

EPA may withdraw from or modify the proposed settlement should such comments disclose facts or considerations which indicate the proposed settlement is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Copies of the proposed settlement are available from: Ms. Paula V. Batchelor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, Program Services Branch, Waste Management Division, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, (404) 562-8887.

Written comment may be submitted to Mr. Greg Armstrong at the above address within 30 days of the date of publication.

Dated: September 30, 1999.

Franklin E. Hill,

Chief, Program Services Branch.

[FR Doc. 99-26967 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 26, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. (Central Time).

PLACE: Harold Washington Social Security Center, First Floor Auditorium, 600 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661.

STATUS: The meeting will be open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Announcement of Notation Votes, and
2. National Origin Discrimination Issues.

Note: Any matters not discussed or concluded may be carried over to a later meeting. (In addition to published notices on EEOC Commission meetings in the **Federal Register** the Commission also provides a recorded announcement a full week in advance on future Commission meetings). Please telephone (202) 663-7100 (voice) and (202) 633-4074 (TDD) at any time for information on these meetings.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Frances M. Hart, Executive Officer on (202) 663-4070.

Dated: October 13, 1999.

Bernadette B. Wilson,

Program Analyst, Executive Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 99-27132 Filed 10-13-99; 2:56 pm]

BILLING CODE 6750-06-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[FCC 99-272]

Year 2000 Network Stabilization Policy Statement

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Policy statement.

SUMMARY: This document states the Commission's awareness of the potential effects on Year 2000 compliance of regulatory actions that require changes to computer systems and networks within the telecommunications industry. The Commission states its intention to consider industry requests for waivers, stays of regulatory requirements, and petitions for extensions as precaution against Year 2000 conversions made by industry in preparation for the Year 2000 rollover.

DATES: Effective October 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Jackson, Office of Commissioner Michael Powell, (202) 418-2203 or via the Internet at pjackson@fcc.gov. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission's TTY number: 202-418-2989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's FCC 99-272, adopted October 4, 1999, and released October 4, 1999. This document is available for inspection and copying during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Room Cy-A257, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC, and is available on the FCC's Internet site at www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Notices/1999/. This document may also be purchased from the Commission's duplication contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc. (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Summary of Policy Statement

1. The Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") considers the Year 2000 ("Y2K") Date Conversion Problem, or so-called Y2K Problem, to be one of the country's most pressing technical concerns. The Commission has worked deliberately and patiently to raise awareness of the Y2K Problem, monitor the efforts of industry to address it effectively, and facilitate the development of contingencies in event of unseen disruption scenarios.

2. In this regard, we are also concerned with the impact any of our regulations may have on the efforts already undertaken by the

communications industry to prepare their systems for the year 2000 date-rollover. Accordingly, we herein adopt this "Year 2000 Network Stabilization Policy Statement" (hereinafter the "Policy Statement"). We believe that by adopting the policies outlined in the statement we will facilitate the ability of all communications providers to establish stable and secure network environments necessary to continue to perform meaningful Y2K tests and to implement appropriate Y2K solutions prior to the January 1, 2000 millennial rollover.

3. The Policy Statement conveys the Commission's intention to consider industry requests for stay of regulatory requirements, where appropriate, as a precaution against potentially disruptive non-Year 2000-related modifications and upgrades made to various systems and networks pursuant to the implementation requirements of Communications Act of 1934 or the Commission's rules. We will consider these requests as they relate to any of the industries over which we have regulatory oversight including the wireline, wireless, radio and television broadcast, cable television, satellite and international telecommunications industries.

Background

4. The Y2K Problem is the inability of some computers and other related automated and intelligent systems to process correctly the millennial date conversion that will occur on January 1, 2000. In the 1950s and 1960s, computer designers and programmers, in order to reduce the need for expensive computer memory and data storage, developed the convention of storing calendar year dates using only the last two digits for the date year. Thus, the calendar year 1967 was represented as "67." As a consequence, computerized systems and networks may erroneously assume "00" to be "1900," not "2000," and thereby not function properly in the year 2000. In some cases, the hardware and software will continue to work, but they will generate and process spurious data that may not be detected for months or even years after.

5. The Y2K Problem also has the potential to affect billions of systems and products that make use of microprocessors and so-called computer "microchips". Microprocessors and microchips can be found in a wide range of consumer products, such as toasters, washing machines, microwave ovens, dishwashers and video cassette recorders. They are used extensively in automobiles, trucks and other transportation vehicles. Microprocessors

and microchips are also used extensively in industrial applications such as environmental and climate control systems, manufacturing systems, and power distribution systems. Microchips and microprocessors are used extensively in communications systems.

