SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Part 54 Audit Authority Transition Order released on October 19, 2012. The Part 54 Audit Authority Transition Order and related Commission documents may be purchased from the Commission’s duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), 445 12th Street SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone 202–488–5300, fax 202–488–5563, or you may contact BCPI at its Web site: http://www.BCPIWEB.com. When ordering documents from BCPI, please provide the appropriate FCC document number, for example FCC 12–131. The Part 54 Audit Authority Transition Order is also available on the Internet at the Commission’s Electronic Filing System Web page at: http://ejallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/.

1. Section 54.717 of the Commission’s rules requires the USAC “to obtain and pay for an annual audit conducted by an independent auditor to examine its operations and books of account to determine, among other things, whether * * * [USAC] is properly administering the universal service support mechanisms to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.” Since 2006, OIG has been the staff unit responsible for overseeing the conduct of the part 54 audit. The purpose of this annual audit has been to oversee the operations of the Universal Service Administrator and to safeguard the Universal Service Fund from potential waste, fraud, and abuse.

2. The Commission amends section 54.717 of its rules to substitute OMD as the staff unit responsible for overseeing the part 54 USAC audit. In 2010, OMD instructed USAC that OIG would no longer directly conduct or oversee the universal service fund beneficiary and contributor audit plan (BCAP), an audit separate from the part 54 USAC audit. This change was in furtherance of OIG’s understanding of its responsibilities consistent with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (IG Act). As a result, OMD assumed from OIG the responsibility for directing and overseeing USAC’s implementation of the BCAP program. Consistent with OIG’s request that the part 54 audit function be transferred back to an appropriate Bureau or Office, and because the Commission finds that OMD now oversees the universal service fund BCAP audits and has in place the resources and expertise needed to oversee the part 54 audit as well, the Commission transfers part 54 oversight authority to OMD.

3. Given this augmentation of OMD’s role in audit oversight, the Commission also finds it appropriate to delegate limited authority to OMD, upon receiving approval from the Office of General Counsel, to issue subpoenas that directly relate to OMD’S oversight of audits of the USF programs and OMD’s review and evaluation of the interstate telecommunications relay services fund, the North American numbering plan, regulatory fee collection, FCC operating expenses, and debt collection. By granting OMD with this specific, limited and discreet subpoena authority, the Commission will ensure that OMD has the necessary tools to obtain all relevant documentation in a timely manner to complete audit findings and implement corrective actions for all of these programs. Absent this delegation, there is the potential that an audited entity in a particular FCC program may resist providing essential data to OMD to confirm that entity is operating consistent with program rules. Providing OMD with this specific, limited and discreet subpoena authority, therefore strengthens OMD’s ability to effectively review and evaluate the aforementioned FCC programs in a
timely manner and further protect these programs against waste, fraud, and abuse.

4. The rule amendments adopted in this Order involve rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice. The notice and comment and effective date provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act are therefore inapplicable.

5. Accordingly, it is ordered, that pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), 5(c), 303(r), 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), 155(c), 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 CFR part 54 is amended, as set forth below, effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

List of Subjects
47 CFR Part 0
Classified information, Freedom of information, Government publications, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

47 CFR Part 54
Communications common carriers, Health facilities, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Federal Communications Commission.
Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR parts 0 and 54 as follows:

PART 0—COMMISSION ORGANIZATION

1. The authority citation for part 0 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 5, 48 Stat. 1068, as amended; 47 U.S.C. 155, 225, unless otherwise noted.

2. Amend §0.231 by adding paragraph (l) to read as follows:

§0.231 Authority delegated

(l) Subpoena authority. The Managing Director is delegated authority to issue subpoenas for the Office of Managing Director’s oversight of audits of the USF programs and the Office of Managing Director’s review and evaluation of the interstate telecommunications relay services fund, the North American numbering plan, regulatory fee collection, FCC operating expenses, and debt collection. Before issuing a subpoena, the Office of Managing Director shall obtain the approval of the Office of General Counsel.

PART 54—UNIVERSAL SERVICE

3. The authority citation for part 54 is revised to read as follows:


§54.717 [Amended]

4. In §54.717 remove the words “Office of Inspector General” and add in their place, the words “Office of Managing Director” and remove the words “Inspector General” and add in their place, the words “Managing Director” each place it appears.

[FR Doc. 2012–29150 Filed 12–3–12; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[WC Docket Nos. 11–42; 03–109; 12–23 and CC Docket No. 96–45; FCC 12–11]

Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved, for a period of three years, the information collection requirements contained in the Commission’s Order, published at 77 FR 12952, March 2, 2012. OMB Control Number is 3060–0819. The Commission publishes this notice as an announcement of the effective date rules requiring OMB approval. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice), (202) 418–0432 (TTY).

Synopsis

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), the FCC is notifying the public that it received OMB approval on November 7, 2012, for the information collection requirements contained in the Commission’s rules at 47 CFR Sections 54.202(a), 54.401(d), 54.403, 54.404, 54.405(c), 54.405(e) except the portion of paragraph (4) relating to temporary address de-enrollment, 54.407, 54.410(a) through (f), 54.416, 54.417, 54.420, and 54.422.

Under 5 CFR 1320, an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a current, valid OMB 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 current, valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number is 3060–0819.


The total annual reporting burdens and costs for the respondents are as follows:

OMB Control Number: 3060–0819.
OMB Approval Date: November 7, 2012.
OMB Expiration Date: November 30, 2015.

Title: Section 54.400 through 54.707 and Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) Connection Assistance (Link-Up).

Form Numbers: FCC Forms 497, 550, 555, and 560.

Respondents: Individuals or households or businesses or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 13,500,940 respondents; 41,828,019 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: .25 hours to 50 hours.

Frequency of Response: On Occasion, Quarterly, Biennially, Monthly, 1-Time,