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#### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 51

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: April 23, 2018.

**E. Scott Pruitt,**  
Administrator.

For reasons set forth in the preamble, EPA proposes to amend part 51 of chapter I of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

#### PART 51—REQUIREMENTS FOR PREPARATION, ADOPTION, AND SUBMITTAL OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 51 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 3 U.S.C. 101; 42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q.

#### Subpart F—Procedural Requirements

■ 2. Section 51.100 is amended by revising paragraph (s)(1) introductory text to read as follows:

#### § 51.100 Definitions.

\* \* \* \* \*

(s)(1) This includes any such organic compound other than the following, which have been determined to have negligible photochemical reactivity: methane; ethane; methylene chloride (dichloromethane); 1,1,1-trichloroethane (methyl chloroform); 1,1,2-trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane (CFC-113); trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11); dichlorodifluoromethane (CFC-12); chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22); trifluoromethane (HFC-23); 1,2-dichloro 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane (CFC-114); chloropentafluoroethane (CFC-115); 1,1,1-trifluoro 2,2-dichloroethane (HCFC-123); 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (HFC-134a); 1,1-dichloro 1-fluoroethane (HCFC-141b); 1-chloro 1,1-difluoroethane (HCFC-142b); 2-chloro-1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (HCFC-124); pentafluoroethane (HFC-125); 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane (HFC-134); 1,1,1-trifluoroethane (HFC-143a); 1,1-difluoroethane (HFC-152a); parachlorobenzotrifluoride (PCBTF); cyclic, branched, or linear completely methylated siloxanes; acetone; perchloroethylene (tetrachloroethylene); 3,3-dichloro-1,1,1,2,2-pentafluoropropane (HCFC-225ca); 1,3-dichloro-1,1,2,2,3-pentafluoropropane (HCFC-225cb); 1,1,1,2,3,4,4,5,5,5-decafluoropentane (HFC 43-10mee); difluoromethane (HFC-32); ethylfluoride (HFC-161); 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane (HFC-236fa); 1,1,2,2,3-pentafluoropropane (HFC-245ca); 1,1,2,3,3-pentafluoropropane (HFC-245ea); 1,1,1,2,3-pentafluoropropane (HFC-245eb); 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane (HFC-245fa); 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoropropane (HFC-236ea); 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluorobutane (HFC-365mfc); chlorofluoromethane (HCFC-31); 1-chloro-1-fluoroethane (HCFC-151a); 1,2-dichloro-1,1,2-trifluoroethane (HCFC-123a); 1,1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4-nonafluoro-4-methoxy-butane (C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>9</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub> or HFE-7100); 2-(difluoromethoxymethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane

((CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CFCF<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>); 1-ethoxy-1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,4-nonafluorobutane (C<sub>4</sub>F<sub>9</sub>OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> or HFE-7200); 2-(ethoxydifluoromethyl)-1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane ((CF<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CFCF<sub>2</sub>OC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>); methyl acetate; 1,1,1,2,2,3,3-heptafluoro-3-methoxypropane (n-C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>7</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>, HFE-7000); 3-ethoxy-1,1,1,2,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,6-dodecafluoro-2-(trifluoromethyl) hexane (HFE-7500); 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane (HFC 227ea); methyl formate (HCOOCH<sub>3</sub>); 1,1,1,2,2,3,4,5,5,5-decafluoro-3-methoxy-4-trifluoromethyl-pentane (HFE-7300); propylene carbonate; dimethyl carbonate; *trans*-1,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropene; HCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>H (HFE-134); HCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>H (HFE-236cal2); HCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>H (HFE-338pcc13); HCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>OCF<sub>2</sub>H (H-Galden 1040x or H-Galden ZT 130 (or 150 or 180)); *trans* 1-chloro-3,3,3-trifluoroprop-1-ene; 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropene; 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol; t-butyl acetate; 1,1,2,2-Tetrafluoro-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy) ethane; *cis*-1,1,1,4,4,4-hexafluorobut-2-ene (HFO-1336mzz-Z); and perfluorocarbon compounds which fall into these classes:

