

Sections 52.21 through 52.36, Telephone Number

3060-0742

Portability, 47 CFR Part 52, Subpart (C) and
CC Docket No 95-116

July 2019

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. Justification:

1. 47 CFR Part 52, Subpart C implements the statutory requirement that local exchange carriers (LECs) and Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers provide local number portability (LNP) as set forth in Sections 1, 2, 4, 251 and 332 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act). The Commission requires the following information to be collected from various entities:

Currently Approved Information Collection Requirements—paragraphs (a) through (e):

a. Requests for long-term number portability: Long-term number portability must be provided by Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) and Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers in switches for which another carrier has made a specific request for number portability, according to the Commission's deployment schedule. Wireline carriers began providing LNP in 1998. In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* (FCC 02-215) in CC Docket No. 95-116, the Commission extended the deadline for CMRS providers to offer LNP. CMRS providers began offering LNP in 2003.

b. Petitions to extend implementation deadline: Carriers that are unable to meet the deadlines for implementing a long-term number portability solution are required to file with the Commission at least 60 days in advance of the deadline a petition to extend the time by which implementation in its network will be completed. See 47 CFR Sections 52.23(3) and 52.31(d).

c. Tariffs and Cost Support: Incumbent LECs may recover their carrier-specific costs directly related to providing long-term number portability by establishing in tariffs filed with the Commission certain number portability charges. See 47 CFR 52.33. Incumbent LECs are required to include many details in their cost support that are unique to the number portability proceeding pursuant to the *Cost Classification Order*. For instance, incumbent LECs must demonstrate that any incremental overhead costs claimed in their cost support are actually new costs incremental to and resulting from the provision of long-term number portability. See *Cost Classification Order*.

d. Recordkeeping Requirement: Incumbent LECs are required to maintain records that detail both the nature and specific amount of these carrier-specific costs that are directly related to number portability, and those carrier-specific costs that are not directly related to number portability. See the Third Report and Order, CC Docket No. 95-116, released May 12, 1998.

e. Standardized Local Service Request Data Fields: Section 251(b)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires LECs to “provide, to the extent technically feasible, number portability in accordance with requirements prescribed by the Commission.” Through the LNP process, consumers have the ability to retain their phone number when switching telecommunications service providers, enabling them to choose a provider that best suits their needs and enhancing competition. In the Porting Interval Order and Further Notice, the Commission mandated a one business day porting interval for simple wireline-to-wireline and intermodal port requests. The information collected in the standard local service request data fields is necessary to complete simple wireline-to-wireline and intermodal ports within the one business day porting interval mandated by the Commission and will be used to comply with Section 251 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Commission is seeking an extension to an existing collection from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in order to obtain the full three-year clearance from them.

This information collection does not affect individuals or households; thus, there are no impacts under the Privacy Act.

The statutory authority for this collection is contained in: 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 152, 154(i), 201-205, 215, 251(b)(2), 251(e)(2), and 332.

2. Providers already exchange numerous types of information in order to complete port requests. The information collected in the standard local service request data fields minimizes and standardizes that information at the request of the industry to ensure that providers are able to complete simple wireline-to-wireline and intermodal ports within the one business day porting interval mandated by the by the Commission and will be used to comply with Section 251 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

3. Incumbent LECs seeking to recover their number portability costs must file a tariff. All incumbent LECs were directed to file interstate tariffs and associated documents through the Internet on ETFS as of July 1, 1998, pursuant to an Order, Electronic Tariff Filing System (ETFS), adopted May 28, 1998, released May 28, 1998, DA 98-914. Accordingly, paper tariff filings will not be accepted.

In addition, information collected in the standard local service request data fields may be both collected and provided through the use of automated or electronic collection techniques, depending on the provider.

4. There will be no duplication of information filed.

5. The collection of information will affect large and small entities. Because the information sought is relatively modest, we do not believe that the requirements severely impact small businesses. The tariff filing enables small entities to recover their costs so it will not negatively impact small businesses.

