

Accessible Telecommunications and Advanced Communications Services and Equipment

A. Justification

1. The Commission is submitting this information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend the information collection requirements for three years that were included in the December 2019 Paperwork Reduction Act submission to OMB control number 3060-1167.

Sections 255 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act)¹ was added by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.² Section 255 requires manufacturers of “telecommunications equipment or customer premises equipment” (CPE) to ensure that such equipment is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if readily achievable,³ and requires providers of a “telecommunications service” to ensure that the service is accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if readily achievable.⁴ Where such access is not readily achievable, the manufacturer or service provider must ensure that the equipment or service is compatible with existing peripheral devices or specialized CPE commonly used by individuals with disabilities to achieve access, if such compatibility is readily achievable.⁵ In 1999, the Commission adopted rules to implement section 255.⁶

In 2007, the Commission extended the disability access requirements that apply to telecommunications service providers and equipment manufacturers under section 255 of the Act to interconnected voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) service providers and equipment manufacturers.⁷

The Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) addressed, among other things, the accessibility and usability of advanced

¹ 47 U.S.C. §§ 255, 251(a)(2).

² Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996).

³ 47 U.S.C. § 255(b).

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 255(c); *see also* 47 U.S.C. § 153(53) (“The term ‘telecommunications service’ means the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.”).

⁵ 47 U.S.C. § 255(d). Section 255(a) incorporates by reference the Americans with Disabilities Act’s definitions of the terms “disability” and “readily achievable.” 47 U.S.C. § 255(a).

⁶ *Implementation of Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996: Access to Telecommunications Service, Telecommunications Equipment and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Inquiry, 16 FCC Rcd 6417 (1999) (*Section 255 Report and Order*). Section 251(a)(2) of the Act appears among the general duties of telecommunications carriers and prohibits such carriers from installing “network features, functions, or capabilities that do not comply with the guidelines and standards established pursuant to section 255.” 47 U.S.C. § 251(a)(2).

⁷ *IP-Enabled Services; Implementation of Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by The Telecommunications Act of 1996: Access to Telecommunications Service, Telecommunications Equipment and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; and The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements*, Report and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 11275 (2007) (*2007 VoIP Report and Order*).

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communications services (ACS) by individuals with disabilities, by adding sections 716, 717, and 718 to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.⁸

Section 716 of the Act requires that providers of ACS⁹ and manufacturers of equipment used for ACS make their services and equipment accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, unless it is not achievable to do so.¹⁰ ACS providers and equipment manufacturers may comply with section 716 by building accessibility features into their services or equipment,¹¹ or by relying on third-party applications, peripheral devices, software, hardware, or CPE that are available to individuals with disabilities at nominal cost and that individuals with disabilities can access.¹² When this is not achievable, ACS providers and equipment manufacturers must ensure that their services or equipment are compatible with existing peripheral devices or specialized CPE commonly used by individuals with disabilities to achieve access, unless doing so is not achievable.¹³ Section 716 grants the Commission the authority to waive these requirements for multipurpose services and equipment that are designed primarily for purposes other than using ACS.¹⁴

Section 717 of the Act requires, among other things, that the Commission establish recordkeeping and enforcement procedures for service providers and equipment manufacturers that are subject to sections 255, 716, and 718 of the Act.¹⁵ Covered entities must submit to the Commission an annual certification that records are kept in accordance with the requirements of section 717.¹⁶

Section 718 requires mobile phone manufacturers and service providers to make the Internet browsers that they install or arrange to have included on mobile phones accessible to and useable by people who are blind or have a visual impairment, unless

⁸ Pub. L. No. 111-260, 124 Stat. 2751 (2010) (as codified in various sections of 47 U.S.C.); *see also* Amendment of Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-265, 124 Stat. 2795 (2010) (making technical corrections). Hereinafter, all references to the CVAA will be to the CVAA as codified in the Communications Act, unless otherwise indicated. *See, e.g.*, 47 U.S.C. §§ 617, 618, 619.

⁹ “Advanced communications services” are defined as interconnected VoIP service, non-interconnected VoIP service, electronic messaging service, and interoperable video conferencing service. 47 U.S.C. § 153(1). Section 716, however, does not apply to any equipment or services, including interconnected VoIP service, that were subject to the requirements of section 255 on October 7, 2010, and which remain subject to the requirements of section 255. 47 U.S.C. § 617(f).