6. The implications of the millennial date change problem are especially significant for the communications industry because communications rely upon the seamless interconnection of numerous disparate networks and systems. Consider hundreds of millions of users of communications services throughout the country transmit voice, data and video information through a communications infrastructure composed of wireline telephone networks, cellular and personal communications systems, satellite communication systems, broadcasting and cable television systems, and the Internet. Many critical programs, such as Federal Reserve electronic fund transfers and Medicare benefit payments, also depend upon this ubiquitous infrastructure and, consequently, could be seriously affected if the Y2K Problem interrupts telephone and data networking services.

Discussion

7. Ensuring the health of the critical communications "nervous system" is the collective task of industry, the Commission, and other interested stakeholders, not the least of whom are communications end-users. For their part, the major U.S. communications providers have generally worked aggressively to remediate their various systems and networks. The Network Reliability and Interoperability Council ("NRIC"), a federal advisory committee that reports directly to the FCC, recently conveyed to the Commission that the major communications companies reported having completed the remediation of 98% of their networks as of June 30, 1999. In the domestic context, the NRIC assessment addresses the Y2K-readiness of the country's local exchange carriers representing over 92 percent of the country's total access lines and of inter-exchange carriers whose revenue comprised approximately 82 percent of the industry total revenue for long-distance service.

8. By no means does industry contend that they have completed their testing and validation efforts. Consequently, NRIC represented that the current focuses of major carriers and providers remain steadfastly on testing and contingency planning at all levels. In this context, the major communications

providers and prominent trade organizations have commenced a dialogue on the issue of network protection and stabilization to minimize problems associated with the Year 2000 changes.

9. The major communications companies have generally been working diligently during the past several years on Year 2000 remediation. Most companies have devoted tremendous amounts of executive management leadership, human resource assets, financial capital and technical expertise on both the direct and indirect effects of the problem. It has come to the Commission's attention that, in a number of instances, in both private industry and within the government, networks that were remediated, tested, and determined to be Year 2000-compliant have been disrupted by the addition of other systems, databases, and changes to networks not related to Year 2000. In effect, these changes threaten to "undo" Year 2000-remediation performed on networks, at a time when much work remains to be done.

10. Consequently, on a going-forward basis, the industry generally and many of the individual companies specifically are planning on implementing a network stabilization period in order to ensure the establishment of stable Year 2000-compliant environments. The industry maintains that the "Commission needs to be sensitive to any and all rulemakings and orders which would impact computer systems and require software changes" and advises the Commission "to schedule and coordinate implementation requirements so they do not fall within the months in which software code is to remain unchanged."

11. The issue of network protection and stabilization also has specifically arisen in a number of Commission proceedings. For instance, in considering an extension of time for the compliance date under Section 107 of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, the Commission took into account the need to avoid the Y2K problem when it established a new compliance deadline of June 30, 2000. Moreover, the network stabilization period issue was also addressed in a proceeding involving a request for a waiver in New York of the ten-digit dialing requirement in the Commission's rule governing area code relief. In the Commission's Order, the Network Services Division of the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau stated that "[w]e share Bell Atlantic's concern with the Year 2000 problem, and agree that its network stabilization period is

prudent given the uncertainties associated with the Year 2000 problem." Consequently, the Division granted an extension of the temporary waiver until after the network stabilization period.

12. Because of concerns associated with Y2K, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau also postponed the start of its planned cycle of paging auctions from December 9, 1999 to February 24, 2000. The bureau specifically noted in a public notice that it "recognizes that [wireless companies] preparing their existing businesses for the Y2K roll-over while preparing for an auction could present formidable problems for potential bidders."

13. We are also cognizant of the steps that other federal agencies have taken to address this issue. The Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") transmitted a memorandum regarding the minimization of regulatory and information technology requirements that could affect Year 2000 conversion in May 1999. In relevant part, the memorandum counsels that Federal departments and agencies, to the extent possible given their respective statutory responsibilities, "should not establish requirements that would have an adverse effect on [Year 2000] readiness, if such requirements can be delayed or if there is an alternative that would not have an adverse effect."

14. The Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") has also promulgated Year 2000-readiness guidelines. In August 1998, the SEC issued a policy statement regarding a regulatory moratorium to facilitate the Year 2000 conversion. The SEC's policy statement established a moratorium on the "implementation of new [SEC] rules that require major reprogramming of computer systems by SEC-regulated entities between June 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000."

