

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

October 19, 2009

Alex Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:


The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) requests OMB approval to submit the information collection described herein under the "emergency processing" provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (5 CFR 1320.13). The Commission is requesting clearance for a new information collection entitled: Broadband Speed and Unavailability Registry. We respectfully request OMB approval for this collection by November 02, 2009.

The Commission is seeking emergency processing and approval because this collection of information is critical to the development and completion of the National Broadband Plan (Broadband Plan) and the National Broadband Map. The National Broadband Plan is authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. ARRA requires that the Broadband Plan be submitted to Congress by February 17, 2010. The National Broadband Map is authorized by the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA) and requires a map be completed February 17, 2011.

To assist in developing the Broadband Plan, the Omnibus Broadband Initiative within the Commission's Office of Strategic Planning plans to host a voluntary broadband speed and unavailability registry on its website. This web tool allows citizens to navigate to a Commission website, enter their street address, and then run an automated test to gauge the speed of their broadband connection. The unavailability registry is a voluntary collection where citizens can report the unavailability of broadband at their home address to the Commission via the web, telephone, mail or facsimile. For the Broadband Plan, this tool will help policy makers understand the actual speeds delivered via broadband to citizens in the United States. Both the speed test and unavailability registry will help inform the Broadband Map by serving as a granular data layer to test against the broadband mapping data collected from state efforts. The Broadband Plan is due February 17, 2010 and the Broadband Map is due February 17, 2010, thus, in order to collect sufficient amounts of data prior to these dates, the Commission cannot comply with the regular OMB approval process and is requesting emergency processing due to the statutory mandate from Congress.

The Commission is seeking a waiver of the notice and comment period in the Federal Register requesting public comment on the information collection requirements due to the emergency nature of this request. The Commission will conduct all the necessary regular submission requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act after approval of this emergency request.

FCC staff is ready to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to assure OMB's approval of this emergency request by November 2, 2009.



Mindy Ginsburg
Deputy Managing Director
Office of Managing Director

Federal Communications Commission

Enclosures