

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 9, 1998

Released: October 9, 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 on August 7, 1998 requesting certain revenue information from non-rural local exchange carriers and holding companies.¹ The August 7 Order provided that responses would be due on October 6, 1998. The Accounting Policy Division released an Order extending the deadline for submitting information as requested by several petitioners.² Having received additional requests for extension of time, we extend the deadline for submitting the information as set forth below.

2. Sprint Local Telephone Companies (Sprint) has requested an extension in responding to the data request because, upon reviewing the data after it was compiled, Sprint had

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 Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, *Order*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-160, DA 98-2014 (rel., Oct. 6, 1998) (*Extension Order*).

concerns about the accuracy of certain data items.³ Rather than submitting incomplete or inaccurate data, Sprint requests an extension of time to complete its response to October 20, 1998.

3. North State Telephone Company (North State) has filed a supplement to its request for an extension of time to complete its response to the data request, which states that North State anticipates that it could fulfill certain portions of the data request prior to the previously requested December 7, 1998 extension.⁴ In our October 6, 1998 Order, we allowed North State to submit Charts 2 and 3 by November 6, 1998, and Charts 4 and 5 by December 7, 1998.⁵ In its supplement, North State additionally requests that it be permitted to provide Chart 1 (except for business classification) by October 12, 1998.

II. DISCUSSION

4. As a matter of Commission policy, requests for extension of time are not routinely granted.⁶ 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 Sprint to extend submission of its response to October 20, 1998. We also grant the request of North State to extend submission of its response and allow North State to submit Chart 1 by October 13, 1998.

5. 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

6. 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,

³ Sprint Motion for Extension of Time, filed Oct. 6, 1998.

⁴ North State Supplement to Motion for Extension of Time and Modification of Data Request Requirement, filed Oct. 6, 1998; *see also* North State Motion for Extension of Time and Modification of Data Response, filed Oct. 2, 1998.

⁵ *Extension Order* at 3-4.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

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 Sprint's request for extension of time is GRANTED to the extent described herein.

7. 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 Request for Extension of time is GRANTED to the extent described herein..

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Lisa S. Gelb
Chief, Accounting Policy Division