6. If the information sought is not collected, it will impair the Commission's ability to ensure that carriers are in compliance with the Commission's number portability rules and that long-term number portability costs are recovered in a competitively-neutral manner, in accordance with the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

7. There are no special circumstances associated with this information collection.

8. Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.8(d), the Commission published a notice in the Federal Register to solicit public comment on May 20, 2019 (84 FR 22843). No PRA Comments were received as a result of this notice.

9. The Commission does not anticipate providing any payment or gift to respondents.

10. The Commission is not requesting respondents to submit confidential information to the Commission. If the Commission requests respondents to submit information which the respondents believe is confidential, respondents may request confidential treatment of such information pursuant to Section 0.459 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 0.459.

11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature with respect to the information collected.

12. The following represents the estimates of hour burden of the collection of information:

Currently Approved Information Collection Requirements—paragraphs (a) through (e):

a. Requests for long-term number portability:

(1) Long-term number portability must be provided by LECs and CMRS providers within six months after a specific request by another telecommunications carrier. It is difficult to reliably estimate how many requests will occur, since it is difficult to

predict how quickly competition will develop. More specifically, it is difficult to determine the number of likely new entrants. There are approximately 9,000 switches nationwide (not counting remote switches), many of which were upgraded to accommodate number portability during the 15 months prior to December 31, 1998.

- (A) Number of respondents: 300.
- (B) Frequency of Response: Once per geographic area (reporting requirement).
- (C) Total number of responses annually: 300.
- (D) Estimated Time per Response: 3 hours; Total annual hour burden: **900 hours**.
- (E) How the burden was estimated: We estimate that the preparation of a specific request for number portability will take a relatively short period of time because the request must simply state: (1) the requester's desire for long-term number portability, and (2) an identification of the switch or area covered by the request.
- (F) Estimate of total in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information: \$41.64 (comparable to a GS 13, step 5 hourly rate¹) x 3 hours x 300 respondents = \$37,476.00.

(2) As stated above, the states will have the option to aggregate switch requests. The Commission believes that these figures will be useful in accessing implementation of number portability.

- (A) Number of respondents: 50.
- (B) Frequency of Response: Once per geographic area (reporting requirement).
- (C) Total number of responses annually: 50.
- (D) Estimated Time per Response: 3 hours; Total annual hour burden: **150 hours**.
- (E) How the burden was estimated: We estimate that the tabulation of requests for portability for each switch will take a relatively short period of time because the states can obtain statistics from carriers which are required to provide these lists to anyone who asks for the information.
- (F) Estimate of total in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information: \$41.64 (comparable to a GS 13, step 5 hourly rate) x 3 hours x 50 respondents = \$6,246.00.

b. Petitions to extend implementation deadline: The First Report and Order permits carriers that are unable to meet the deadlines for implementing a long-term number portability solution to file with the Commission at least 60 days in advance of the deadline a petition to extend the time by which implementation in its network will be completed. It is difficult to estimate how many carriers will file such petitions because the necessity to do so depends upon a carrier's individual circumstances.

- (1) Number of respondents: 5.
- (2) Frequency of Response: One-time reporting requirement.

¹ In this section, hourly rates were calculated using the 2019 General Schedule Base Salary Pay Scale.

- (3) Total number of responses annually: 5.
- (4) Estimated Time per Response: 10 hours; Total annual hour burden:

50 hours.

(5) How the burden was estimated: A petition to extend time must set forth: (1) the facts that demonstrate why the carrier is unable to meet the Commission's deployment schedule; (2) an explanation of the activities undertaken prior to the date of the request with respect to implementation; (3) an identification of the particular switches for which the extension is requested; (4) the time within which the carrier will complete deployment in the affected switches; and (5) a proposed schedule with milestones for meeting the deployment date.

(6) Estimate of total in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information: \$41.64 (comparable to a GS 13, step 5 hourly rate) x 50 hours = \$2,082.00

c. Tariffs and Cost Support:

- (1) Number of respondents: 50.
- (2) Frequency of response: On occasion reporting requirement.
- (3) Total number of responses annually: 50.
- (4) Estimated Time per Response: 50 hours; Total annual hour burden:

2,500 hours.

