



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

November 12, 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 clearance 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 seeking approval for a new information collection entitled: Universal Service – Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program Broadband Survey. We respectfully request approval for this collection by November 20, 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) authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Broadband Plan is scheduled to be submitted to Congress by February 17, 2010.

To assist in developing the Broadband Plan, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks to conduct an Internet-based survey of applicants under the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Program, also known as the E-rate program, to determine the current state of broadband usage and access within schools and libraries in the United States. This information will enable the Commission to establish necessary benchmarks and determine how to best address the educational and technological needs of schools and libraries, as part of the Broadband Plan, as well as help the Commission to make future policy decisions for the E-rate program.

Thus, emergency approval is requested so that the Commission can include analysis of the data received in response to the survey in the Broadband Plan by the February 17, 2010 deadline to Congress. This collection has been coordinated with the Commission’s Broadband Team and does not duplicate any other collections of emergency information submitted by the Commission’s Broadband Team, which involve consumer and business surveys. Rather, this collection is designed to gather information specifically related to the deployment of broadband services to only schools and libraries under the E-rate program.

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 20, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mindy G.", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mindy Ginsburg
Deputy Managing Director for
Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission