

Accordingly, the addition of §§ 62.9635, 62.9636, and 62.9637 is withdrawn as of August 19, 2003.

Dated: August 11, 2003.

**Judith Katz,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region III.*

[FR Doc. 03-21053 Filed 8-18-03; 8:45 am]

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03-170]

#### Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule; petition for reconsideration.

**SUMMARY:** In this document, the Commission denies the petitions for reconsideration of the Fourth Order on Reconsideration filed by North Dakota Public Service Commission, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Petitioners sought to redefine the definition of voice grade access to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) as 300 to 3,500 Hertz.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Yockus, Attorney, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-7400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Commission's Order on Reconsideration, 67 FR 41862 (6/20/02) in CC Docket No. 96-45 released on July 14, 2003. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554.

#### I. Introduction

The Commission found that in the *Universal Service First Report and Order*, 67 FR 41862 (6/20/02), voice grade access to the PSTN should occur within the frequency range of 500 Hertz and 4,000 Hertz. In the *Fourth Order on Reconsideration*, 67 FR 70702 (November 26, 2002), the Commission reconsidered this definition because it found it would require ETCs to comply with a voice grade access standard more exacting than current industry standards. The Commission redefined the minimum bandwidth for voice grade access as 300 to 3,000 Hertz.

#### II. Discussion

1. The Commission denies the petitions for reconsideration of the *Fourth Order on Reconsideration* filed by North Dakota Public Service Commission, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. As noted in the companion order released on July 14, 2003, in this docket, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service expressly sought comment on this issue in this proceeding and recommended that the Commission not modify its standard for voice grade access. Moreover, no commenter in this proceeding submitted arguments in favor of modifying this definition. Accordingly, we retain the existing definition of voice grade access to the PSTN and deny the petitions for reconsideration of the *Fourth Order on Reconsideration*.

#### III. Ordering Clauses

2. Pursuant to the authority contained in sections 4(i), 4(j), 201-205, 214, 254, and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, this order on reconsideration is adopted.

3. Pursuant to the authority contained in section 405 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and § 1.429 of the Commission's rules, the petitions for reconsideration of the *Fourth Order on Reconsideration* filed by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission are denied.

#### List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 54

Communications common carriers, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Telecommunications, Telephone.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene H. Dortch,**

*Secretary.*

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03-170]

#### Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** In this document, the Commission adopts the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) recommendation to retain the existing list of services supported by federal universal service. The Commission agrees with the Joint Board that, with the possible exception of equal access, no new service satisfies the statutory criteria contained in section 254(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act") or should be added to the list of core services.

**DATES:** Effective September 18, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Yockus, Attorney, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-7400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Commission's Order and Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45 released on July 14, 2003. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

#### I. Introduction

1. The Commission adopts the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) recommendation to retain the existing list of services supported by federal universal service. The Commission agrees with the Joint Board that, with the possible exception of equal access, no new service satisfies the statutory criteria contained in section 254(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act") or should be added to the list of core services. The Joint Board was unable to reach agreement on whether equal access should be added to the list of supported services and made no recommendation regarding this service. Because critical arguments in favor of adding equal access are related to the eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) process and calculation of support for competitive ETCs, both of which are within the scope of the *Portability Proceeding*, 68 FR 10429 (March 5, 2003), the Commission makes no decision regarding equal access at this time.

#### II. Discussion

2. The Commission adopts the Joint Board's recommendation to retain the existing list of services supported by universal service. The Commission also agrees with the Joint Board's general conclusion that no new service satisfies the statutory criteria contained in