¹⁰ 47 U.S.C. §§ 617(a)(1) and (b)(1). “Achievable” means with reasonable effort or expense, as determined by the Commission considering four specified factors. 47 U.S.C. § 617(g).

¹¹ 47 U.S.C. §§ 617(a)(2)(A) and (b)(2)(A).

¹² 47 U.S.C. §§ 617(a)(2)(B) and (b)(2)(B).

¹³ 47 U.S.C. § 617(c).

¹⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 617(h)(1).

¹⁵ *See* 47 U.S.C. § 618(a). As described next, section 718 of the Act provides for the accessibility of Internet browsers installed in mobile phones.

¹⁶ 47 U.S.C. § 618(a)(5)(B).

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doing so is not achievable.¹⁷ Mobile phone manufacturers and service providers may comply with this obligation with or without the use of third-party applications, peripheral devices, software, hardware, or CPE that is available to the consumer at nominal cost and that individual with disabilities can access.¹⁸

In 2011, the Commission adopted rules to implement sections 716 and 717 of the Act.¹⁹ In 2013, the Commission adopted rules to implement section 718 of the Act.²⁰

Information Collection Requirements

The rules adopted by the Commission have the following information collection requirements:

(a) Under rules adopted in the *Section 255 Report and Order*, telecommunications service providers and equipment manufacturers are required to ensure that the information and documentation that they provide to customers is accessible, if readily achievable. The *2007 VoIP Report and Order* extended these requirements to interconnected VoIP service providers and equipment manufacturers. Under the rules adopted in the *ACS Report and Order* and in the *ACS Second Report and Order*, ACS providers and equipment manufacturers, as well as mobile phone manufacturers and service providers that install Internet browsers on mobile phones, must ensure that the information and documentation that they provide to customers is accessible, if achievable.

(b) The rules adopted in the *ACS Report and Order* establish procedures for ACS providers and equipment manufacturers to seek waivers from the accessibility obligations of section 716 of the Act and, in effect, waivers from the recordkeeping requirements and enforcement procedures of section 717 of the Act. Waiver requests may be submitted for individual or class offerings of services or equipment that are designed for multiple purposes, but are designed primarily for purposes other than using ACS. All such waiver petitions will be put on public notice for comments and oppositions.

(c) The CVAA and the rules adopted in the *ACS Report and Order* require service providers and equipment manufacturers that are subject to sections 255, 716, or 718 of the Act to maintain records of the following: (1) their efforts to consult with people with

¹⁷ See 47 U.S.C. § 619.

¹⁸ 47 U.S.C. § 619(b). This obligation does not include a requirement to make Internet content, applications, or services accessible to or usable by individuals with disabilities. 47 U.S.C. § 619(a)(2).

¹⁹ *Implementation of Sections 716 and 717 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010; Amendments to the Commission's Rules Implementing Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Accessible Mobile Phone Options for People Who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, or Have Low Vision*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 14557 (2011) (*ACS Report and Order*, when referring to the Report and Order, and *ACS Further Notice*, when referring to the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking).

²⁰ *Implementation of Sections 716 and 717 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010; Amendments to the Commission's Rules Implementing Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Accessible Mobile Phone Options for People Who are Blind, Deaf-Blind, or Have Low Vision*, Second Report and Order, 28 FCC Rcd 5957 (2013) (*ACS Second Report and Order*).

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disabilities; (2) descriptions of the accessibility features of their products and services; and (3) information about the compatibility of their products with peripheral devices or specialized customer premises equipment commonly used by individuals with disabilities to achieve access. These recordkeeping requirements are necessary to facilitate enforcement of accessibility obligations. The *ACS Report and Order* provides flexibility by allowing covered entities to keep records in any format, recognizing the unique recordkeeping methods of individual entities. Because complaints regarding accessibility of a service or equipment may not occur for years after the release of the service or equipment, covered entities must keep records for two years from the date the service ceases to be offered to the public or the equipment ceases to be manufactured. Service providers and equipment manufacturers are not required to keep records of their consideration of achievability or the implementation of accessibility, but they must be prepared to carry their burden of proof in any enforcement proceeding, which requires greater than conclusory or unsupported claims.

