

adverse comments. A detailed rationale for EPA's actions is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to this proposed rule, no further activity is contemplated and the direct final rule will become effective. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. EPA will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this document should do so at this time.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received in writing by May 21, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on this action should be addressed to Richard Long, Air Program Chief, 8P2-A, at the EPA Regional Office listed below. Copies of the State's submittal and documents relevant to this proposed rule are available for inspection during normal business hours at the following locations: Air Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202-2405; and North Dakota State Department of Health and Consolidated Laboratories, Environmental Health Section, 1200 Missouri Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota, 58502-5520.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Platt, Environmental Protection Agency, (303) 312-6449.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See the information provided in the Direct Final action which is located in the Rules Section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 7, 1997.

Jack W. McGraw,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97-10127 Filed 4-18-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

43 CFR Parts 2800, 2920, 4100, 4300, 4700, 5460, 5510, 8200, 8340, 8350, 8360, 8370, 8560, 9210, and 9260

RIN 1004-AC30

[WO-130-1820-00 24 1A]

Law Enforcement; Criminal

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is withdrawing the

proposed rule to revise and consolidate the BLM's criminal law enforcement regulations. The proposal was published in the **Federal Register** on November 7, 1996. BLM is taking this action in response to the many comments we received on the proposal. This Action in no way diminishes the authority of BLM's Law Enforcement Officers or other employees under the current laws and regulations BLM will continue to enforce the law on public lands we administer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erica Petacchi, Regulatory Management Group (WO-630), Bureau of Land Management, Mail Stop 401LS, 1849 "C" Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240; telephone (202) 452-5084 (Commercial or FTS).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 7, 1996, BLM published a proposed rule to consolidate and revise the Criminal Law Enforcement regulations. See 61 FR 57605-57621. BLM intended only to simplify and streamline the existing regulations and to consolidate scattered provisions in one new subpart. The initial comment period, which was to close on January 6, 1997, was extended twice for an additional 60 days at the requests of commenters. The comment period closed on March 7, 1997. After the close of the comment period, BLM decided to withdraw the proposed rule in response to misunderstanding and confusion by the public on how the proposed regulations would affect BLM's law enforcement program.

Dated: April 14, 1997.

Bob Armstrong,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 97-10211 Filed 4-18-97; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 0 and 1

[GC Docket No. 97-113; FCC 97-113]

Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In order to implement the changes mandated by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to serve the public more quickly and efficiently, the Commission is proposing to expand the use of electronic filing in FCC proceedings. There has been positive public response to the

Commission's use thus far of new information technologies. In this proceeding, the Commission proposes to amend its rules to permit the filing of comments in rulemaking proceedings (except broadcast allotment proceedings) over the Internet. This proceeding will make it easier for the public to participate in FCC rulemaking proceedings and is an important step not only in the Commission's ongoing efforts to prepare the FCC for the information age.

DATES: Comments are due May 21, 1997 and reply comments are due June 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurence H. Schecker, Office of General Counsel, (202) 418-1720.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Adopted: April 4, 1997.

Released: April 7, 1997.

I. Introduction

1. In this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), we propose to allow parties to file comments¹ electronically in all FCC informal notice and comment rulemaking proceedings conducted under section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act, except for broadcast allotment proceedings.² These electronic filings would be given the same treatment and consideration as comments filed on paper. We tentatively conclude that this action will make it significantly easier for members of the public to communicate their views to the Commission, and to review comments that others have filed. We believe that electronic filing will also allow the Commission to improve the efficiency of its own processes, to the benefit of the public.

II. Background

2. The FCC is committed to taking advantage of new information technologies to better serve the public. For nearly two years, we have made virtually every FCC order, notice of proposed rulemaking, public notice, and news release available at no charge through the Internet. We have

¹ Throughout this NPRM, we use the term "comments" to refer to comments, reply comments, and other documents filed in notice and comment rulemaking proceedings prior to the reply comment deadline.

² 5 U.S.C. § 553. Broadcast allotment proceedings are large in number and are therefore not included in this pilot program. In addition, they are restricted under the Commission's ex parte rules, 47 CFR § 1.1208, which increases the chances that electronic filings might not be properly served on the parties.