

Commission to select USAC's Board of Directors and to ensure that requests for review are filed properly with the Commission.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-3578 Filed 2-12-99; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### Public Information Collections Approved by Office of Management and Budget

February 4, 1999.

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.:* 3060-0484.

*Expiration Date:* 01/31/2001.

*Title:* Amendment of Part 63 of the Commission's Rules to Provide for Notification of Common Carriers of Service Disruptions—Section 63.100.

*Form No.:* N/A.

*Respondents:* Business or other for profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 52 respondents (reporting approximately 4 times a year); 5 hours per response (avg.); 1040 total annual burden hours.

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* \$0.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Description:* Section 63.100 of the Commission's rules requires that "any local exchange or interexchange common carrier that operates transmission or switching facilities and provides access service or interstate or international telecommunications service that experiences an outage on any facilities which it owns or operates must notify the Commission if such service outage continues for 30 or more minutes. Satellite carriers and cellular carriers were exempt from this reporting requirement." An initial and a final report is required for each outage. The reports enable us to monitor developments affecting telecommunications reliability; to serve

as a source of information for the public; to encourage and, where appropriate, assist in dissemination of information to those affected; and to take immediate steps, as needed, and after analyzing the information submitted, to determine what, if any, other action is required. The Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) receives the initial outage and incident reports through the Commission's Watch Officers to whom the carriers report within 120 minutes or, in the case of outages affecting 50,000 customers, within 3 days of the carrier's knowledge that the outage is reportable. If OET did not receive the information in the reports for analysis and further investigation, the Commission would have considerable difficulty determining the state of network reliability. It would depend on delayed, incomplete and second hand analysis as a basis for recommending any future Commission action that might be needed to encourage carriers to enhance their reliability efforts. It would have difficulty determining the implementation and efficacy of its own and industry's present and future recommendations for enhancing reliability. It would be less able to spot reliability weaknesses as they begin to appear in the rapidly changing networks. The reporting requirement will facilitate FCC monitoring of the reliability of service being provided and enable it to take swift remedial action as required. The reporting requirement is essential to the FCC's mission of ensuring that the public is protected from major disruptions to telephone services. Information required in the initial reports includes identification of the carrier and a carrier contact person, date and time of commencement of the outage, geographical area affected, estimated number of customers affected, duration of the outage, estimated number of blocked calls during the outage, apparent or known cause of the incident, including the name and type of equipment involved and the specific part of the network affected, methods used to restore service and the steps taken to prevent recurrence of the outage. Not later than thirty days after an outage or incident, the carrier must file with the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) a final service disruption report providing all available information on the service outage, including any information not contained in its initial report. Information collected has been used by the Commission staff to determine weaknesses to reliability and to formulate new tasks for the Network

Reliability and Interoperability Counsel (NRIC), a Federal Advisory Committee formed by the Commission to advise it on matters of network reliability. Obligation to respond: Mandatory.

*OMB Control No.:* 3060-0876.

*Expiration Date:* 06/30/99.

*Title:* USAC Board of Directors Nomination Process (47 CFR 54.703) and Review of Administrator's Decision (47 CFR Sections 54.719-54.725).

*Form No.:* N/A.

*Respondents:* Business or other for profit.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 22 respondents; 25.4 hours per response (avg.); 560 total annual burden hours.

*Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* \$0.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion; annually; third party disclosure.

*Description:* The Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act) directed the Commission to initiate a rulemaking to reform our system of universal service so that universal service is preserved and advanced as markets move toward competition. To fulfill that mandate, based on the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, the Commission adopted a Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45 on May 7, 1997 to implement the congressional directives set out in section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the 1996 Act. In a Report and Order (released July 18, 1997), the Commission appointed the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. (NECA) the temporary administrator of the universal service support mechanisms, subject to its creating a separate subsidiary, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), to administer the support programs. The Commission also directed NECA, as a condition of its appointment as temporary administrator, to create two unaffiliated corporations to administer portions of the schools and libraries and rural health care programs. NECA established the Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC) and the Rural Health Care Corporation (RHCC).

