



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU RELEASES THE 2016 TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEETS AND ACCOMPANYING INSTRUCTIONS

WC Docket No. 06-122

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces the release of the (1) annual Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet, FCC Form 499-A (FCC Form 499-A) and accompanying instructions (FCC Form 499-A Instructions) to be used in 2016 to report 2015 revenues,¹ and (2) quarterly Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet, FCC Form 499-Q (FCC Form 499-Q) and accompanying instructions (FCC Form 499-Q Instructions) to be used in 2016 to report projected and collected revenues on a quarterly basis.²

The Bureau has delegated authority to revise the FCC Forms and accompanying instructions to, among other things, ensure “sound and efficient administration of the universal service programs.”³ On November 24, 2015, the Bureau released a Public Notice seeking comment on proposed revisions to the

¹ The Communications Act of 1934 (Act), as amended, requires that the Commission establish mechanisms to fund universal service, interstate telecommunications relay services, the administration of the North American Numbering Plan, and the shared costs of local number portability administration. 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 225, 251, 254. To accomplish these congressionally-directed objectives, the Commission requires telecommunications carriers and certain other providers of telecommunications (including Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) service providers) to report each year on the FCC Form 499-A the revenues they receive from offering service. See 47 CFR §§ 52.17(b), 52.32(b), 54.708, 54.711, 64.604(b)(5)(iii)(B). The FCC Form 499-A is due on April 1 of each year. See Universal Service Administrative Company Schedule of Filings, <http://www.usac.org/cont/499/filing-schedule.aspx> (last visited Feb. 5, 2016).

² Sections 54.706, 54.711, and 54.713 of the Commission’s rules require all telecommunications carriers providing interstate telecommunications services, interconnected VoIP providers that provide interstate telecommunications, providers of interstate telecommunications that offer interstate telecommunications for a fee on a non-common carrier basis, and payphone providers that are aggregators to contribute to the universal service fund and file a FCC Form 499-Q on February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 each year. 47 CFR §§ 54.706, 54.711, 54.713.

³ *Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, 12 FCC Rcd 18400, 18442, para. 81 (1997) (“Because it is difficult to determine in advance precisely the information that will be needed to administer the new universal service programs, the [Common Carrier, now Wireline Competition] Bureau will have delegated authority to waive, reduce, or eliminate contributor reporting requirements that may prove unnecessary. The Bureau also will have delegated authority to require any additional contributor reporting requirements necessary to the sound and efficient administration of the universal service programs.”). Consistent with this authority, the Bureau annually revises the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet Instructions to provide instructions and guidance for complying with existing rules and requirements. See 47 CFR § 54.711(c). The FCC Forms and accompanying instructions are modified based on experience in administering the universal service program and explicit rulings by the Commission. See, e.g., *Universal Service Contribution Methodology et al.*, WC Docket No. 06-122 et al., Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 21 FCC Rcd 7518, 7533-50, paras. 24-62 (2006).

FCC Forms and the accompanying instructions.⁴ The Bureau did not receive any comments addressing the proposed changes. Subsequently, the Bureau submitted a non-substantive revision of the information collection for the FCC Forms and the accompanying instructions (collection 3060-0855) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval pursuant to 44 U.S.C. § 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.⁵ This information collection was approved by OMB on January 28, 2016.⁶

The changes to the FCC Forms and accompanying instructions are summarized below. The revised FCC Forms and the accompanying instructions are also attached to this Public Notice for informational purposes only and will be available soon on Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) web site at <http://www.usac.org/cont/tools/forms/default.aspx>.

Changes to the 2016 FCC Form 499-A and Instructions:

- **DC Agent Service of Process Change:** Filers are now required to submit updates to their registration information, including their DC Agent for Service of Process, to only the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the universal service Administrator (page 12).
- **Corporate Contact Information:** Line 207 of the FCC Form 499-A and the accompanying instructions (page 17) were revised slightly to reflect the fact that USAC does not send Worksheets to filers.
- **Language Conforming to the *TRS Order*:** The language of the FCC Form 499-A Instructions (page 18) was revised slightly to conform to the Commission's decision in the *TRS Order* to require non-interconnected VoIP providers to register with the Commission.⁷
- **Language Conforming to the *Open Internet Order*:** The language of the FCC Form 499-A instructions (page 26 and footnote 50) was revised slightly to conform to the Commission's decision regarding broadband Internet access service in the 2015 *Open Internet Order*.⁸
- **International Service Provider Reporting Changes:** Changed references to section 43.61 to 43.62 throughout the FCC Form 499-A Instructions to conform to Commission rule changes.

⁴ *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Proposed Changes to the 2016 FCC Form 499-A, FCC Form 499-Q, and Accompanying Instructions*, WC Docket No. 06-122, Public Notice, DA 15-1361 (WCB Nov. 24, 2015).

⁵ See OMB Website, OMB Control Number History, <http://reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAOMBHistory?ombControlNumber=3060-0855> (ICR Reference Number 201601-3060-021) (last visited Feb. 5, 2016).

⁶ See Notice of Office of Management and Budget Action (NOA) (dated Jan. 28, 2016), <http://reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAOMBHistory?ombControlNumber=3060-0855> (ICR Reference Number 201601-3060-021) (last visited Feb. 5, 2016).

⁷ See *Contributions to the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund*, CG Docket No. 11-47, Report and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 14532, 14542, para. 21 (2011) (*TRS Order*).

⁸ See *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order, GN Docket No. 14-28, 30 FCC Rcd 5601, 5836, para. 489 and n.1472 (2015) (*2015 Open Internet Order*), *pets. for review pending sub nom USTA v. FCC No. 15-1063* (D.C. Cir. filed May 22, 2015).

- **Changes to Reflect Electronic Filing:** Minor wording in the FCC Form 499-A instructions was revised to reflect the fact that the FCC Forms are filed electronically (*e.g.*, deleting references to “paper” filings).

Changes to the 2016 FCC Form 499-Q Instructions:

- **Revision to the FCC Form 499-Q Instructions:** The description of what to include on Line 117 on page 17 of the FCC Form 499-Q instructions was revised to include the term “cable service” to be consistent with the FCC Form 499-A instructions.

Changes to both the 2016 FCC Form 499-A and FCC Form 499-Q and Instructions:

- **Traffic Studies Filing Change:** Removed the requirement for filers to send a copy of their traffic studies to the Commission. Filers must now only submit one copy to USAC at the address provided in the instructions.
- **Date Changes:** Dates were updated throughout the FCC Forms and instructions. References to “2015” were changed to “2016” and references to “2014” were changed to “2015.”
- **Circularity Factor Update:** The circularity factor was adjusted and updated in the FCC Form 499-A and the FCC Form 499-Q instructions based upon the quarterly contribution factors.
- **Stylistic Changes:** In a number of instances, minor wording in the FCC Forms 499-A and 499-Q and accompanying instructions was revised for clarification purposes, without changing the substance. Citations were also added in several instances in the FCC Form 499-A for clarification purposes and section number references were updated throughout the FCC Form 499-A instructions to accurately reference the sections. Additionally, the FCC Form 499-A instructions were reformatted with visual headers for each section to make them more reader-friendly.

People with Disabilities: 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).

For further information, please contact Regina Brown, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-0792 or TTY (202) 418-0484.

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