

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

March 6, 2012

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 published a 30 day notice on March 6, 2012 (77 FR 13319) in the Federal Register announcing the request for clearance under the “emergency processing” provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (5 CFR § 1320.13) for a revision of the information collection requirements under OMB Control Number 3060-0819. We request approval for this collection by March, 30, 2012.

The Commission is seeking emergency processing and approval because this collection of information is critical to the prevention of waste, fraud, and abuse of the Universal Service Fund (USF or Fund). Among other things, the *Lifeline Reform Report and Order (Order)*, FCC 12-11, adopts rules to eliminate waste and inefficiency, increase accountability, and transition the Fund from supporting standalone telephone service to broadband. The reforms adopted in the Order substantially strengthen protections against waste, fraud, and abuse; improve program administration and accountability; improve enrollment and consumer disclosures, and constrain the growth of the program in order to reduce the burden on all who contribute to the Fund. The Commission has set a budget target to eliminate \$200 million in waste in 2012, which is dependent on certain rules going into effect as soon as possible. Therefore, it is essential that the OMB grant this request for emergency processing of this information collection (OMB Control Number 3060-0819).

The Commission is requesting a waiver of the 60 day notice required under 5 CFR 1320.8(d). Upon OMB approval of this emergency request, the Commission will conduct all the regular OMB processes, i.e., soliciting public comment so that we can obtain the full three year clearance from them.

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 March 30, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ginsburg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mindy Ginsburg
Deputy Managing Director
Office of Managing Director