

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 96-45
)	
Forward-Looking Mechanism for High Cost Support for Non-Rural LECs)	CC Docket No. 97-160
)	

ORDER

Adopted: October 6, 1998

Released: October 6, 1998

By the Chief, Accounting Policy Division

I. BACKGROUND

1. In conjunction with the Commission's proceeding to select a forward-looking economic cost mechanism for determining the level of federal high cost universal service support, the Common Carrier Bureau issued an *Order* requesting certain revenue information from non-rural local exchange carriers and holding companies.¹ The *Order* provided that responses would be due on October 6, 1998. In this Order the Accounting Policy Division extends the deadline for compliance with the *Order* as requested by several petitioners.

2. Anchorage Telephone Utility (ATU) has filed a petition for partial waiver of the data submission.² ATU contends that it does not have access to the sophisticated data systems and resources available to larger local exchange carriers (LECs). As a result, ATU argues that some of the information requested by the Commission is not readily ascertainable from ATU's records. Specifically, ATU requests that the Commission waive its data request relating to Chart

¹ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, *Order*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-160, DA 98-1576 (rel. Aug. 7, 1998). The *Order* requested revenue data from Aliant Communications Company, ALLTEL, Ameritech, Anchorage Telephone Utility, Bell Atlantic, BellSouth, Cincinnati Bell, Frontier Corporation, GTE, North State Telephone Co., Puerto Rico Telephone Co., Roseville Telephone Co., Southern New England, Southwestern Bell, U S West, and United Telephone System.

² ATU Request for Partial Waiver of Data Submission.

1 - Lines 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12; Chart 2 - Lines 22 and 23, columns B, C, D, and lines 25 and 26, columns C, D, E; Chart 3 - Lines 29 and 30, columns B, C, D and lines 32 and 33, columns C, D, E; and Chart 4 columns C, D, and E.³

3. GTE has requested an extension of the deadline relating to Chart 5 of the data request.⁴ GTE contends that it relies on the same personnel to develop computer programs to extract data for both Charts 4 and 5. Consequently, GTE argues that both requests cannot be met simultaneously and requests an extension from October 6, 1998 to October 27, 1998 in order to complete Chart 5.⁵ GTE plans to comply with the October 6, 1998 deadline for submission of Charts 1-4.

4. Puerto Rico Telephone Company (PRTC) has requested an extension in responding to the data request due to the extensive damage, including loss of power, caused by Hurricane Georges.⁶ PRTC requests an extension of time to complete its response to October 30, 1998.

5. U S West has requested an extension in responding to the data request due to the work stoppage, August 16, 1998 to August 30, 1998, during which time the managers required to compile this data were given strike assignments.⁷ U S West requests an extension of time to complete its response to October 20, 1998.

6. Roseville Telephone Company (RTC) has requested an extension of time to complete its response to the data request until December 7, 1998.⁸ RTC states that it can provide Chart 1 (except for business classification) and Charts 2 and 3 (July 1998 data) by October 6, 1998. RTC can provide complete Charts 2 and 3 by November 6, 1998. RTC notes that it is the smallest of the LECs required to respond to the data request and therefore has limited resources. In addition, RTC requests that it be permitted to use the billing period from October 20, 1998 through November 19, 1998 for preparation of Charts 4 and 5, rather than July 1998. RTC contends that this period is a representative billing period that will also allow RTC to respond to

³ ATU Request for Partial Waiver at 3. ATU also notes that on an earlier occasion the Bureau granted ATU's request to waive a requirement to provide detailed revenue information. ATU Request for Partial Waiver at 2.

⁴ GTE Request for Extension filed Sept. 16, 1998 at 1.

⁵ GTE Request for Extension at 2.

⁶ PRTC Request for Extension of Time at 1.

⁷ Letter from Glenn Brown, U S West, to Katie King, FCC, dated October 5, 1998 (also filed with Magalie Roman Salas).

⁸ RTC Motion for Extension of Time and Modification of Data Response Requirement at 2.

the data request in conjunction with performing its standard operational billing activities. RTC also contends that it is unable to sub-divide the business end-user category according to number of subscriber lines that were in use at the time of billing, as required by the data request. RTC requests that it be allowed to interpolate these figures, based on current multi-line and single-line business users, and derive a subtotal for bills rendered to these users.

