Federal Communications Commission

§ 65.101 Initiation of unitary rate of return prescription proceedings.

(a) Whenever the Commission determines that the monthly average yields on ten (10) year United States Treasury securities remain, for a consecutive six (6) month period, at least 150 basis points above or below the average of the monthly average yields in effect for the consecutive six (6) month period immediately prior to the effective date of the current prescription, the Commission shall issue a notice inquiring whether a rate of return prescription according to this part should commence. This notice shall state:

1. The deadlines for filing initial and reply comments regarding the notice;
2. The cost of debt, cost of preferred stock, and capital structure computed in accordance with §§ 65.302, 65.303, and 65.304; and
3. Such other information as the Commission may deem proper.

(b) Based on the information submitted in response to the notice described in § 65.101(a), and on any other information specifically identified, the Commission may issue a notice initiating a prescription proceeding pursuant to this part.

(c) The Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, may issue the notice described in § 65.101(a).

§ 65.102 Petitions for exclusion from unitary treatment and for individual treatment in determining authorized return for interstate exchange access service.

(a) Exclusion from unitary treatment will be granted for a period of two years if the cost of capital for interstate exchange service is so low as to be confiscatory because it is outside the zone of reasonableness for the individual carrier’s required rate of return for interstate exchange access services.

(b) A petition for exclusion from unitary treatment and for individual treatment must plead with particularity the exceptional facts and circumstances that justify individual treatment. The showing shall include a demonstration that the exceptional facts and circumstances are not of transitory effect, such that exclusion for a period of at least two years is justified.

(c) A petition for exclusion from unitary treatment and for individual treatment may be filed at any time. When a petition is filed at a time other than that specified in § 65.102(b)(2), the petitioner must provide compelling evidence that its need for individual treatment is not simply the result of short-term fluctuations in the cost of capital or similar events.

§ 65.103 Procedures for filing rate of return submissions.

(a) Rate of return submissions listed in § 65.103(b)(1) and (c) may include any relevant information, subject to the page limitations of § 65.104. The Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, may require from carriers providing interstate services, and from other participants submitting rate of return submissions, data, studies or other information that are reasonably calculated to lead to a full and fair record.

(b) In proceedings to prescribe an authorized unitary rate of return on interstate exchange services, interested parties may file direct case submissions, responses, and rebuttals. Direct case submissions shall be filed within sixty (60) calendar days following the effective date of a Commission notice initiating a rate of return proceeding pursuant to § 65.101(b). Rate of return submissions responsive to the direct case submissions shall be filed within sixty (60) calendar days after the deadline for filing direct case submissions. Rebuttal submissions shall be filed within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the deadline for filing responsive submissions.

(c) Petitions for exclusion from unitary treatment and for individual treatment may be filed on the same date as the deadline for filing responsive rate of return submissions. Oppositions shall be filed within thirty-five (35) calendar days thereafter. Rebuttal submissions shall be filed within twenty-one (21) calendar days.