COMMISSION TO HOLD EN BANC HEARING JUNE 8, 1998 ON PROPOSALS TO REVISE THE METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINING UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT
CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-160

The Federal Communications Commission will hold an en banc hearing on Monday, June 8, 1998, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm, in the Commission meeting room, Room 856 at 1919 M. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Commission has invited the state members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service to also preside at this en banc. At the en banc hearing, the Commission and the state members of the Joint Board will review certain proposals for revising the methodology for determining federal universal service support for non-rural carriers.

The Commission initially decided in the Universal Service Order\(^1\) that the federal fund would provide at least 25 percent of the total support necessary for non-rural carriers (25/75 decision), beginning January 1, 1999. Recently, the Commission stated in its Report to Congress on Universal Service\(^2\) that it would reconsider the share of federal support before implementing the new high cost support mechanism.

Pursuant to the Commission's April 15, 1998 public notice,\(^3\) several parties filed with the

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Commission alternative proposals. At the *en banc*, the Commission and the state Joint Board members will hear from and question the parties that filed proposals.

The *en banc* is open to the public, and seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. A transcript of the *en banc* will be available 10 days after the event on the FCC's Internet site. The URL address for the FCC's Internet Home Page is <http://www.fcc.gov>.

The *en banc* will also be carried live on the Internet. Internet users may listen to the real-time audio feed of the *en banc* by accessing the FCC Internet Audio Broadcast Home Page. Step-by-step instructions on how to listen to the audio broadcast, as well as information regarding the equipment and software needed, are available on the FCC Internet Audio Broadcast Home Page. The URL address for this home page is http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/.

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