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 2018-09079 Filed 4-30-18; 8:45 am]

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#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

#### 47 CFR Part 76

[MB Docket Nos. 18-92 and 17-105; FCC 18-47]

#### Channel Lineup Requirements—Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) proposes to eliminate the requirement that cable operators maintain at their local office a current listing of the cable television channels that each cable system delivers to its subscribers. In addition, the Commission invites comment on whether we should also eliminate the requirement that certain cable operators make their channel lineup available via their online public inspection file. In response to a Public Notice launching the Commission's Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative, commenters asked the Commission to consider eliminating both of these requirements because channel lineup

information is available from other sources and the requirements are therefore unnecessary. With this proceeding, the Commission continues its efforts to modernize its rules and eliminate outdated and unnecessary regulatory burdens that can impede competition and innovation in the media marketplace.

**DATES:** Comments may be filed on or before May 31, 2018, and reply comments may be filed on or before June 15, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested parties may submit comments and reply comments, identified by MB Docket Nos. 18–92 and 17–105, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Federal Communications Commission's website:* <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- *People with Disabilities:* Contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by email: [FCC504@fcc.gov](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov) or phone: (202) 418–0530 or TTY: (202) 418–0432.

For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Matthews, Media Bureau, Policy Division, 202–418–2154, or email at [kim.matthews@fcc.gov](mailto:kim.matthews@fcc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MB Docket Nos. 18–92 and 17–105; FCC 18–47, adopted and released on April 17, 2018. The full text of this document is available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW, Room CY–A257, Washington, DC 20554. The complete text may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, 445 12th Street SW, Room CY–B402, Washington, DC 20554. This document will also be available via ECFS at <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/>. Documents will be available electronically in ASCII,

Microsoft Word, and/or Adobe Acrobat. Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) by sending an email to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or calling the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice), (202) 418–0432 (TTY).

### Synopsis

1. In this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), we propose to eliminate the requirement in § 76.1705 of the Commission's rules that cable operators maintain at their local office a current listing of the cable television channels that each cable system delivers to its subscribers. We tentatively conclude that this requirement is unnecessary and outdated. In addition, we invite comment on whether we should also eliminate the requirement in § 76.1700(a)(4) that certain cable operators make their channel lineup available via their online public inspection file. In response to a Public Notice launching the Commission's Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative, commenters asked the Commission to consider eliminating both of these requirements because channel lineup information is available from other sources and the requirements are therefore unnecessary. With this proceeding, we continue our efforts to modernize our rules and eliminate outdated and unnecessary regulatory burdens that can impede competition and innovation in the media marketplace.

2. We propose to eliminate § 76.1705 of our rules, which requires every cable operator “to maintain at its local office a current listing of the cable television channels” delivered by the system to its subscribers. This requirement was originally adopted in 1972 as part of the Commission's technical standard performance rules for cable. Among the Commission's goals in the 1972 Cable Order was to ensure that the “channels delivered to subscribers conform to the capability of the television broadcast receiver.” While the Commission did not explain in its order exactly why it believed it was necessary for a system to maintain at its local office a list of the channels it delivers, it appears that the requirement was designed to help the Commission verify compliance with technical performance standards that applied to certain cable channels at that time.

3. We tentatively conclude that the requirement to maintain a channel lineup locally is outdated, unnecessary, and inconsistent with the Commission's recent efforts to improve access to

information about regulated entities by making this information available online. See *Standardized and Enhanced Disclosure Requirements for Television Broadcast Licensee Public Interest Obligations*, Second Report and Order, 77 FR 27631 (May 11, 2012) (Television Online Public File Order); *Expansion of Online Public File Obligations to Cable and Satellite TV Operators and Broadcast and Satellite Radio Licensees*, Report and Order, 81 FR 10105 (Feb. 29, 2016) (“Expanded Online Public File Order”). Regardless of the original purpose of the rule, information about the channel lineups of individual cable operators is now available through other sources, including, in many cases, the websites of the operator, on-screen electronic program guides, paper guides, and the Commission-hosted online public inspection file (OPIF). We therefore believe that few, if any, consumers interested in channel lineup information currently access this information by visiting an operator's local office as other sources of channel lineup information can be viewed far more quickly and easily.

