

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA-05-2421]

Maintaining Wireless Service for Consumers Affected by Hurricane Katrina

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) take steps to ensure that wireless service providers do no improperly disconnect consumers displaced by Hurricane Katrina because they are unable to pay their bills.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leon Jackler, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, at (202) 418-0946 or Chelsea Fallon, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-7991.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is summary of the Commission's document DA 05-2421, released September 7, 2005, in which the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) take steps to ensure consumers are not improperly disconnected from wireless service in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY). Document DA 05-2421 can also be downloaded in Word or Portable Document Format (PDF) at: <http://www.fcc.gov/>.

Synopsis

In this document, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) take steps to ensure that wireless service providers do not improperly disconnect consumers displaced by Hurricane Katrina because they are unable to pay their bills. Hurricane Katrina displaced hundreds of thousands of residents of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and many thousands of these customers rely on their wireless service during this difficult time to remain in touch with loved ones. As of this date, the United States Post Office is not operating fully throughout the affected area, commercial power capability is not yet available throughout the affected area,

and the communications networks (including access to the Internet for online bill pay options) are not at pre-hurricane capabilities. Based on the representations of a number of wireless carriers serving consumers displaced by the hurricane, WTB and CGB understand that the common practice in the wireless industry at this time is to continue providing service to displaced people who cannot pay their bills in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. WTB and CGB understand that consumers displaced by Hurricane Katrina are concerned that wireless service providers may disconnect service for failure to pay their bills. To ensure that consumers of these services continue to maintain access to their wireless service during this difficult time, all licensees of wireless services serving consumers affected by the hurricane are required to submit a report no later than Thursday, September 8, 2005 verifying their compliance with the standard industry practice of maintaining service to people displaced by Hurricane Katrina despite failure to pay bills. Reports should describe the grace period or other relief licensees are providing for this issue. Reports may be submitted in letter format addressed to the chiefs of the respective bureaus. Electronic copies of the reports should be provided to Katrina_Wireless_Report@fcc.gov. In addition, licensees must also serve one copy with the Commission's copy contractor, Best Copying and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 488-5300, or via e-mail to fcc@bcpiweb.com.

Federal Communications Commission.

Monica Desai,

Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Network Reliability and Interoperability Council

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), this notice advises interested persons of the fifth meeting of the Network Reliability and Interoperability Council (Council) under its charter renewed as of December 29, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Federal

Communications Commission in Washington, DC.

DATES: Wednesday October 19, 2005 beginning at 2 p.m. and concluding at 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St., SW., Room TW-305, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffery Goldthorp, the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at (202) 418-1096 or Jeffery.Goldthorp@fcc.gov. The TTY number is: (202) 418-2989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Council is to provide recommendations to the FCC and to the communications industry that, if implemented, shall under all reasonably foreseeable circumstances assure optimal reliability and interoperability of wireless, wireline, satellite, cable, and public data networks. At this fifth meeting under the Council's new charter, the Council will discuss potential recommendations in the areas of E911 implementation and evolution, network security, network reliability, and broadband. The Council will also review the status of various working groups.

Members of the general public may attend the meeting. The Federal Communications Commission will attempt to accommodate as many people as possible. Admittance, however, will be limited to the seating available. The public may submit written comments before the meeting to Jeffery Goldthorp, the Commission's Designated Federal Officer for the Network Reliability and Interoperability Council, by e-mail (Jeffery.Goldthorp@fcc.gov) or U.S. Postal Service mail (7-A325, 445 12th St., SW., Washington, DC 20554). Real Audio and streaming video access to the meeting will be available at <http://www.fcc.gov/realaudio/>.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

Notice of Agreements Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreements under the Shipping Act of 1984. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within ten days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**. Copies of agreements