dates of launch, reaching final orbit, and start of operations: A description of how services were migrated to the upper portion of the band, including the pre- and post-transition frequencies that each customer occupied and now occupies; Any necessary technology upgrades or other solutions, such as video compression or modulation, that the eligible space station operator implemented, described on a per antenna and/or feed basis, as appropriate; The number and location of antennas and feeds that were transitioned to satisfy the Phase I deadline, including the actions taken (e.g., retuning and repointing) for each; The date of completion of the above items; A description of the steps that the eligible space station operator has taken to identify all associated earth stations, antennas, and feeds, and to ensure that they are all are transitioned as of the date of Certification; Details relating to any variances from the eligible space station operator’s Transition Plan, such as antennas and feeds involving circumstances beyond the control of the eligible space station operator and therefore subject to a transition delay notice, and antennas and feeds that are otherwise pending removal from the most recent Incumbent Earth Station list or subject to an agreement regarding the transition between the eligible space station operator and the earth station operator.

The eligible space station operator must certify that it attests to the truthfulness of the above information and is making the Certification in good faith. Eligible space stations operators are reminded that Certifications are subject to section 1.17 of the Commission’s rules and violators will be subject to potential enforcement action, including monetary penalties or actions affecting the eligible space station operator’s market access authorization or status as a licensee. The Bureau will determine that a Certification has been made in bad faith if, for example, the certifying party makes a statement that is false and if it finds the party did not use due diligence in providing information that is correct and not misleading to the Commission, including taking appropriate affirmative steps to determine the truthfulness of what is being submitted. In cases where it is found that the ARP was disbursed based on a Certification that the eligible space station operator had filed in bad faith, the operator may be subject to the additional consequence of having to return some or all of the ARP, depending on the circumstances. We note that subsequent to the filing of the Certification the Bureau may, based on the information filed by the eligible space station operator or contained in a challenge to that operator’s Certification, request additional information from the operator. Because such information may prove necessary to determine whether the eligible space station operator completed the relocation by the relevant accelerated deadline, eligible space station operators must respond to such requests for information in a prompt and complete manner.

If, after the resolution of any credible challenges and the disbursement of the ARP, it is subsequently found, by the Relocation Coordinator, Clearinghouse, or WTB, that the eligible space station operator should have transitioned additional earth stations, antennas, or feeds that it did not account for in its Transition Plan and Certification(s), the eligible space station operator will be required to remediate such earth stations, antennas, or feeds in a prompt and effective manner.

Challenges. Challenges to a Certification must be filed in GN Docket No. 21–320 within ten (10) days after the Certification is published in ECFS and the eligible space station operators’ replies must be filed in that docket within five (5) days. Pursuant to the 3.7 GHz Report and Order, WTB will announce by Public Notice whether credible challenges have been made within 30 days of the Certification’s filing. After reviewing a Certification and any relevant challenges, WTB will issue one of two Public Notices. If there are no credible challenges, WTB will issue a Public Notice that lists the submitted challenges (if any), states that none constitutes a “credible challenge” to the validity of the Certification, and provides a brief explanation for the finding that said challenges are non-credible. If there is at least one credible challenge, WTB will issue a Public Notice announcing that one or more credible challenges have been made and instructing the Clearinghouse not to issue the ARP until WTB has made a final determination as to the validity of the challenge. WTB will issue a final determination on the challenge no later than sixty (60) days after the eligible space station operator files its Certification. If WTB ultimately finds the Certification was valid, disbursement of the Phase I ARP to the eligible space station operator will proceed as outlined above and in the 3.7 GHz Report and Order.

Amy Brett,
Acting Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060–0216, 3060–0248, 3060–0332, 3060–0404 and 3060–1218; FR ID 42035]

Information Collections Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission Under Delegated Authority