4. We invite comment on our tentative conclusion. How often do consumers visit a cable operator's local office to view its channel lineup? Is Commission regulation in this area unnecessary because cable operators have the economic incentive to ensure that customers and prospective customers are able to find out which channels they deliver? Is there any benefit to retaining the requirement in § 76.1705 that we should consider? For example, is there any benefit to regulators, including local franchising authorities, to having this information continue to be available locally, or can regulators easily access this information from other sources, including directly from the cable operator, without § 76.1705? Commenters who advocate in favor of or against retaining this rule should discuss whether and how the benefits of doing so outweigh any costs.

5. We also invite comment on whether we should eliminate the requirement that cable operators make channel lineup information available for public inspection pursuant to § 76.1700(a)(4) through the online public file. In the Expanded Online Public File Order, the Commission expanded to cable operators of systems with at least 1,000 subscribers, as well as broadcast and satellite radio licensees and DBS providers, the requirement that public inspection files be posted to the Commission-hosted online public file database. In that order, the Commission also required cable operators subject to the new online file requirements to

comply with § 76.1700(a)(4) either by uploading to the online public file information regarding their current channel lineup, and keeping this information up-to-date, or providing a link in the online file to the channel lineup maintained by the operator at another online location. While the Commission recognized that cable operators may provide channel lineup information to subscribers in other ways, and that they have an incentive to present this information on their own websites, it declined to exclude this information from the list of material cable operators were required to include in the online public file as advocated by cable commenters. In doing so, the Commission noted that its focus in the Expanded Online Public File proceeding was on adapting its existing public file requirements to an online format rather than considering substantive changes to the public file rules.

6. Several commenters in the Media Modernization proceeding have asked the Commission to eliminate the channel lineup public file requirement on the ground that consumers have multiple other sources of information about a cable system's current channel lineup, including cable operator and third-party websites, on-screen electronic programming guides, and copies of lineups provided by cable operators. NCTA argues that "[t]here is no indication in the record or elsewhere that consumers find the channel lineups in public inspection files to be useful at all, or that they would look to the Commission's website to locate such information." NCTA also notes that the Commission does not require channel lineup information to be included in the public files of DBS providers, who provide video programming options similar to cable operators.

7. We seek comment on whether there are sufficient other sources of information, apart from the online public file, available to consumers regarding cable channel lineups. In this regard, we note that § 76.1602(b) of the Commission's rules separately requires cable operators to provide information to subscribers regarding the "channel positions of programming carried on the system" and "products and services offered" at the time of installation, at least annually, and at any time upon request. Is this requirement, combined with other sources of information regarding a cable system's channel lineup, sufficient to ensure that consumers have access to information regarding the programming provided by cable operators? Is there a benefit to having information about cable systems,

including channel lineup information, available all in one place in the system's online public file? How frequently do consumers use the online public file to access channel lineup information? How do consumers currently access the channel lineup information of DBS providers who are not subject to this online posting requirement? Is such information easily accessible?

8. Absent an online public file requirement, would channel lineup information be available to consumers and others who are not subscribers to the cable system, including those interested in comparing channel offerings by competing providers? Is Commission regulation in this area unnecessary because cable operators have the economic incentive to ensure that customers and prospective customers are able to find out which channels they deliver? For example, would this information be posted conspicuously on the website of a cable provider? Should we require operators subject to § 76.1700(a)(4) to instead put channel lineup information on their own website? If we adopt such a website requirement, should operators "maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers" on their website as our public file rule requires? What is the cost associated with the existing requirement that operators either upload channel lineup information to the online public file and keep this information current or provide a link in the online file to the channel lineup maintained by the operator at another online location? Would regulators benefit from access to channel lineup information via the online public file, particularly if we eliminate 76.1705 as proposed above? If so, how? We request that commenters address how the potential benefits of their proposal would outweigh any potential costs.

