

PUBLIC NOTICE



Federal Communications Commission
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DA 98-682
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PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED FOR MCI PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING

CC Docket No. 96-45

Comment Date: April 24, 1998
Reply Comment Date: May 1, 1998

In the *Universal Service Order*, the Commission concluded that carriers contributing to the universal service support mechanisms may recover their contributions through rates for only interstate services.¹ The Commission concluded that carriers would be permitted, but not required, to recover their universal service contribution obligations from their interstate access and interexchange customers.²

On April 3, 1998, MCI filed a Petition for Declaratory Ruling requesting that the Commission find that the *Universal Service Order* permits universal service contributors to recover their contributions by assessing a charge on their customers based on the amount billed for both interstate and intrastate service.³ MCI asks the Commission to issue a declaratory ruling, on an expedited basis, finding that "carriers are not precluded by the *Universal Service Order* from imposing a charge on interstate customers that is based on the customers' total billed revenues, including intrastate revenues, to recover federal universal service costs."⁴ Parties wishing to comment on this petition are directed to file comments on or before **April 24, 1998** and to file reply comments on or before **May 1, 1998** in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

¹ *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Report and Order*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-157, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, 9198, at para. 838 (rel. May 8, 1997) (*Universal Service Order*).

² *Universal Service Order*, 12 FCC Rcd at 9199, at para. 829.

³ MCI Petition for Declaratory Ruling (filed April 3, 1998) (*MCI petition*).

⁴ *MCI petition* at 1.

Filing Requirements. All filings should reference: MCI Petition for Declaratory Ruling, CC Docket No. 96-45. All interested parties should include the name of the filing party and the date of the filing on each page of their comments and reply comments. Parties should include a table of contents in all documents regardless of length and should indicate whether they are filing an electronic copy of a submission via the Internet or via diskette. Pleadings must comply with Commission rules. One original and five copies of all comments and reply comments must be sent to Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Three copies also should be sent to Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, 2100 M Street, N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20554. Copies of documents filed with the Commission may be obtained from the International Transcription Service, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 857-3800. Such documents are also available for review and copying at the FCC Reference Center, Room 239, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Parties may also file informal comments or an exact copy of formal comments electronically via the Internet at: <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Only one copy of an electronic submission must be submitted. A party must note whether an electronic submission is an exact copy of formal comments on the subject line and should note in its paper submission that an electronic copy of its comments is being submitted via the Internet. A commenter also must include its full name and Postal Service mailing address in its submission. Parties not submitting an exact copy of their formal comments via the Internet are also asked to submit their comments on diskette. Parties submitting diskettes should submit them to Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, 2100 M Street, N.W., Room 8611, Washington, D.C. 20554. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette formatted in an IBM compatible format using WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows or compatible software. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly labelled with the party's name, proceeding, type of pleading (comment or reply comment), date of submission, and the name of the electronic file on diskette. Each diskette should contain only one party's pleadings, preferably in a single electronic file. Electronic submissions are in addition to and not a substitute for the formal filing requirements addressed above.

--Action by Chief, Accounting Policy Division--