Policy

15. Given the forgoing, the Commission establishes the following principles to facilitate the ability of all FCC-regulated entities to establish stable and secure network environments necessary to continue to perform meaningful Y2K tests and to implement appropriate Y2K solutions prior to the January 1, 2000 millennial rollover:

i. The Commission will consider, where applicable, the potential effects on Year 2000 remediation of regulatory actions that require changes to computerized systems and networks utilized by the communications industry.

ii. The Commission will consider industry requests for waivers, stays of regulatory requirements, and other

related petitions for extensions, where appropriate, as a precaution against potentially disruptive non-Year 2000-related modifications and upgrades made to various systems and networks pursuant to the implementation requirements of Communications Act of 1934 or the Commission's rules.

iii. The Commission reserves the express right to implement new rules and regulations, where such rulemaking is necessary or required to protect the public interest in response to statutory implementation requirements, emergency conditions or special circumstances that may arise in the days remaining prior to the millennial date roll-over. To reiterate, however, the Commission will be sensitive to individual waiver requests or, in the alternative, act on its own motion to stay rules during this short period of time.

iv. The Commission does not propose to establish a regulatory moratorium period in which all regulatory actions that may affect communication systems or equipment are suspended. We do not believe that such sweeping action is necessary to stabilize the industry's remedial efforts or to protect the interests of the public.

Conclusion

16. We reiterate that the Commission cautions parties against attempting to use our network stabilization policy to "forestall" or "roll back" disfavored regulations, or to use this policy for purposes of competitive advantage. This policy is intended solely to address the unique circumstances and challenges presented by the Year 2000 Problem.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-26962 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice of information collection to be submitted to OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

SUMMARY: In accordance with requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the FDIC hereby gives notice that it plans to submit to the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) a request for OMB review and approval of the information collection system described below.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Title: External Auditing.

OMB Number: 3064-0113.

Estimate of Annual Burden:

Insured Institutions with assets of \$500 million or more (already approved by OMB).

Number of Respondents: 420.

Number of Responses per

Respondent: 3.

Total Annual Responses: 1,260.

Hours per Response: 32.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 40,320.

Insured Institutions with assets less than \$500 million (proposed revision to be submitted to OMB).

Number of Respondents: 5,478.

Number of Responses per

Respondent: 3.

Total Annual Responses: 16,434.

Hours per Response: 1/4 hour for the recordkeeping response, 1/4 hour for the first reporting response, and 1/4 hour for the second reporting response x 5,478 Respondents.

Total Annual Burden: 1,370 recordkeeping and 2,740 reporting = 4,110 hours.

Expiration Date of Current OMB

Clearance: November 30, 2000.

OMB: Alexander T. Hunt, (202) 395-7860, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20503.

FDIC: Steven F. Hanft (202) 898-3907, Office of the Executive Secretary, Room F-4062, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20429.

Comments: Comments on this collection of information are welcome and should be submitted on or before November 15, 1999 to both the OMB reviewer and the FDIC contact listed above.

ADDRESSES: Information about this submission, including copies of the proposed collection of information, may be obtained by calling or writing the FDIC contact listed above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FDIC's regulations at 12 CFR 363 establish annual independent audit and reporting requirements for financial institutions with assets of \$500 million or more. The requirements, which have been approved by OMB under control number 3064-0113, include an annual report on their financial statements, recordkeeping about management deliberations regarding external auditing and reports about changes in

auditors. The FDIC is now preparing to ask OMB to approve revising the collection to cover financial institutions with assets less than \$500 million on a voluntary basis. The information collected will be used to facilitate early identification of problems in financial management at financial institutions.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Dated: October 12, 1999.

Robert E. Feldman,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-27010 Filed 10-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6714-01-P

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

[No. 99-N-14]

Federal Home Loan Bank Members Selected for Community Support Review

AGENCY: Federal Housing Finance Board.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Housing Finance Board (Finance Board) is announcing the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank) members it has selected for the 1998-99 seventh quarter review cycle under the Finance Board's community support requirement regulation. This notice also prescribes the deadline by which FHLBank members selected for review must submit Community Support Statements to the Finance Board.

DATES: FHLBank members selected for the 1998-99 seventh quarter review cycle under the Finance Board's community support requirement regulation must submit completed Community Support Statements to the Finance Board on or before November 29, 1999.

ADDRESSES: FHLBank members selected for the 1998-99 seventh quarter review cycle under the Finance Board's community support requirement regulation must submit completed Community Support Statements to the Finance Board either by regular mail: Office of Policy, Research and Analysis, Program Assistance Division, Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; or by electronic mail: MAXWELLA@FHFB.GOV.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy R. Maxwell, Housing Finance Officer, Office of Policy, Research and Analysis, Program Assistance Division, at 202/408-2882; at the following electronic mail address: MAXWELLA@FHFB.GOV; or at the Federal Housing Finance Board, 1777 F