9. Operators of cable systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers are exempt from all online public file requirements, including the requirement to make channel lineup information available via the online file, but they must maintain local public inspection files and are subject to the requirement in § 76.1705 that they maintain a copy of their current channel lineup locally. If we eliminate § 76.1705, as proposed above, will there continue to be adequate access to information about the channels delivered by these smaller cable systems? To what extent do small operators make channel lineup information available via the internet or electronic programming guides? How often do consumers visit small

operators' local inspection files to view channel lineups? Is Commission regulation in this area unnecessary because operators of small cable systems have the economic incentive to ensure that customers and prospective customers are able to find out which channels they deliver? We note that all cable systems regardless of size are subject to the notification requirements in § 76.1602(b), discussed above. Alternatively, if we eliminate § 76.1705 but retain the requirement that cable systems subject to the online public file make channel lineup information available there, should we require that cable systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers continue to retain channel lineup information locally, if they do not voluntarily use the online public file? Should we instead require small cable operators to put channel lineup information on their own website? If so, should small cable operators "maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers" on their website?

#### **Procedural Matters**

##### *A. Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis*

10. As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, as amended (RFA), the Commission has prepared an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis (IRFA) relating to this NPRM. The IRFA is set forth in Appendix B.

##### *B. Initial Paperwork Reduction Act Analysis*

11. This document contains proposed modified information collection requirements. The Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, invites the general public and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to comment on the information collection requirements contained in this document, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. In addition, pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4), we seek specific comment on how we might further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

##### *C. Ex Parte Presentations*

12. Permit-But-Disclose. This proceeding shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's ex parte rules. Persons making ex parte presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the

presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral ex parte presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the ex parte presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during ex parte meetings are deemed to be written ex parte presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written ex parte presentations and memoranda summarizing oral ex parte presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (e.g., .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable.pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's ex parte rules.

#### D. Comment Filing Procedures

13. Comments and Replies. Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- *Electronic Filers:* Comments may be filed electronically using the internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/>.

- *Paper Filers:* Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers 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. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St. SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes 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 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

- U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

14. Availability of Documents. Comments, reply comments, and ex parte submissions will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. These documents will also be available via ECFS. Documents will be available electronically in ASCII, Microsoft Word, and/or Adobe Acrobat.

15. People with Disabilities. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

#### E. Additional Information

16. For additional information on this proceeding, please contact Kim Matthews of the Media Bureau, Policy Division, [Kim.Matthews@fcc.gov](mailto:Kim.Matthews@fcc.gov), (202) 418-2154.

#### Initial Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

17. As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, as amended ("RFA"), the Commission has prepared this Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis ("IRFA") concerning the possible significant economic impact on small entities of the policies and rules proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). Written public comments are requested on this IRFA.

Comments must be identified as responses to the IRFA and must be filed by the deadlines for comments provided on the first page of the NPRM. The Commission will send a copy of the NPRM, including this IRFA, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (SBA). In addition, the NPRM and IRFA (or summaries thereof) will be published in the **Federal Register**.

#### A. Need for, and Objectives of, the Proposed Rule Changes

18. The NPRM proposes to eliminate the requirement in § 76.1705 of the Commission's rules that cable operators maintain at their local office a current listing of the cable television channels that each cable system delivers to its subscribers. We tentatively conclude that this requirement is unnecessary, outdated, and inconsistent with our recent efforts to make licensee information available online. The NPRM also seeks comment on whether the Commission should eliminate the requirement in § 76.1700(a)(4) that cable operators of systems with 1,000 or more subscribers make a current copy of their channel lineup available via their online public inspection file. These operators may either upload information regarding their channel lineup to the online file, and keep that information current, or provide a link in their online file to the channel lineup maintained by the operator at another online location. The NPRM also asks if we should instead require operators subject to § 76.1700(a)(4) to put channel lineup information on their own website and, if so, whether we should require these operators to "maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers" on their website as our public file rules currently require.