(5) How the burden was estimated: Based on past experience with tariff filings, this is an estimate of the amount of time that an average incumbent LEC will spend preparing a tariff filing and cost support for submission to the Commission.

(6) Estimate of total in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information: 2,500 hours x \$41.64 per hour (comparable to a GS 13, step 5 hourly rate) + (50 respondents x \$910 tariff filing fee) = \$149,600.00.

d. Recordkeeping Requirement

- (1) Number of respondents: 1,600.
- (2) Frequency of response: Recordkeeping requirement.
- (3) Total number of responses annually: 1,600.
- (4) Estimated Time per Response: 2 hours Total annual hour burden:

3,200 hours.

(5) How the burden was estimated: Based on the implementation of LNP by wireline carriers and CMRS providers to date.

(6) Estimate of in-house cost to respondent for the hour burdens for collection of information: 3,200 hours x \$41.64 per hour (comparable to a GS 13, step 5 hourly rate) = \$133,248.00.

e. Standardized Local Service Request Data Fields

(1) Number of respondents: 1,626. (6,150 annual responses per respondent).

(2) Frequency of response: On occasion reporting requirement/recordkeeping requirement.

(3) Total number of responses annually: 10,000,000

(4) Estimated Time per Response: 6,150 responses x 0.0666

hours = 410 hours per respondent x 1,626 respondents. Total annual hour burden: 666,660 hours (rounded up).

(5) How the burden was estimated: Based on the amount of time it would take wireline and CMRS providers to complete local service request standardized data fields for every simple intermodal and wireline port. We estimate an average of 1,626 carriers that engage in simple intermodal and wireline ports. We also estimate an average total of 10,000,000 simple intermodal and wireline ports per year. Accordingly, we estimate that each of the 1,626 carriers completes an average of 6,150 simple intermodal and wireline ports per year (10,000,000/1,626= 6,150).

(6) Estimate of in-house cost to respondent for the hour burdens for collection of information: 666,660 hours x \$21.86 per hour (comparable to a GS 8, step 5 hourly rate) = \$14,573,318.00.

Total Respondents: 300 + 50 + 5 + 50 + 1,600 + 1,626 = 3,631

Total Annual Responses: 300 + 50 + 5 + 50 + 1600 + 10,000,000 = 10,002,005

Total Annual Burden Hours: 900 + 150 + 50 + 2,500 + 3,200 + 666,660 = 673,460

Total In-Cost to Respondents: \$37,476 + \$6,246 + \$2,082 + \$149,600 + \$133,248 + \$14,573,318 = \$14,901,970

13. The Commission believes that the respondents have sufficient “in-house” staff to address all the information collection requirements using their “in-house” personnel rather than having to contract out this requirement. Thus:

(a) Total annualized capital/startup costs: \$0.00

(b) Total annualized costs (O&M): \$0.00

(c) Total annualized cost requested: \$0.00

14. There will be few, if any, costs to the Commission resulting from the information collection requirements. The following represent the Commission's estimates of the annual costs to the federal government as a result of the proposed requirements:

a. Requests for long-term number portability: No cost anticipated because no review by the Commission is necessary.

b. Petitions to extend implementation deadline: This requirement may require some level of Commission review to evaluate the petition and prepare an order granting or denying the petition. We estimate that it will take not more than 10 hours of Commission staff time to review the petition and write an order. 10 hours x \$74.86 per hour (attorney/GS 15, step 5 hourly rate) = \$748.60.

c. Tariffs and Cost Support: There will be few, if any, costs to the Commission because tariff review is already part the Commission's duties.

d. Recordkeeping Requirement: No cost anticipated because no review by the Commission is necessary.

e. Standardized Local Service Request Data Fields: No cost anticipated because no review by the Commission is necessary.

15. The annual public burden for the information collections contained in this submission remains 673,460 annual burden hours.

16. The Commission does not anticipate that it will publish any of the information.

17. The Commission does not seek approval not to display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collections.

18. There are no exceptions to the Certification Statement.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods:

The Commission does not anticipate that the collection of information will employ statistical methods.