

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21; FCC 00-65]

Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document concerning the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service amends a procedural rule regarding the time period during which the Commission must issue a written decision in response to a request for review of a decision issued by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company.

DATES: Effective March 8, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Chang, Attorney, Common Carrier Bureau, Accounting Policy Division, (202) 418-7400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of a Commission's Order in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21 released on March 1, 2000. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20554.

1. In this Order, we amend a procedural rule regarding the time period during which the Commission must issue a written decision in response to a request for review of a decision issued by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC or Administrator). Section 54.724 of the Commission's rules provides that, when a request for review is properly before the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) or the Commission, a written decision must be issued within ninety days unless the time period for taking action on the request for review is extended. In this Order, we amend that rule to make clear that the Bureau may extend, for up to ninety days, the time period for taking action on a request for review of an Administrator's decision that is pending before the Bureau or the Commission pursuant to § 54.724 of the Commission's rules. We also clarify that the Commission may extend the time period for taking action on a pending request for review of an Administrator's decision that is before

either the Bureau or the Commission, but the Commission is not limited to a maximum 90-day extension period. We believe this procedural amendment will facilitate our administrative processes. Accordingly, as set forth, we amend § 54.724 of the Commission's rules to clarify that the Bureau may extend, for up to ninety days, the time period for taking action on requests for review of the Administrator's decisions that are before either the Bureau or the Commission.

Ordering Clauses

2. The authority contained in sections 1-4, 201-205, 218-220, 254, 303(r), 403, and 405 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, this Order is adopted.

3. The authority contained in sections 1-4, 201-205, 218-220, 254, 303(r), 403, and 405 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, is revised as set forth.

4. This action is exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. section 553, because it affects only rules of agency procedure or practice.

5. Because this action involves an internal procedural matter not affecting the substantive rights of any entity, the rule change set forth is effective immediately upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects 47 CFR Part 54

Universal service.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,
Secretary.

Rule Changes

Part 54 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 54—UNIVERSAL SERVICE

1. The authority citation for part 54 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 1, 4(i), 201, 205, 214, and 254 unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 54.724 is revised to read as follows:

§ 54.724 Time periods for Commission approval of Administrator decisions.

(a) If the Common Carrier Bureau does not take action within ninety (90) days upon appeals that are properly before it, a decision issued by the Administrator shall be deemed approved. The Commission may extend the time period for taking action on a request for review of an Administrator decision. The Common Carrier Bureau also may extend the time period for taking action

on a request for review of an Administrator decision for a period of up to ninety days.

(b) The Commission shall issue a written decision in response to a request for review of an Administrator decision that involves novel questions of fact, law or policy within ninety (90) days. The Commission may extend the time period for taking action on the request for review of an Administrator decision. The Common Carrier Bureau also may extend the time period for taking action on a request for review of an Administrator decision for a period of up to ninety days.

[FR Doc. 00-5479 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 76

[MM Docket No. 92-264; FCC 00-12]

Implementation of Section 11(c) of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992; Horizontal Ownership Limits

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; reconsideration of stay.

SUMMARY: This document announces that, on its own motion, the Commission reconsiders the conditions under which it will lift its voluntarily-imposed stay of the horizontal ownership rules, 47 CFR 76.503, adopted on October 8, 1999.

DATES: 47 CFR 76.503 (a) through (f) as revised and stayed at 64 FR 67198 (Dec. 1, 1999) continue to be stayed until the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issues a decision upholding the constitutionality of Section 613(f)(1)(A) of the Federal Communications Act, as amended. The FCC will publish a document in the **Federal Register** announcing the action of the Court and the date affected parties must comply with the regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Darryl Cooper at (202) 418-7200 or via Internet at dcooper@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the *Commission's Order on Reconsideration* (Order) in MM Docket No. 92-264; FCC 00-12, adopted January 12, 2000, and released January 19, 2000. The complete text of this Order is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554, or