

on these bid removal and bid withdrawal procedures.

26. In the *Part 1 Third Report and Order*, 63 FR 2315 (January 15, 1998), the Commission explained that allowing bid withdrawals facilitates efficient aggregation of licenses and the pursuit of efficient backup strategies as information becomes available during the course of an auction. The Commission noted, however, that, in some instances, bidders may seek to withdraw bids for improper reasons. The Bureau, therefore, has discretion, in managing the auction, to limit the number of withdrawals to prevent any bidding abuses. The Commission stated that the Bureau should assertively exercise its discretion, consider limiting the number of rounds in which bidders may withdraw bids, and prevent bidders from bidding on a particular market if the Bureau finds that a bidder is abusing the Commission's bid withdrawal procedures.

27. Applying this reasoning, we propose to limit each bidder in Auction No. 39 to withdraw standing high bids in no more than two rounds during the course of the auction. To permit a bidder to withdraw bids in more than two rounds would likely encourage insincere bidding or the use of withdrawals for anti-competitive strategic purposes. The two rounds in which withdrawals are utilized will be at the bidder's discretion; withdrawals otherwise must be in accordance with the Commission's rules. There is no limit on the number of standing high bids that may be withdrawn in either of the rounds in which withdrawals are utilized. Withdrawals will remain subject to the bid withdrawal payment provisions specified in the Commission's rules. We seek comment on this proposal.

C. Stopping Rule

28. For Auction No. 39, the Bureau proposes to employ a simultaneous stopping rule approach. The Bureau has discretion "to establish stopping rules before or during multiple round auctions in order to terminate the auction within a reasonable time." A simultaneous stopping rule means that all licenses remain open until the first round in which no new acceptable bids, proactive waivers, or withdrawals are received. After the first such round, bidding closes simultaneously on all licenses. Thus, unless circumstances dictate otherwise, bidding would remain open on all licenses until bidding stops on every license.

29. The Bureau seeks comment on a modified version of the simultaneous stopping rule. The modified stopping

rule would close the auction for all licenses after the first round in which no bidder submits a proactive waiver, a withdrawal, or a new bid on any license on which it is not the standing high bidder. Thus, absent any other bidding activity, a bidder placing a new bid on a license for which it is the standing high bidder would not keep the auction open under this modified stopping rule. The Bureau further seeks comment on whether this modified stopping rule should be used unilaterally or only in stage two of the auction.

30. The Bureau proposes to retain the discretion to keep an auction open even if no new acceptable bids or proactive waivers are submitted and no previous high bids are withdrawn. In this event, the effect will be the same as if a bidder had submitted a proactive waiver. The activity rule, therefore, will apply as usual, and a bidder with insufficient activity will either lose bidding eligibility or use a remaining activity rule waiver.

31. Finally, we propose that the Bureau reserve the right to declare that the auction will end after a specified number of additional rounds ("special stopping rule"). If the Bureau invokes this special stopping rule, it will accept bids in the final round(s) only for licenses on which the high bid increased in at least one of the preceding specified number of rounds. The Bureau proposes to exercise this option only in certain circumstances, such as, for example, where the auction is proceeding very slowly, there is minimal overall bidding activity, or it appears likely that the auction will not close within a reasonable period of time. Before exercising this option, the Bureau is likely to attempt to increase the pace of the auction by, for example, moving the auction into the next stage (where bidders would be required to maintain a higher level of bidding activity), increasing the number of bidding rounds per day, and/or increasing the amount of the minimum bid increments for the limited number of licenses where there is still a high level of bidding activity. We seek comment on these proposals.

III. Conclusion

32. Comments are due on or before March 9, 2001, and reply comments are due on or before March 16, 2001. An original and four copies of all pleadings must be filed with the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554, in accordance with § 1.51(c) of the Commission's rules.

See 47 CFR 1.51(c). In addition, one copy of each pleading must be delivered to each of the following locations: (a) the Commission's duplicating contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc. (ITS), 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036; (b) Office of Media Relations, Public Reference Center, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Suite CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554; (c) Rana Shuler, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Suite 4-A628, Washington, DC 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Public Reference Room, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

Federal Communications Commission.

Margaret Wiener,

Chief, Auctions & Industry Analysis Division, WTB.