19. Operators of cable systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers are exempt from all online public file requirements, including the requirement to make channel lineup information available via the online file, but they must maintain local public inspection files and are subject to the requirement in § 76.1705 that they maintain a copy of their current channel lineup locally. The NPRM asks whether, if we eliminate § 76.1705, there will continue to be adequate access to channel lineup information for systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers, or whether we should instead continue to require these small operators to maintain current channel lineup information in their local public inspection files if they do not voluntarily use the online public file. The NPRM also asks if we should

instead require small cable operators to put channel lineup information on their own website and, if so, we should require these operators to “maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers” on their website. Our goal is to ensure that consumers have sufficient access to channel lineup information and to continue our efforts to modernize our rules and reduce regulatory burdens on cable operators by eliminating unnecessary requirements in our rules.

#### *B. Legal Basis*

20. The proposed action is authorized pursuant to sections 1, 2, 4(i), 4(j), 303, 601 and 624(e) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 151, 152, 154(i), 154(j), 303, 521 and 624(e).

#### *C. Description and Estimate of the Number of Small Entities to Which the Proposed Rules Will Apply*

21. The RFA directs agencies to provide a description of, and where feasible, an estimate of the number of small entities that may be affected by the proposed rules, if adopted. The RFA generally defines the term “small entity” as having the same meaning as the terms “small business,” “small organization,” and “small governmental jurisdiction.” In addition, the term “small business” has the same meaning as the term “small business concern” under the Small Business Act. A small business concern is one which: (1) is independently owned and operated; (2) is not dominant in its field of operation; and (3) satisfies any additional criteria established by the SBA. Below, we provide a description of such small entities, as well as an estimate of the number of such small entities, where feasible.

22. Cable Companies and Systems (Rate Regulation). The Commission has developed its own small business size standards for the purpose of cable rate regulation. Under the Commission’s rules, a “small cable company” is one serving 400,000 or fewer subscribers nationwide. Industry data indicate that all but nine cable operators nationwide are small under the 400,000 subscriber size standard. In addition, under the Commission’s rate regulation rules, a “small system” is a cable system serving 15,000 or fewer subscribers. Of the 4,197 active cable systems nationwide, we estimate that approximately 85 percent have 15,000 or fewer subscribers, and the rest have more than 15,000 subscribers. Thus, under this standard as well, we estimate that most cable systems are small entities.

23. Cable System Operators (Telecom Act Standard). The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, also contains a size standard for small cable system operators, which is “a cable operator that, directly or through an affiliate, serves in the aggregate fewer than one percent of all subscribers in the United States and is not affiliated with any entity or entities whose gross annual revenues in the aggregate exceed \$250,000,000.” There are approximately 52,403,705 cable video subscribers in the United States today. Accordingly, an operator serving fewer than 524,037 subscribers shall be deemed a small operator if its annual revenues, when combined with the total annual revenues of all its affiliates, do not exceed \$250 million in the aggregate. Based on available data, we find that all but nine incumbent cable operators are small entities under this size standard. We note that the Commission neither requests nor collects information on whether cable system operators are affiliated with entities whose gross annual revenues exceed \$250 million. Although it seems certain that some of these cable systems operators are affiliated with entities whose gross annual revenues exceed \$250 million, we are unable at this time to estimate with greater precision the number of cable system operators that would qualify as small cable operators under the definition in the Communications Act.

#### *D. Description of Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements*

24. The NPRM proposes to eliminate the requirement in § 76.1705 of the Commission’s rules that cable operators maintain at their local office a current listing of the cable television channels that each cable system delivers to its subscribers. This rule change would reduce reporting, recordkeeping, and other compliance requirements for cable operators which are currently required to maintain a current channel lineup for each system in the cable operator’s local office. In addition, the NPRM seeks comment on whether to eliminate the requirement in § 76.1700(a)(4) of the Commission’s rules that cable systems with 1,000 or more subscribers make a current copy of their channel lineup available via their online public inspection file. If the Commission eliminated this requirement, it would further reduce reporting, recordkeeping, and other compliance requirements for these cable operators. Alternatively, the NPRM asks whether cable operators subject to § 76.1700(a)(4) should instead be required to put channel lineup

information on their own website and, if so, whether we should require these operators to “maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers” on their website as our public file rules currently require.