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collections. Comments are requested concerning: 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; the accuracy of the Commission’s burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; 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; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before October 12, 2021. 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.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060–0216.
Title: Section 73.3538, Application to Make Changes in an Existing Station; Section 73.1690(e), Modification of Transmission Systems.
Form Number: N/A.
Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.
Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities, Not-for-profit institutions.
Number of Respondents and Responses: 650 respondents; 650 responses.
Estimated Hours per Response: 0.50–3 hours.
Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement; Recordkeeping requirement.
Total Annual Burden: 1,100 hours.
Annual Burden Cost: None.
Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: There is no need for confidentiality with this collection of information.
Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. The statutory authority for this collection is contained in Sections 154(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
Privacy Impact Assessment: No impact(s).
Needs and Uses: The information collection requirements contained in Section 73.3538(b)(1) of the Commission’s rules requires a broadcast station to file an informal application to modify or discontinue the obstruction marking or lighting of an antenna supporting structure. The information collection requirements contained in Section 73.1690(e) of the Commission’s rules requires AM, FM and TV station licensees to prepare an informal statement or diagram describing any equipment changes made to ensure compliance with FCC rules. This informal statement or diagram must be retained at the transmitter site as long as the equipment is in use.
OMB Control Number: 3060–0248.
Title: Section 74.751, Modification of Transmission Systems.
Form Number: Not applicable.
Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.
Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local or Tribal Government.
Number of Respondents and Responses: 400 respondents; 400 responses.
Estimated Time per Response: 0.50 hours.
Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement; Recordkeeping requirement.
Total Annual Burden: 200 hours.
Total Annual Cost: None.
Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. The statutory authority for this collection is contained in Section 154(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
Nature and Confidentiality: There is no need for confidentiality with this collection of information.
Privacy Impact Assessment: No impact(s).
Needs and Uses: The information collection requirements contained in Section 154(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
OMB Control Number: 3060–0404.
Title: Application for an FM Translator or FM Booster Station License, FCC Form 350.
Form Number: FCC Form 350.
Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.
Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities; Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal government.
Number of Respondents and Responses: 500 respondents; 500 responses.
Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement.
Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.
Total Annual Burden: 500 hours.
Total Annual Cost: $37,500.
Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain and retain benefits. The statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in Sections 154(i), 307, 308 and 309 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: There is no need for confidentiality with this collection of information.
Privacy Impact Assessment: No impact(s).
Needs and Uses: Licensees and permittees of FM Translator or FM Booster stations are required to file FCC Form 350 to obtain a new or modified station license. The data is used by FCC staff to confirm that the station has been built to terms specified in the outstanding construction permit.
Data from the FCC Form 350 is extracted for inclusion in the subsequent license to operate the station.
ACTION: Notice of a new matching program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (“Privacy Act”), this document announces the modification of a computer matching program the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission” or “Agency”) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) will conduct with the Iowa Department of Human Services (Department). The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of Lifeline (existing purpose) and the new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, both of which are administered by USAC under the direction of the FCC. More information about these programs is provided in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below.

DATES: Written comments are due on or before September 13, 2021. This computer matching program will commence on September 13, 2021, and will conclude 18 months after the effective date.

ADDRESS: Send comments to Margaret Drake, FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, or to Privacy@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margaret Drake at 202–418–1707 or Privacy@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Lifeline program provides support for discounted broadband and voice services to low-income consumers. Lifeline is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under FCC direction. Consumers qualify for Lifeline through proof of income or participation in a qualifying program, such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, or various Tribal-specific federal assistance programs.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP) was established by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Pub. L. 116–260, 134 Stat. 1182. EBBP is a program that helps low-income Americans obtain discounted broadband service and one-time co-pay for a connected device (laptop, desktop computer or tablet). This program was created specifically to assist American families’ access to broadband, which has proven to be essential for work, school, and healthcare during the public health emergency that exists as a result of COVID–19. A household may qualify for the EBBP benefit under various criteria, including an individual qualifying for the FCC’s Lifeline program.

In a Report and Order adopted on March 31, 2016 (81 FR 33026, May 24, 2016) (2016 Lifeline Modernization Order), the Commission ordered USAC to create a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (“National Verifier”), including the National Lifeline Eligibility Database (LED), that would match data about Lifeline applicants and subscribers with other data sources to verify the eligibility of an applicant or subscriber. The Commission found that the National Verifier would reduce compliance costs for Lifeline service providers, improve service for Lifeline subscribers, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the program.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 directs the FCC to leverage the National Verifier to verify applicants’ eligibility for EBBP. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of EBBP applicants and subscribers by determining whether they receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits administered by the Iowa Department. Under FCC rules, consumers receiving these benefits qualify for Lifeline discounts and also for EBBP benefits.

Participating Agencies

Iowa Department of Human Services.

Authority for Conducting the Matching Program


Purpose(s)

In the 2016 Lifeline Modernization Order, the FCC required USAC to develop and operate the National Verifier to improve efficiency and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. The stated purpose of the National Verifier is “to increase the integrity and improve the performance of the Lifeline program for the benefit of a variety of Lifeline participants, including Lifeline providers, subscribers, states, community-based organizations, USAC, and the Commission.” 31 FCC Rcd 3962, 4006,