2012, from Jennifer A. Thullen, Senior Commodity Specialist, First Student, to Scot Stone, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

2013 deadline because the national scope and complexity of its system will keep FGA from timely completing its narrowbanding efforts.

We seek comments evaluating the waiver request in light of the July 13, 2011 *Public Notice* providing guidance on the submission of requests for waiver of the narrowband deadline.⁴ In particular, we seek comment from parties whose operations could be impacted by grant of the waiver.

Procedural Matters

Comments are due **no later than July 9, 2012**. Reply comments are due **no later than July 19, 2012**. All filings should reference the docket number of this proceeding, WT 99-87.

This proceeding has been designated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁵ Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (e.g., .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

Documents in WT Docket No. 99-87 available for viewing on ECFS, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs>, by entering the docket number, WT 99-87. These documents are available for public inspection and copying during business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th St. SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. The documents are also available for purchase from Best Copy and Printing, Inc., telephone (800) 378-3160 (toll free), (202) 488-5300 (office), facsimile (202) 488-5563, e-mail FCC@BCPIWEB.com, TTY (202) 488-5562.

Comments may be filed using the ECFS or by filing paper copies. See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 Fed. Reg. 24121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should

⁴ See Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, and Office of Engineering and Technology Provide Reminders of the January 1, 2013 Deadline for Transition to Narrowband Operations in the 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz Bands and Guidance for Submission of Requests for Waiver and Other Matters, *Public Notice*, 26 FCC Rcd 9647 (WTB/PSHSB/OET 2011); see also Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Provide Supplemental Guidance for Licensees in the 150-174 and 421-512 MHz Bands Seeking Waivers of the January 1, 2013 Narrowbanding Deadline, *Public Notice*, 27 FCC Rcd 1936 (WTB/PSHSB 2012).

⁵ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200(a), 1.1206.

include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, as follows:

-All hand-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is the **ONLY** location where hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary will be accepted. The Commission's former filing location at 236 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., is permanently closed.

-Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.

-U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20554.

-All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

Parties are requested to send one copy of their comments and reply comments to Best Copy and Printing, Inc., Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, (800) 378-3160, e-mail FCC@BCPIWEB.com.

Alternate formats of this *Public Notice* (computer diskette, large print, audio recording, and Braille) are available to persons with disabilities by contacting the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY), or send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov.

For further information, contact Mr. Melvin Spann of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202) 418-1333, or via e-mail at Melvin.Spann@fcc.gov or Mr. Roberto Mussenden of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at (202) 418-1428, or via e-mail at Roberto.Mussenden@fcc.gov.

Action by the Deputy Chief, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the Chief, Policy Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

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