25. Operators of cable systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers are exempt from all online public file requirements, including the requirement to make channel lineup information available via the online file, but they must maintain local public inspection files and are subject to the requirement in § 76.1705 that they maintain a copy of their current channel lineup locally. The NPRM asks whether, if we eliminate § 76.1705, there will continue to be adequate access to channel lineup information for systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers, or whether we should instead continue to require these small operators to maintain current channel lineup information in their local public inspection files or put this information on their own websites if they do not voluntarily use the online public file. If we adopt a website requirement, the NPRM asks if we should require these operators to “maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers” on their website.

#### *E. Steps Taken To Minimize Significant Impact on Small Entities and Significant Alternatives Considered*

26. The RFA requires an agency to describe any significant alternatives that it has considered in reaching its proposed approach, which may include the following four alternatives (among others): (1) The establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standard; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.

27. The NPRM proposes to eliminate the requirement that cable operators maintain a current channel lineup in the cable operator’s local office, and invites comment on this proposal and whether there are reasons why this requirement should be retained. Eliminating this requirement would eliminate the costs of maintaining this information locally and making it available to those asking to view it, including any related managerial, administrative, and operational costs. The Commission considered the alternative of not

eliminating this requirement but has tentatively concluded the requirement is unnecessary and outdated and should be eliminated.

28. In addition, the NPRM invites comment on whether to eliminate the requirement that cable systems with 1,000 or more subscribers make a current copy of their channel lineup available via their online public inspection file, or whether this requirement should be retained to ensure that consumers have sufficient access to channel lineup information. Alternatively, the NPRM asks whether cable operators subject to § 76.1700(a)(4) should instead be required to put channel lineup information on their own website and, if so, whether we should require these operators to “maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers” on their website as our public file rules currently require.

29. Operators of cable systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers are exempt from all online public file requirements, including the requirement to make channel lineup information available via the online file, but they must maintain local public inspection files and are subject to the requirement in § 76.1705 that they maintain a copy of their current channel lineup locally. The NPRM asks whether, if we eliminate § 76.1705, there will continue to be adequate access to channel lineup information for systems with fewer than 1,000 subscribers, or whether we should

instead continue to require these small operators to maintain current channel lineup information in their local public inspection files if they do not voluntarily use the online public file. The NPRM also asks if we should instead require small cable operators to put channel lineup information on their own website and, if so, we should require these operators to “maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that systems delivers to its subscribers” on their website.

*F. Federal Rules That May Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict With the Proposed Rule*

30. None.

#### Ordering Clauses

31. Accordingly, *it is ordered* that, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1, 4(i), 4(j), 303(r), 601, and 624(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 303(r), 521, and 544(e) this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking *is adopted*.

32. *It is further ordered* that the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, *shall send* a copy of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

#### List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 76

Cable television operators.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene Dortch,**

*Secretary, Office of the Secretary.*

#### Proposed Rules

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR part 76 as follows:

#### **PART 76—MULTICHANNEL VIDEO AND CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 76 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 47 U.S.C. 151, 152, 153, 154, 301, 302, 302a, 303, 303a, 307, 308, 309, 312, 315, 317, 325, 338, 339, 340, 341, 503, 521, 522, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 543, 544, 544a, 545, 548, 549, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 561, 571, 572, 573.

■ 2. Section 76.1700 is amended by revising paragraph (a)(4) to read as follows:

#### **§ 76.1700 Records to be maintained by cable system operators**

(a) \* \* \*

(4) Channels delivered. The operator of each cable television system shall maintain a current listing of the cable television channels which that system delivers to its subscribers;

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **§ 76.1705 [Removed and Reserved]**

■ 3. Section 76.1705 is removed and reserved.

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**BILLING CODE 6712–01–P**