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Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D. C. 20554

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commission Upholds Certification Requirements for Payphone Compensation; Directs Enforcement Bureau to Investigate “Self-Help” Practices

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Communications Commission denied Applications for Review filed by Frontier Communications Services, an inter-exchange carrier, of two staff Orders requiring Frontier to pay compensation to local exchange carrier payphone service providers. The Commission specifically adopts the findings and conclusions of the staff’s Orders and, after criticizing Frontier’s “self-help” in refusing to pay, directs the Enforcement Bureau to investigate whether enforcement action against Frontier is warranted.

Under Section 276 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Commission’s rules, inter-exchange carriers must compensate payphone service providers for certain types of calls made from their payphones. The Commission affirmed the staff finding that Frontier had failed to comply with the Commission’s rules by refusing to pay compensation to certain local telephone company payphone owners.

The Commission stated that it was “troubled by self-help actions” taken by Frontier in refusing to compensate the payphone service providers, rather than compensating the payphone service provider and bringing any disputes to the Commission for resolution. The Commission found that Frontier had acted “in an apparent effort to delay payment of payphone compensation mandated by the Act and our rules.” As a result, the Order directs the Enforcement Bureau to investigate whether enforcement action is warranted against Frontier for knowing or repeated violations of Commission rules.

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