

clarity of the information collected; and (d) 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.
OMB Control Number: 3060-XXXX.
Title: Certification Letter Accounting for Receipt of Federal Support—CC
 Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262.

Form No.: N/A.

Type of Review: New collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit; not for profit institutions.

Title	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Total annual burden
1. Collection of Additional Rate Data <i>Total Annual Burden:</i> 52 <i>Total Annual Costs:</i> \$0	52	1	52
2. Procedures for Filing And Processing any State Requests for further Federal Action <i>Total Annual Burden:</i> 4 <i>Total Annual Costs:</i> \$0	1	4	1

Grand Total Annual Burden: 52 + 4 = 56.

Needs and Uses: In the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we seek further comment on issues related to the rate review and expanded certification process that we adopt in the Companion Remand Order. The Commission seeks comment on whether it should require States to file, in connection with their reasonable comparability certifications, additional data that might enhance the Commission's ability to assess the non-rural mechanism and State actions to achieve comparability of urban and rural rates, including business rate data, rate data for non-rural areas served by non-rural carriers, and rate data from States that would not otherwise be required to file data under the rules we adopt in the Companion Remand Order. The Commission also seeks comment on how to treat any State requests for further Federal action, including procedures for States to submit any such requests, required showings by requesting States, and how to calculate any additional targeted Federal support. The additional rate data, along with the expanded certifications filed by all States, will aid the Commission in its review of rate comparability nationwide. Further, the information that State commissions will file to support requests for further Federal action will enable the Commission to determine if action is necessary.

I. Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

1. In this Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), we seek further comment on issues related to the rate review and expanded certification process that we adopt in the Companion Remand Order. First, we seek comment on whether we should require States to file, in connection with their reasonable comparability certifications, additional data that might enhance the Commission's ability to assess the non-

rural mechanism and State actions to achieve comparability of urban and rural rates, including business rate data, rate data for non-rural areas served by non-rural carriers, and rate data from States that would not otherwise be required to file data under the rules we adopt in the Companion Remand Order. Second, we seek comment on the role of calling scopes in the rate review process. Third, we seek comment on how to treat any State requests for further Federal action, including procedures for States to submit any such requests, required showings by requesting States, and how to calculate any additional targeted Federal support. In addition, we propose a method for calculating additional targeted Federal support on a wire-center basis using forward-looking model cost estimates. Finally, we seek comment on a proposal to further encourage States to advance the Act's universal service goals by making available additional targeted Federal support to States that implement explicit universal service mechanisms, without regard to their achievement of rate comparability.

A. Collection of Additional Rate Data

2. We seek comment on whether all States should submit rate data to the Commission in connection with the rate review and expanded certification process, in order to establish a more complete picture of State efforts to achieve rate comparability. In the Companion Remand Order, we adopt rules that require a State to file, in connection with its expanded certification, rate data for rural areas served by non-rural carriers only if its rural rates exceed the nationwide urban rate benchmark or if it certifies that its rural rates are not reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide, despite being within the safe harbor established by the nationwide urban rate benchmark. These data, along with the expanded certifications filed by all

States, will aid the Commission in its review of the reasonable comparability of rural and urban rates nationwide. We seek comment on whether collecting additional rate data from a larger number of States, either on a mandatory or voluntary basis, would provide the Commission with a better basis for its review. To what extent would collecting additional rate data from all States improve the Commission's ability to assess the reasonable comparability of rural and urban rates nationwide through the rate review and expanded certification process? To what extent would the availability of this additional rate data improve the ability of each State to analyze its own rate comparability issues? To what extent would the availability of this additional rate data improve the ability of other interested parties to monitor the reasonable comparability of rural and urban rates nationwide? We anticipate that each State will have assembled much of the additional data in the course of performing its rate review. Would it be unduly burdensome if all States were to file such data?

3. We seek comment on whether we should require States to file data related to business rates, in addition to residential rates. A meaningful comparison of rates across different States may necessarily include business rates in addition to residential rates. For example, because Wyoming, unlike many other States, has rebalanced its single-line business rates to levels equivalent to residential rates, Wyoming's residential rates no longer rely on implicit support flows from its business rates, and its business customers pay lower rates than they would in a State that relied on such implicit support flows. Collecting data only on residential rates, therefore, may not permit the Commission to identify the specific nature of any problems with reasonable comparability. Would collecting data on business rates provide