

iii. *Anti-Lobbying.* Persons (as defined at 15 CFR part 26, § 105) are subject to the lobbying provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1352, "Limitations on use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracting and financial transactions," and the lobbying section of the certification form prescribed above applies to applications/bids for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for more than \$100,000

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iv. *Anti-Lobbying Disclosures.* Any applicant that has paid or will pay for lobbying using any funds must submit an SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," as required under 15 CFR part 28, appendix B.

8. False Statements

A False statement on an application is grounds for denial or termination of funds and grounds for possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

9. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

10. Paperwork Reduction

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor will a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB control number.

11. Dispute Resolution Process

Any disputes concerning the award of this agreement will be handled in accordance with 40 CFR 30.63 and part 31, subpart F.

12. Confidential Business Information

Applicants should clearly mark information considered confidential, and the EPA will make final confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency regulations at 40 CFR part 2, subpart B.

P. Restrictions

Short-Term Training—This is a short term training program for students. Interns will not be used to replace EPA employees formerly employed under the Office of Personnel Management student appointing authorities, to replace temporary or term appointments, or to replace or fill-in for full or part-time EPA positions vacated by the Voluntary Separation Program or Reduction in Force. Participants will not be selected

or used to perform personal services. The Recipient and the Agency shall avoid any actions that create the appearance that the intern is a Federal employee or is being used by the EPA to obtain personal services. This would circumvent the civil service laws and reflect negatively on EPA staff using this participant in this manner. The relationship between the Recipient and Interns is that of Employer and Employees. The Recipient must provide a health benefits option, must deduct applicable state and federal taxes, and is responsible for payment, discipline, leave approval, termination, etc. for each Intern. Nothing in this agreement or its supplements will be deemed to create an employer-employee relationship between the EPA and an Intern. All interns must qualify as students to participate in the program.

Former EPA Employee Restrictions—Former EPA employees are not eligible for this program within two years of employment at the EPA. Former EPA employees must qualify as students to participate in the program.

Dated: February 4, 2003.

Barry E. Hill,

Director, Office of Environmental Justice.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 96-45; DA 03-25]

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on Updating Line Counts and Other Limited Information Used in Calculating High-Cost Universal Service Support for Non-Rural Carriers

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireline Competition Bureau sought comment on how line count and other discrete input values should be updated in the universal service cost model used to estimate non-rural carrier's forward-looking economic costs of providing the services supported by the federal universal service high-cost support mechanism.

DATES: Comments are due on or before March 3, 2003. Reply comments are due on or before March 12, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katie King or Thomas Buckley,

Attorneys, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Public Notice, CC Docket No. 96-45, released January 7, 2003. The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) released an order adopting certain modifications to the forward-looking cost model for determining high-cost support for non-rural carriers. In particular, the Bureau incorporated specific technical improvements and translated a portion of the model from Turbo-Pascal to Delphi computer language. In that order, the Bureau also deferred using this revised version of the model to determine support amounts until the effective date of a Commission order in the separate proceeding addressing the non-rural high-cost support methodology adopted in the *Ninth Report and Order*, 64 FR 67416, December 1, 1999 which was remanded to the Commission by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. The Bureau now seeks comment in this Public Notice on how line count and other discrete input values should be updated for purposes of determining support upon implementation of the revised version of the model.

On October 21, 1999, the Commission adopted two orders completing implementation plans for a new high-cost universal service support mechanism for non-rural carriers. The mechanism provides support based on the forward-looking economic cost of providing services eligible for support, as determined by the Commission's universal service cost model. The Commission also emphasized the importance of updating the inputs used in the cost model as technology and other conditions change. In the *2001 and 2002 Line Counts Update Orders*, 65 FR 81759, December 27, 2000 and 67 FR 3118, January 23, 2002, the Bureau updated the cost model with year-end line counts and other discrete input values for purposes of estimating forward-looking costs and determining support for the years 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Consistent with past precedent, the Bureau seeks comment on using year-end 2001 line counts filed July 31, 2002, as input values for purposes of estimating average forward-looking costs and determining support for non-rural carriers upon implementation of the Commission decision on the Tenth Circuit remand. In addition, the Bureau seeks comment on whether to continue to adjust high-cost support amounts