

FCC established phase-in schedules to increase the amount of closed captioned programming. The rules also provided procedures for entities to use to request exemptions of the closed captioning requirements based on an undue burden standard. Furthermore, they detailed a complaint process for viewers to use for the enforcement of closed captioning requirements.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission, Comments Requested

May 3, 2004.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) comments should be submitted on or before July 12, 2004. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) comments to Les Smith, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-A804, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to Leslie.Smith@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection(s), contact Les Smith at (202) 418-0217 or via the Internet at Leslie.Smith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060-XXXX.

Title: Implementation of Section 25 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992 Re: DBS Public Interest Obligations, 47 CFR Section 25.701.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: New collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities.

Number of Respondents: 15.

Estimated Time per Response: 25 hours.

Frequency of Response: Quarterly and on occasion reporting requirements.

Total Annual Burden: 375 hours.

Total Annual Cost: None.

Privacy Impact Assessment: No impact.

Needs and Uses: On March 25, 2004, the FCC released a Second Order on Reconsideration of First Report and Order, *In the Matter of Implementation of Section 25 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Direct Broadcast Satellite Public Interest Obligations, Sua Sponte Reconsideration ("Order")*, MM Docket No. 93-25, FCC 04-44. The political broadcasting reporting and recordkeeping requirements adopted in this Order will be used by the public to assess money expended and time allotted to a political candidate and by the Commission to ensure that equal access is afforded to other qualified candidates. The Commission and the public will use the children's programming recordkeeping burden to verify DBS operator compliance with the Commission's commercial limits on children's television programming.

OMB Control Number: 3060-XXXX.

Title: Application for Digital Channel Election for Television Broadcast station, FCC Form 339.

Form Number: FCC 339.

Type of Review: New collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities; Not-for-profit institutions.

Number of Respondents: 1,700.

Estimated Hours per Response: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: One-time reporting requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 1,700 hours.

Total Annual Cost: 340,000.

Privacy Impact Assessment: No impact.

Needs and Uses: FCC Form 339 is used to elect a Digital Television (DTV) Channel for final DTV operations. All television stations, except those without an "in core" (Channels 2-51), NTSC, or DTV channel, must file FCC Form 339 electronically.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04-10679 Filed 5-10-04; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval

April 16, 2004.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commissions, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before June 10, 2004. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Les Smith, Federal Communications

Commission, Room 1–A804, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554 or via the Internet to Leslie.Smith@fcc.gov or Kristy L. LaLonde, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Room 10236 NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, (202) 395–3087 or via the Internet at Kristy.L.LaLonde@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copy of the information collection(s) contact Les Smith at (202) 418–0217 or via the Internet at Leslie.Smith@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OMB

Control Number: 3060–0700.

Title: Open Video Systems Provisions, FCC Form 1275.

Form Number: FCC 1275.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities; and State, local, or tribal government.

Number of Respondents: 748.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.25 to 20 hours.

Total Annual Burden: 3,910 hours.

Total Annual Costs: None.

Privacy Impact Assessment: No impact.

Needs and Uses: Section 302 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 provides for specific entry options for entities wishing to enter the video programming marketplace, one option being to provide cable service over an “Open Video System” (“OVS”). On April 15, 1997, the Commission released a Fourth Report and Order, FCC 97–130, which clarified various OVS rules and modified certain OVS filing procedures. The Commission has made changes and revisions in the header/footer of the form, in the instructions to FCC 1275, and various other administrative edits to update the form and instructions.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 04–10680 Filed 5–10–04; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket Number 96–45; FCC 04–37]

Highland Cellular, Inc. Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of Virginia

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission grants in part and denies in

part the petition of Highland Cellular, Inc. (Highland Cellular) to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in portions of its licensed service area in the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Buckley, Attorney, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418–7400, TTY (202) 418–0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission’s Memorandum Opinion and Order in CC Docket 96–45 released on April 12, 2004. 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. In this Order, we grant in part and deny in part the petition of Highland Cellular, Inc. (Highland Cellular) to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) in portions of its licensed service area in the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act). In so doing, we conclude that Highland Cellular, a commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) carrier, has satisfied the statutory eligibility requirements of section 214(e)(1) of the Act. Specifically, we conclude that Highland Cellular has demonstrated that it will offer and advertise the services supported by the federal universal service support mechanisms throughout the designated service area. Highland Cellular requests ETC designation for a service area that overlaps, among other areas, the study areas of three rural telephone companies. We find that the designation of Highland Cellular as an ETC in a wire center served by Verizon Virginia, Inc. (Verizon Virginia), a non-rural carrier, and certain areas served by two of the three rural companies serves the public interest and furthers the goals of universal service. With regard to the study area of Verizon South, Inc. (Verizon South) and the Saltville wire center of United Telephone Company—Southeast Virginia (United Telephone) we do not find that ETC designation would be in the public interest.

2. Highland Cellular is licensed to serve the entire study area of only one of the three rural companies for which it seeks ETC designation—Burkes

Garden Telephone Company, Inc. (Burkes Garden). Because Highland Cellular is licensed to serve only part of the study areas of the other two incumbent rural telephone companies, Highland Cellular has requested that we redefine the service areas of these rural telephone companies for ETC designation purposes, in accordance with section 214(e)(5) of the Act. We agree to the service area redefinition proposed by Highland Cellular for the service area of United Telephone, subject to agreement by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (Virginia Commission) in accordance with applicable Virginia Commission requirements. We find that the Virginia Commission’s first-hand knowledge of the rural areas in question uniquely qualifies it to examine the redefinition proposal and determine whether it should be approved. Because we do not designate Highland Cellular as an ETC in Verizon South’s study area, we do not redefine this service area.

3. In response to a request from the Commission, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (Joint Board) is currently reviewing: (1) The Commission’s rules relating to the calculation of high-cost universal service support in areas where a competitive ETC is providing service; (2) the Commission’s rules regarding support for non-primary lines; and (3) the process for designating ETCs. Some commenters in that proceeding have raised concerns about the rapid growth of high-cost universal service support and the impact of such growth on consumers in rural areas. The outcome of that proceeding could potentially impact, among other things, the support that Highland Cellular and other competitive ETCs may receive in the future and the criteria used for continued eligibility to receive support.

4. While we await a recommended decision from the Joint Board, we acknowledge the need for a more stringent public interest analysis for ETC designations in rural telephone company service areas. As we concluded in a recent order granting ETC designation to Virginia Cellular in the Commonwealth of Virginia, this framework shall apply to all ETC designations for rural areas pending further action by the Commission. We conclude that the value of increased competition, by itself, is not sufficient to satisfy the public interest test in rural areas. Instead, in determining whether designation of a competitive ETC in a rural telephone company’s service area is in the public interest, we weigh numerous factors, including the benefits of increased competitive choice, the