[FR Doc. 01-5395 Filed 3-5-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 92-237; DA 01-512]

Next Meeting of the North American Numbering Council

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On February 27, 2001, the Commission released a public notice announcing the March 20 and 21, 2001, meeting and agenda of the North American Numbering Council (NANC). The intended effect of this action is to make the public aware of the NANC's next meeting and its agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Blue, Special Assistant to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at (202) 418-2320 or dblue@fcc.gov. The address is: Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, The Portals, 445 12th Street, SW., Suite 6A207, Washington, DC 20554. The fax number is: (202) 418-2345. The TTY number is: (202) 418-0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Released: February 27, 2001.

The North American Numbering Council (NANC) has scheduled a meeting to be held Tuesday, March 20, 2001, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and on Wednesday, March 21, from 8:30 a.m., until 12 noon. The meeting will be held at the Federal Communications

Commission, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room TW-C305, Washington, DC.

This meeting is open to members of the general public. The FCC will attempt to accommodate as many participants as possible. The public may submit written statements to the NANC, which must be received two business days before the meeting. In addition, oral statements at the meeting by parties or entities not represented on the NANC will be permitted to the extent time permits. Such statements will be limited to five minutes in length by any one party or entity, and requests to make an oral statement must be received two business days before the meeting. Requests to make an oral statement or provide written comments to the NANC should be sent to Cheryl Callahan at the address under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, stated above.

Proposed Agenda

1. Approval of January 16–17, 2001 and February 20–21, 2001 meeting minutes.
2. North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) Report
3. Report of NANPA Oversight Working Group
 - NANPA Performance Issues (if any)
 - NANPA Technical Requirements Update
 - 2000 NANPA Performance Update
4. Report of Numbering Resource Optimization (NRO) Working Group
 - Continuing Review of NANP Exhaust
 - Monitoring of State Pooling Trials
5. Industry Numbering Committee Report
6. Report of Toll Free Access Codes IMG
 - Competitive Bids
 - Structure and Tariff Issues
 - Final Technical Requirements
 - Transmittal to FCC
7. Report of the Local Number Portability Administration (LNPA) Working Group
 - Wireless Number Portability Subcommittee
 - Revised PIM-5 Solutions for Inadvertent Porting
8. Report of Cost Recovery Working Group
 - Finalize NBANC B&C Technical Requirements
9. Report of “Big Picture” Ad Hoc Group
10. Steering Group Meeting
 - Table of NANC Projects
11. Steering Group Report
12. Report from NBANC
13. Reseller CIC IMG status report
14. Oversight of LLCs NPAC
15. Meeting Procedures IMG
16. Action Items and Decisions Reached (5 minutes each, if any)

17. Public Participation
18. Other Business

Federal Communications Commission.

Diane Griffin Harmon,

Deputy Chief, Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau.

[FR Doc. 01–5303 Filed 3–5–01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–U

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Monday, March 12, 2001.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202–452–3203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202–452–3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board’s Web site at <http://www.federalreserve.gov> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: March 2, 2001.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 01–5582 Filed 3–2–01; 2:21 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Notice Requesting Comments on Retail Electricity Competition Plans

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice requesting comments on retail electricity competition plans.

SUMMARY: Many States have enacted and, in some cases, begun to implement legislation designed to introduce competition into the retail sale of

electricity in order to encourage lower prices, better service, and greater innovation. Recently, however, substantial price increases and reliability problems in some of the areas undergoing a transition to competition raise questions about how electricity restructuring can best be designed to benefit retail customers. The Federal Trade Commission seeks to gather information about the results, to date, of different regulatory approaches to the issues that arise in restructuring the retail sale of electricity. The Commission will produce a report that discusses the advantages and disadvantages associated with different approaches to particular issues and that identifies, if warranted, areas in which additional federal legislative or regulatory action may be desirable.

DATES: Comments are due on April 3, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Any interested person may submit a written comment that will be considered part of the public record. Written presentations should be submitted in both hard copy and electronic form. Six hard copies of each submission should be addressed to Donald S. Clark, Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. Submissions should be captioned “V010003—Comments Regarding Retail Electricity Competition.” Electronic submissions may be sent by electronic mail to retailelectricity@ftc.gov. Alternatively, electronic submissions may be filed on a 3½ inch computer disk with a label on the disk stating the name of the submitter and the name and version of the word processing program used to create the document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Wroblewski, Policy Planning, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580, 202–326–2155, mwroblewski@ftc.gov or John Hilke, Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission, 1961 Stout Street, C/O HHS RM. 325, Denver, CO 80294–0101, 303–844–3565, jhilke@ftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

In recent years, many states and the Federal government have taken steps to encourage competition in the generation sector of the electric power industry. To date, 24 states and the District of Columbia have set dates to allow customers to choose their electric power supplier. In light of recent reliability problems and increases in electricity prices in California and the western