7. North State Telephone Company (North State) has requested an extension of time to complete its response to the data request until December 7, 1998.⁹ North State notes that Charts 4 and 5 require an analysis of an entire month's billings and requests that it be permitted to use the billing period of October 1998 for preparation of Charts 4 and 5, rather than July 1998. North State contends that this period is a representative billing period that will also allow North State to respond to the data request in conjunction with performing its standard billing activities.

II. DISCUSSION

8. As a matter of Commission policy, requests for extension of time are not routinely granted.¹⁰ The Commission has committed to implementing a forward-looking cost methodology for non-rural carriers by July 1, 1999. The information sought in the data request is relevant to completion of that methodology. We recognize, however, that requiring all of the data requested to be submitted by the October 6, 1998 deadline may place an administrative burden upon some respondents. We find that extending the time to respond to the *Order*, as requested by individual petitioners, will significantly reduce the burden on respondents and help ensure that responses are accurate and complete. We therefore grant the request of GTE to extend the deadline for its submission of Chart 5 to October 27, 1998. We grant the request of PRTC to extend submission of its response to October 30, 1998 due to the consequences of Hurricane Georges. We grant the request of U S West to extend submission of its request to October 20, 1998 in light of the time lost due to the strike. We also grant the request of RTC to extend submission of its response as suggested by RTC. Specifically, we allow RTC to submit Charts 2 and 3 by November 6, 1998, and Charts 4 and 5 by December 7, 1998. We also grant the request of North State to extend submission of its response consistent with the time allotted to RTC. Specifically, we allow North State to submit Charts 2 and 3 by November 6, 1998, and Charts 4 and 5 by December 7, 1998.

9. In addition, we find in the case of ATU, RTC, and North State grounds to adjust or waive limited aspects of the data request in response to the administrative and record keeping resources of those petitioners. We grant the request of ATU to waive its response relating to Chart 1 - Lines 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12; Chart 2 - Lines 22 and 23 columns B, C, D and lines 25 and 26

⁹ North State Motion for Extension of Time and Modification of Data Response Requirement at 2.

¹⁰ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

columns C, D, E; Chart 3 - Lines 29 and 30 columns B, C, D and lines 32 and 33 columns C, D, E; and Chart 4 columns C, D, and E. We note that ATU is among the smallest of the respondents and find it reasonable to conclude that such information may not be readily ascertainable from ATU's records. In addition, we grant RTC's request to use the billing period from October 20, 1998 through November 19, 1998 and North State's request to use the October 1998 billing period for preparation of Charts 4 and 5. We agree with RTC and North State that their proposed alternative billing period are reasonably comparable to the July 1998 period suggested in the *Order*.¹¹ In the absence of historical data differentiating multi- and single-line business users, we also grant RTC's request to interpolate figures based upon current multi-line and single-line business end-users to derive subtotals for bills rendered to these users.

10. We emphasize that the limited extensions and waivers granted herein apply only to the petitioners that requested the respective extensions or waivers. With the exception of the limited extensions granted herein, all respondents remain bound by the October 6, 1998 deadline.

III. ORDERING CLAUSES

11. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 154(i), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46, that GTE's request for extension of time is GRANTED to the extent described herein.

12. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 154(i), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46, that Puerto Rico Telephone Company's Request for Extension of time is GRANTED to the extent described herein.

13. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 154(i), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46, that U S West's Request for Extension of time is GRANTED to the extent described herein.

14. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 154(i), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46, that Roseville Telephone Company's Motion for Extension of Time and Modification of Data Request is GRANTED to the extent described herein.

¹¹ Both periods have the same number of days (31) including 23 weekdays and 8 weekend days.

15. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 154(i), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46, that North State Telephone Company's Motion for Extension of Time and Modification of Data Request is GRANTED to the extent described herein.

16. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to the authority contained in section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. section 154(i), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.3, and 1.46 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.3, 1.46, that the request of Anchorage Telephone Utility for Partial Waiver of the Data Request is GRANTED to the extent described herein.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Lisa S. Gelb
Chief, Accounting Policy Division