



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 15, 2016

Mr. 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” provision of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (5 C.F.R. § 1320.13). The Commission is requesting clearance for a revised information collection entitled: 3060-0986, Competitive Carrier Line Count Report and Self-Certification as a Rural Carrier, which will include three revised FCC Forms 507, 508 and 509. This information collection also includes FCC Forms, 481, 505 and 525, which are not being revised in this submission. We respectfully request OMB approval for this collection by 30 days from submission.

On March 30, 2016, the Commission released an Order et al., WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., FCC 16-33 (*Rate-of-Return Reform Order and Further Notice*) that, among other things, adopted reforms to high-cost universal service mechanisms for rate-of-return carriers to extend support to consumer broadband-only loops. Specifically, the Commission added consumer broadband-only loop costs and revenues to the Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) mechanism, which previously was calculated based only common line costs and revenues, and renamed the mechanism Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF-BLS) to reflect the expanded scope.

In order to implement CAF-BLS, the Commission must revise FCC Forms 507 (to be renamed CAF-BLS Line Count Report), 508 (to be renamed CAF-BLS Projected Annual Cost and Revenue), and 509 (to be renamed CAF-BLS Actual Cost and Revenue). The revisions narrowly expand the scope of the line count, cost and revenue data that is currently collected for ICLS to include the equivalent consumer broadband-only loop data.

This information collection requires emergency approval to enable the implementation of CAF-BLS on January 1, 2017. The collection of this information is merely one step in the process toward that goal. After the Commission’s appointed universal service administrator collects the data, it must calculate and publish the amount of support that will be available for each carrier. Carriers that use tariffs to provide the supported consumer broadband-only service must then, either on their own or through their tariff agent, prepare and file revised tariffs incorporating the support amounts in time to be effective on January 1. In the event that these steps cannot be completed in time for January 1, implementation would need to be delayed. Because the cost and revenue data and the related tariffs are not easily developed for periods that are not consistent with the carriers’ existing accounting practices, the Commission would need to

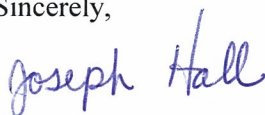
choose between a significant delay in implementation to July 1 (and thereby delay the benefits of support for consumer broadband-only loops), or significantly higher administrative burdens for carriers due to the need to track costs and revenue in a manner inconsistent with their normal account calendar. For these reasons, if the Commission were to wait 120 days to begin collecting this information, the distribution of such CAF-BLS would be significantly delayed, resulting in harm to the program and the public.

Further, because of the emergency nature of this request, the Commission is seeking a waiver of the requirement to publish a 60-day notice in the Federal Register. The Commission is, however, publishing a 30-day notice in the Federal Register giving the public an opportunity to comment on this emergency submission. The Commission has contacted and received comment informally on these revised forms from the National Exchange Carrier Association, which represents many of the carriers that will be responsible for filing the revised forms. The Commission will conduct all necessary regular submission requirements under the PRA after approval of this emergency request.

The Commission's staff is ready and eager to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to assure OMB's approval of this emergency request by 30 days from submission.

If you need any additional information to complete the OMB approval of this request, please contact me immediately. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 418-1374 or contact Nicole Ongele by e-mail at Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph Hall
Deputy Managing Director
Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission