

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval Number: 3060-0824.

Form Number: FCC Form 498.

Title: Service Provider Information Form.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business and other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: On Occasion reporting requirements; Third party disclosure.

Total Annual Burden: 10,000 hours.

Cost to Respondents: \$0.

Needs and Uses: Pursuant to 47 CFR Sections 54.515 and 54.611, the Administrator must obtain information relating to: service provider name and address, telephone number, Federal employee identification number, contact names and telephone number, and billing and collection information. FCC Form 498 has been designed to collect this information from carriers and service providers participating in the universal service program. The information will be used in the reimbursement of universal service support payments.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-22475 Filed 8-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-F

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval

August 12, 1998.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility;

(b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated information techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before September 21, 1998. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Les Smith, Federal Communications, Room 234, 1919 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20554 or via internet to lesmith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Les Smith at 202-418-0217 or via internet at lesmith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval Number: 3060-0547.

Title: Section 76.61 Disputes

concerning carriage and Section 76.7 Special relief and must-carry procedures.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business and other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents: 600

(includes petitioning and opposing parties for Sections 76.61 and 76.7).

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 to 40 hours.

Frequency of Response: On Occasion reporting requirements; Third party disclosure.

Total Annual Burden: 18,000 hours.

Cost to Respondents: \$198,000.

Needs and Uses: This information collection accounts for the paperwork burden associated with disputes concerning carriage contained in Section 76.61 as well as must-carry complaints and other petitions for special relief contained in Section 76.7.

Section 76.61 states that whenever a local commercial television or qualified low power television station believes that a cable operator has failed to meet its carriage or channel positioning obligations, such station shall notify the cable operator, in writing, of the alleged failure and identify its reasons for believing that the cable operator is obligated to carry the signal of such station or position such signal on a particular channel. The cable operator then must respond in writing within 30 days to the notification and either

commence to carry the station or state its reasons for believing it is not obligated to carry such signal. The television or low power television station may then file a "must-carry" complaint in accordance with procedures set forth in Section 76.7. Qualified local noncommercial educational television stations may also file "must-carry" complaints with the Commission in accordance with procedures set forth in 76.7. Must-carry complaints shall specifically allege the manner in which the cable operator failed to meet its obligations and the basis for such allegations.

Section 76.7 states that on petition by a cable television system operator, a franchising authority, an applicant, permittee, or licensee of a television broadcast or translator station, or by any other interested person, the Commission may waive any provision of the rules relating to cable television systems, impose additional or different requirements, or issue a ruling on a complaint or disputed question. The petition for special relief or must-carry complaint may be submitted informally, by letter, but shall be accompanied by a certificate of service on any cable television operator, franchising authority, station licensee, permittee, or applicant, or other interested person who may be directly affected if the relief requested is granted. Interested parties may submit comments or oppositions to a petition for special relief or a must-carry complaint within twenty days after the date of public notice of the filing of such petition or complaint. The petitioner or complainant may file a reply to the comments or oppositions within 10 days after their submission.

OMB Approval Number: 3060-0548.

Title: Section 76.302 Required recordkeeping for must-carry purposes and Section 76.56 Signal carriage obligations.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business and other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents: 11,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 0.5 hours to 1.0 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirements; Third party disclosure.

Total Annual Burden: 66,000 hours.

Cost to Respondents: \$110,000.

Needs and Uses: Section 76.302 requires the operator of every cable television system to maintain a public inspection file containing a list of all broadcast television stations carried by its system in fulfillment of the must-

carry requirements pursuant to Section 76.56 and the designation and location of its principal headend. Sections 76.302 and 76.56(e) state that upon written request from any person, a cable operator is required to provide the list of must-carried signals in writing within 30 days of receipt of such request. Additionally, Section 76.56(d)(3) states that if a cable operator authorizes subscribers to install additional receiver connections, but does not provide the subscriber with such connections, or with the equipment and materials for such connections, the operator shall notify such subscribers of all broadcast stations carried on the cable system which cannot be viewed via cable without a converter box and shall offer to sell or lease such a converter box to such subscribers. The notice, which may be included in routine billing statements, shall identify the signals that are unavailable without an additional connection, the manner for obtaining such additional connection, and instructions for installation. These notification and recordkeeping requirements ensure that subscribers are aware of which channels cannot be viewed without converter boxes and which channels are defined as must-carry. The records kept by cable television systems are reviewed by Commission staff during field inspections and by local public officials to assess the systems' compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

OMB Approval Number: 3060-0652.

