



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

1919 M STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DA 98-1520

News media information 202/418-0500 Fax-On-Demand 202/418-2830 Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov> <ftp.fcc.gov>

COMMON CARRIER BUREAU ANNOUNCES NEW DATE FOR SENDING LIST OF RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANIES TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

CC Docket 96-45

Released: July 31, 1998

The Universal Service Order, FCC 97-157 (rel. May 8, 1997), established that rural and non-rural LECs will receive federal universal service support determined by separate mechanisms.¹ In order to differentiate between rural and non-rural carriers, the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) released a Public Notice on September 23, 1997 that requires local exchange carriers (LECs) seeking to be classified as rural telephone companies to file a letter with the Commission by April 30 of each year in which they self-certify that they meet the statutory definition of "rural telephone company."² In the *Self-Certification Public Notice*, the Commission stated that it would send a list of carriers certified as rural telephone companies to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by July 31 of each year.³ On June 22, 1998, the Bureau released a Public Notice acknowledging the receipt of such self-certification letters.⁴ The bifurcated support system was scheduled to be implemented January 1, 1999. On July 17, 1998, however, the Commission released an *Order* indicating that the revised high cost support mechanisms for non-rural carriers will take effect July 1, 1999.⁵

Because the implementation date for the new mechanism that will determine support for rural and non-rural carriers has been changed to July 1, 1999, the Bureau gives notice that it will submit to USAC the list of carriers certified as rural telephone companies on January 1, rather than July 31, of each year. In addition, the Bureau gives notice that before the list of carriers certified as rural telephone companies is sent to USAC on January 1, 1999, the Commission will release a Public Notice containing an updated list of carriers certified as rural telephone companies. To the extent that we require additional information to clarify the status of a carrier

¹ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, *Report and Order*, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, 8927, ¶ 273 (1997) (*Universal Service Order*).

² Self-Certification as a Rural Telephone Company, *Public Notice*, DA 97-1748 (rel. Sept. 23, 1997) (*Self-Certification Public Notice*). See 47 U.S.C. § 153(37).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Commission Acknowledges Receipt of Letters Self-Certifying LECs as Rural Telephone Companies, *Public Notice*, DA 98-1205 (rel. June 22, 1998).

⁵ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, *Order and Order on Reconsideration*, FCC 98-160 (rel. July 17, 1998) (*Order*).

that has submitted a self-certification letter, Commission staff will contact that carrier directly prior to submitting the list of rural carriers to USAC.

For further information contact Adrian Wright, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-7400.

--Action by Chief, Accounting Policy Division--