



Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 24, 2023

Mr. Alexander Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to submit the information collection described herein under the “emergency processing” provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (5 CFR § 1320.13). The Commission is requesting clearance for a new one-time information collection. We respectfully request OMB approval for this one-time collection no later than 37 days after it is received at OMB.

Promotion of national security is an integral part of the Commission’s public interest responsibility and one of the core purposes for which Congress created the Commission. In the *Evolving Risks Order and Notice*¹ the Commission is taking another important step to protect the nation’s telecommunications infrastructure from threats in an evolving national security and law enforcement landscape by proposing comprehensive changes to the Commission’s rules that allow carriers to provide international telecommunications service pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act).² Through the proposals in the *Evolving Risks Order and Notice* the Commission is acting to ensure that the Commission is exercising appropriate oversight of international section 214 authorization holders to safeguard U.S. telecommunications networks. To make sure that these proposals are effective and efficient the Commission needs up-to-date information about the carriers that are providing service using international section 214 authorizations. Consequently, as part of the *Evolving Risks Order and Notice* the Commission adopted a one-time collection of foreign ownership information from international section 214 authorization holders

The collection of this information is a necessary first step for the Commission to make an informed decision concerning the proposed rules and procedures set forth in the *Evolving Risks Order and Notice*. The Commission has incomplete and outdated information about international section 214 authorization holders. For example, the Commission’s records in its electronic database for international section 214 authorization – the International Communications Filing System (ICFS) – reflect there are approximately 7,000 international section 214 authorization holders, though we estimate the more accurate number is closer to approximately 1,500 active authorization holders. Additionally, we do not have visibility on authorized carriers’ current foreign ownership. The information derived from this one-time collection will allow the Commission to determine the number of active authorization holders and whether they have reportable foreign ownership. In addition, the information will enable the Commission to identify those authorization

¹ *Review of International Section 214 Authorizations to Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks*, IB Docket No. 23-119; *Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission’s Rules*, MD Docket No. 23-134, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 23-28 (rel. Apr. 25, 2023) (*Evolving Risks Order and Notice*).

² 47 U.S.C. § 214.

holders that are no longer in business or are in business but discontinued service under their international section 214 authority. Overall, the information will assist the Commission in developing a timely and effective process for prioritizing the review of international section 214 authorizations that are most likely to raise national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and/or trade policy concerns.

Delay in obtaining this information will delay the implementation rules and policies that will better protect telecommunications services and infrastructure in the United States in light of evolving national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy risks.

We believe that these circumstances meet the criteria for emergency PRA approval as set forth in 5 CFR § 1320.13(a).³ The Commission will conduct all of the necessary regular submission requirements under the PRA after approval of this emergency request.

The Commission staff is ready to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to ensure OMB approval of this emergency request for this one-time information collection no later than 37 days after it is received at OMB. Please have your PRA Desk Officer contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418-2918 or at Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov if there are any questions or if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

MARK
STEPHENS
Mark Stephens
Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission

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MARK STEPHENS
Date: 2023.04.24
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³ “Any such request shall be accompanied by a written determination that: (1) The collection of information: (i) Is needed prior to the expiration of time periods established under this Part; and (ii) Is essential to the mission of the agency; and (2) The agency cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures under this part because: (i) Public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed; (ii) An unanticipated event has occurred; or (iii) The use of normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information or is reasonably likely to cause a statutory or court ordered deadline to be missed.” 5 CFR § 1320.13(a).