

pages consecutively with the comments, and submit an unbound original and three copies.

In addition to submitting written comments on the discussion paper, you will also have an opportunity at the consultation workshop to ask the experts their opinions and/or clarification of each issue to be discussed at the workshop. Details of the workshop will be announced in a forthcoming **Federal Register** Notice.

II. Information on the Document

This discussion document and the consultation workshop of neurotoxicology experts are part of the preparation of an IRIS Toxicological Review of Tetrachloroethylene (Perchloroethylene, or perc) by NCEA. In a review of the published literature, NCEA has found that impairment of visual information processing and other adverse neurobehavioral effects have been observed in several studies of employees working in dry cleaning and metal degreasing facilities using perc. Two studies of people living near dry cleaning facilities have also shown neurological effects, and their exposures have been at lower concentrations than the occupationally exposed workers. The discussion document reviews the published reports of neurotoxic effects of perc in humans and animals and discusses the strengths and limitations of the evidence of neurotoxicity. NCEA decided to seek consultation of experts in neurotoxicology to get their opinions about whether these findings for perc and similar findings for other agents imply that perc exposure to the general population results in an appreciable risk of deleterious neurological effects.

Dated: December 22, 2003.

Peter W. Preuss,

Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 96-45; DA 03-3105]

NPCR, Inc. d/b/a Nextel Partners Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Tennessee

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of comments.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireline Competition Bureau sought

comment on the Nextel Partners Tennessee (Nextel Partners TN) petition. Nextel Partners TN seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive federal universal service support for service offered in non-rural wire centers currently served by BellSouth and portions of the rural study area served by United Inter MT-TN (United).

DATES: Comments are due on or before January 9, 2004. Reply comments are due on or before January 23, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. See Supplementary Information for further filing instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Franklin, Attorney, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0494.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's public notice, CC Docket No. 96-45, released October 7, 2003. On June 12, 2003, NPCR, Inc. d/b/a Nextel Partners (Nextel Partners TN) filed with the Commission a petition under section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. In particular, Nextel Partners TN seeks designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive federal universal service support for service offered in those portions of Nextel Partners TN's licensed service area located in rural study areas in Tennessee currently served by BellSouth and United Inter MT-TN (United).

Nextel Partners TN contends that the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) does not regulate Commercial Mobile Radio Service and presents a letter from TRA acknowledging its lack of jurisdiction. Hence, according to Nextel Partners TN, the Commission has jurisdiction under section 214(e)(6) to consider and grant its petition. Nextel Partners TN also maintains that it satisfies all the statutory and regulatory prerequisites for ETC designation, and that designating Nextel Partners TN as an ETC will serve the public interest.

In accordance with § 54.207(c) of the Commission's rules, Nextel Partners TN requests that the Commission designate Nextel as an ETC in a service area defined along boundaries that differ from the incumbent rural local exchange carrier's study area boundaries. The service area requested by Nextel Partners TN for ETC designation partially covers United's study area. Nextel Partners TN requests a redefinition of United's rural service

area so each wire center in United's study area is a separate service area. Nextel Partners TN intends to serve each proposed wire center in its entirety. Nextel Partners TN maintains that the proposed redefinition of service areas for ETC purposes is consistent with the factors to be considered when redefining a rural telephone company service area, as enumerated by the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. (Joint Board). The Wireline Competition Bureau seeks comment on the Nextel Partners TN Petition.

The petitioner must provide copies of its petition to the TRA. The Commission will also send a copy of this public notice to the TRA by overnight express mail to ensure that the TRA is notified of the notice and comment period.

Pursuant to §§ 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments as follows: comments are due January 9, 2004 and reply comments are due January 23, 2004. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 FR 24121, May 1, 1998.

Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters 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 (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor,