

Western Wireless's petition to reject Valor's self-certification as a rural telephone company in the state of Oklahoma.

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 1, 2003 and reply comments on or before December 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, Room TW-B204. See Supplemental Information for further filing instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheryl Todd (202) 418-7400 TTY: (202) 418-0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 30, 2003, Valor Telecommunications of Texas, LP (Valor) filed a rural self-certification letter stating that it meets the criterion set forth in section 153(37)(D) of the Act for all its study areas in the states of Texas (which includes a small portion in Arkansas), Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Valor had previously self-certified its Texas and New Mexico study areas as rural telephone company study areas on June 27, 2000. Valor states that it now also meets the criterion for certification of its Oklahoma study area as a rural telephone company study area as a result of a merger among Valor Telecommunications of Texas, LP, Valor Telecommunications of Oklahoma, LLC, and Valor Telecommunications of New Mexico, LLC.

On September 16, 2003, Western Wireless Corporation (Western Wireless) filed a petition requesting that the Commission reject Valor's self-certification as a rural carrier in the state of Oklahoma. Western Wireless previously filed a similar petition to reject Valor's self-certification as a rural telephone company in Texas and New Mexico, and the Commission asked for and received public comment on that petition. Western Wireless now claims, similar to its arguments in its petition opposing Valor's self-certifications in Texas and New Mexico, that Valor does not qualify as a rural telephone company in Oklahoma under section 153(37)(D) because Valor was not a local exchange carrier on the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act) and Valor did not have "less than 15 percent of its access lines in communities of more than 50,000" on the date that the 1996 Act was adopted. Western Wireless further argues that any interpretation of section 153(37)(D) that would allow Valor to qualify as a rural telephone company as a consequence of its purchase of exchanges from GTE would subvert the Commission's policy to "prevent carriers from subdividing

study areas to gain an advantage under the [universal service] rules." Western Wireless also argues that it would be anti-competitive for Valor's claimed rural telephone company status to potentially prejudice the Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) status of competitive entrants. Finally, Western Wireless argues that Valor cannot use an internal corporate reorganization as a means to acquire rural telephone company status.

We invite comment on Western Wireless's petition to reject Valor's self-certification as a rural telephone company in the state of Oklahoma. Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, interested parties may file comments on or before December 1, 2003, and reply comments on or before December 15, 2003. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121, May 1, 1998.

Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Suite 110,

Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

Parties also must send three paper copies of their filing to Sheryl Todd, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW., Room 5-B540, Washington, DC 20554. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20054.

Pursuant to § 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-27428 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 03-3309]

Announcement of Next Meeting Date and Agenda of Consumer Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document announces the next meeting date and agenda of the Consumer Advisory Committee whose purpose is to make recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") regarding consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission and to facilitate the participation of consumers (including people with disabilities and underserved populations, such as Native Americans and persons living in

rural areas) in proceedings before the Commission.

DATES: The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Thursday, November 20, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communication Commission, 445 12th Street SW., Room TW-C305, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Marshall, (202) 418-2809 (voice), (202) 418-0179 (TTY) or e-mail: cac@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Public Notice DA 03-3309 released October 21, 2003. The Commission announced the next meeting date and meeting agenda of its Consumer Advisory Committee.

Purpose and Functions

The purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to the Commission regarding consumer issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission and to facilitate the participation of consumers (including people with disabilities and underserved populations, such as Native Americans and persons living in rural areas) in proceedings before the Commission.

Meeting Agenda

The Committee will consider: (1) Recommendations of its TRS Working Group regarding outreach and funding for telecommunications relay services; (2) a recommendation of its Broadband Working Group regarding further study of broadband issues; (3) recommendations of its consumer Complaints, Education and Outreach Working Group regarding funding for, and effective methods of, outreach to consumers; and (4) a progress report of its Ancillary Services Working Group. Time will also be allotted for working group meetings between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. The Committee will also receive briefings by FCC staff regarding Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau activities and other matters.

Availability of Copies and Electronic Accessibility

A copy of the October 21, 2003, Public Notice is available in alternate formats (Braille, cassette tape, large print or diskette) upon request. It is also posted on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/cac>. Meeting minutes will be available for public inspection at the FCC headquarters building and will be posted on the Commission's Web site at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/cac>.

The Committee meeting will be open to the public and interested persons may attend the meeting and communicate their views. Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Committee on issues of interest to them and the Committee. Written comments for the Committee may also be sent to the Committee's Designated Federal Officer, Scott Marshall.

The meeting site is fully accessible to people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. Meeting agendas and handouts will be provided in accessible format. Sign language interpreters, open captioning, and assistive listening devices will be provided on site. The meeting will be webcast with open captioning at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/cac>. Request other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities as early as possible; please allow at least 5 days advance notice. Include a description of the accommodation you will need including as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Send an e-mail to: fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

Federal Communications Commission.

K. Dane Snowden,

Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau.

[FR Doc. 03-27408 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

FDIC Advisory Committee on Banking Policy; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice of opening meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), notice is hereby given of a meeting of the FDIC Advisory Committee on Banking Policy ("Advisory Committee"), which will be held in Washington, DC. The Advisory Committee will provide advice and recommendations on a broad range of issues relating to the FDIC's mission and activities.

Time and Place: Wednesday, November 19, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the FDIC Board Room on the sixth floor of the FDIC

Building located at 550 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Agenda: The agenda items include discussion of financial literacy (MoneySmart and beyond), the future of banking (structure and policy considerations), and FDIC Corporate University (progress, strategy, and vision). Agenda items are subject to change. Any changes to the agenda will be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

Type of Meeting: The meeting will be open to the public, limited only by the space available on a first-come, first-served basis. For security reasons, members of the public will be subject to security screening procedures and must present a valid photo identification to enter the building. The FDIC will provide attendees with auxiliary aids (e.g., sign language interpretation) required for this meeting. Those attendees needing such assistance should call (202) 416-2089 (Voice); (202) 416-2007 (TTY), at least two days before the meeting to make necessary arrangements. Written statements may be filed with the committee before or after the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for further information concerning the meeting may be directed to Mr. Robert E. Feldman, Committee Management Officer of the FDIC, at (202) 898-3742.

Dated: October 28, 2003.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Robert E. Feldman,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-27433 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Notice of Agency Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" (5 U.S.C. 552b), notice is hereby given that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's Board of Directors will meet in open session at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2003, to consider the following matters:

Summary Agenda: No substantive discussion of the following items is anticipated. These matters will be resolved with a single vote unless a member of the Board of Directors requests that an item be moved to the discussion agenda.

Disposition of minutes of previous Board of Directors' meetings.

Summary reports, status reports, and reports of action is taken pursuant to