Title: Section 76.309 Customer service obligations and Section 76.964 Notice to subscribers.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business and other for-profit entities; State, local and tribal governments.

Number of Respondents: 11,375 (11,365 cable systems +10 franchise authorities).

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes to 1.0 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirements; Third party disclosure.

Total Annual Burden: 33,975 hours.

Cost to Respondents: \$100,000.

Needs and Uses: Sections 76.309 and 76.964 set forth various customer service obligations and notification requirements for changes in rates, programming services and channel positions. Section 76.309(a) states that franchise authorities must provide affected cable operators 90 days written notice of its intent to enforce customer services standards set forth in Section 76.309(c).

Section 76.309(c)(3)(i)(A) states that cable operators shall provide written information on each of the following areas at the time of installation of service, at least annually to all subscribers, and at any time upon request: (1) Products and services offered; (2) Prices and options for programming services and conditions of subscription to programming and other services; (3) Installation and service maintenance policies; (4) Instructions on how to use the cable service; (5) Channel positions programming carried on the system; and, (6) Billing and complaint procedures, including the address and telephone number of the local franchise authority's cable office.

Section 76.309(c)(3)(i)(B) states that customers will be notified of any changes in rates, programming services or channel positions as soon as possible in writing. Notice must be given to subscribers a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of such changes if the change is within the control of the cable operator. In addition, the cable operator shall notify subscribers 30 days in advance of any significant changes in the other information required by Section 76.309(c)(3)(i)(A).

Section 76.964 states that in addition to the requirement set forth in Section 76.309(c)(3)(i)(B) regarding advance notification to customers of any changes in rates, programming services or channel positions, cable systems shall give 30 days written notice to both subscribers and local franchising authorities before implementing any rate or service change. Such notice shall state the precise amount of any rate change and briefly explain in readily understandable fashion the cause of the rate change (e.g. inflation, changes in external costs or the addition/deletion of channels). When the change involves the addition or deletion of channels, each channel added or deleted must be separately identified. Notices to subscribers shall inform them of their right to file complaints about changes in cable programming service tier rates and services, shall state that the subscriber may file the complaint within 90 days of the effective date of the rate change, and shall provide the address and phone number of the local franchising authority.

Section 76.309(c)(3)(ii)(B) states that in case of a billing dispute, the cable operator must respond to a written complaint from a subscriber within 30 days.

Since the last OMB clearance for this collection, it has been revised in two ways. First, the Section 76.309(a) requirement that franchise authorities must provide affected cable operators 90

days written notice of intent to enforce customer services standards was not previously accounted for in this collection. We now seek clearance for it as part of this collection. Second, cable operators are no longer required to provide notice of any rate change that is the result of a regulatory fee, franchise fee, or any other fee, tax, assessment, or charge of any kind imposed by any Federal agency, State, or franchising authority on the transaction between operators and their subscribers. We revise this collection accordingly.

The Commission requires the various disclosure and notifications contained in this collection as a means of consumer protection to ensure that subscribers and franchising authorities are knowledgeable of cable operators' business practices, current rates, rate changes for programming, service and equipment, and channel line-up changes.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-22513 Filed 8-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-10-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Public Information Collections Approved by Office of Management and Budget

August 17, 1998.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the following public information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. For further information contact Shoko B. Hair, Federal Communications Commission, (202) 418-1379.

Federal Communications Commission

OMB Control No.: 3060-0785.

Expiration Date: 01/31/1999.

Title: Universal Service Worksheet.

Form No.: FCC Form 457.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Annual Burden: 5000 respondents; 13.69 hours per response (avg.); 68,450 total annual burden hours for all collections.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden: \$4,903.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.