In connection with supplemental appropriations legislation enacted on May 1, 1998, Congress directed the Commission to establish a single entity to administer federal universal service. In a May 8, 1998 Report to Congress, the Commission proposed that, by January 1, 1999, USAC would serve as the single entity responsible for administering all of the universal service support mechanisms including the schools and libraries and rural health care support mechanisms.

On November 20, 1998, the Commission released an Order directing the merger of SLC and RHCC into USAC as the single entity responsible for administering the universal service support mechanisms as of January 1, 1999. The Order adopts rules that will govern USAC following the required merger. Certain portions of these rules contain collections of information. First, the Order instructs industry and non-industry groups to submit to the Commission for approval nominations for individuals to be appointed to the USAC Board of Directors. (No. of respondents: 12 respondents; hours per response: 20 hours; total annual burden: 240 hours). Second, the Order adopts procedures for Commission review of USAC decisions, including the general filing requirements pursuant to which parties must file requests for review. An affected party would be permitted to file a petition for Commission review with the Bureau within thirty days of an action taken by USAC. The appellant must state specifically its interest in the matter presented for review. The appellant also must provide the Commission with a full statement of relevant, material facts with supporting affidavits and documentation. In addition, the appellant must state concisely the question presented for review, with reference, where appropriate, to the relevant Commission rule, Commission order, or statutory provision. The appellant also must state the relief sought and the relevant statutory or regulatory provision pursuant to which such relief is sought. If an appellant alleges prohibited conduct by a third party, the appellant shall serve a copy of the appeal on such third party, who shall have an opportunity to file an opposition. Similarly, appellants shall serve on USAC a copy of the appeal of a USAC decision filed with the Commission. See 47 CFR Sections 54.719–54.725. (No. of respondents: 10; hours per response: 32 hours; total annual burden: 320 hours). The information will be used by the Commission to select USAC's Board of Directors and to ensure that requests for review are filed properly with the Commission. The information requested is not otherwise available. Without such information, the Commission could not appoint a representative body to USAC's Board of Directors nor resolve requests for review and, therefore, could not fulfill its statutory responsibility in accordance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Obligation to respond: required to obtain or retain benefits.

Public reporting burden for the collections of information is as noted above. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the collections of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas**

*Secretary*

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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

February 5, 1999.

**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, and 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 collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted on or before March 18, 1999. 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 Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1–C804, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to [jboley@fcc.gov](mailto:jboley@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For additional information or copies of the information collection(s), contact Judy Boley at 202–418–0214 or via the Internet at [jboley@fcc.gov](mailto:jboley@fcc.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*OMB Control Number:* 3060–0169.

*Title:* Sections 43.51 and 43.53—Reports and Records of Communications Common Carriers and Affiliates.

*Form Number:* N/A.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents:* Business or other for-profit.

*Number of Respondents:* 71.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 84.91 hours per response (avg.).

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion and annual reporting requirement, third party disclosure requirement, and recordkeeping requirement.

*Total Annual Burden:* 6,029 hours.

*Total Annual Cost:* N/A.

*Needs and Uses:* Sections 211 and 215 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, require that the FCC examine transactions of any common carriers relating to the activities of that carrier which may affect the charges and/or services rendered under the Act. The reports required by Sections 43.51 and 43.53 are the means by which the FCC gathers information concerning the activities of carriers which it examines. Section 43.51 also requires carriers to maintain copies of certain contracts, to have them readily accessible to Commission staff and members of the public upon request and to forward individual contracts to the Commission as requested.

The information contained in these reports is used by the FCC to determine whether the activities reported have affected or are likely to affect adversely the carrier's service to the public or whether these activities result in undue or unreasonable increases in charges. If this information were not reported, the FCC would not be able to ascertain the impact of these activities on the just and reasonable rates as required by the Act.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Magalie Roman Salas,**

*Secretary.*

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