(d) The CVAA and the rules adopted in the *ACS Report and Order* require an officer of service providers and equipment manufacturers that are subject to sections 255, 716, or 718 of the Act to certify annually to the Commission that records are kept in accordance with the recordkeeping requirements. The certification must be supported with an affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury, signed and dated by an authorized officer of the entity with personal knowledge of the representations provided in the company's certification, verifying the truth and accuracy of the information. The certification must also identify the name and contact details of the person or persons within the company that are authorized to resolve accessibility complaints, and the agent designated for service of process. The certification must be filed with the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) on or before April 1 each year for records pertaining to the previous calendar year. The certification must be updated when necessary to keep the contact information current.

(e) The Commission also established procedures in the *ACS Report and Order* to facilitate the filing of formal and informal complaints alleging violations of sections 255, 716, or 718 of the Act. Those procedures include a nondiscretionary pre-filing notice process to facilitate dispute resolution as a prerequisite to filing an informal complaint.

The statutory authority for this information collection is contained in sections 1-4, 255, 303(r), 403, 503, 716, 717, and 718 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154, 255, 303(r), 403, 503, 617, 618, and 619.

2. All collections of information are promulgated pursuant to sections 255 (access to telecommunications services and equipment), 716 (access to ACS and equipment used for ACS), 717 (enforcement and recordkeeping obligations), and 718 (access to Internet browsers built into telephones used with public mobile services) of the Communications Act,²¹ which also require the Commission to establish rules to implement these sections.

This information collection does contain personally identifiable information (PII) on individuals.

²¹ 47 U.S.C. §§ 255, 617, 618, 619.

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- (a) As required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-03-22 (September 26, 2003) and by Section 208 of the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note, the FCC completed a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA)²² on June 28, 2007, that gives a full and complete explanation of how the FCC collects, stores, maintains, safeguards, and destroys the PII covered by these information collection requirements. The PIA may be viewed at http://www.fcc.gov/omd/privacyact/Privacy_Impact_Assessment.html.
- (b) Furthermore, as required by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, the FCC published a system of records notice (SORN), FCC/CGB-1, “Informal Complaints, Inquiries, and Requests for Dispute Assistance” in the *Federal Register* on August 15, 2014 (79 FR 48152), which became effective on September 24, 2014.
3. Under sections 14.32(a) and 14.34(a) of the Commission’s rules, respectively, consumers or any other party may transmit a request for dispute assistance to CGB or an informal complaint to the Enforcement Bureau by any reasonable means, including by using the Commission’s online filing system, U.S. Mail, overnight delivery, or by e-mail. The Commission’s overall purpose is to make the filing of such requests or complaints as simple as possible for consumers. Filing by using the Commission’s online filing system or by e-mail will facilitate the Commission’s ability to gather the information relevant to identifying and resolving accessibility concerns. The development of the FCC’s online filing systems to request dispute assistance and to file informal complaints (both of which are part of the OMB 3060-0874 collection and are found in the Consumer Complaint Center at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>) enables consumers to file electronically.
4. The information is not duplicated elsewhere. No similar information is available.
5. In adopting these information collection requirements, the Commission concluded that there may be an increased administrative burden on small businesses. Thus, the Commission took steps to minimize the information collection burden for small business concerns, including those with fewer than 25 employees.

For instance, the Commission requires covered entities to maintain only the three categories of records as set forth in section 717(a)(5)(A) of the Act,²³ and allows covered entities to keep these records in any format they wish. This approach takes into account the variances in covered entities (e.g., size, experience with the Commission), recordkeeping methods, and covered services and equipment. Furthermore, this approach provides the greatest flexibility to small businesses and minimizes the impact that the statutorily mandated recordkeeping requirements impose on small businesses. Correspondingly, the Commission considered and rejected the alternative of imposing a specific format or system for recordkeeping that could potentially impose greater burdens on small businesses.

The Commission also requires annual certification by a corporate officer that the covered entity is keeping the required records. This certification requirement is possibly less

²² The Commission is in the process of updating the PIA to incorporate various revisions to it as a result of revisions to the SORN.

²³ 47 U.S.C. § 618(a)(5)(A)(i)-(iii).

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burdensome on small businesses than large, as it is presumably a less resource intensive certification for smaller entities.

Further, the Commission adopted a requirement that consumers must file a request for dispute assistance with the CGB Disability Rights Office as a prerequisite to filing an informal complaint with the Enforcement Bureau. This information request is beneficial to consumers and industry because it will help to clarify the accessibility needs of consumers. It will also encourage resolution of accessibility issues without the expenditure of time and resources required by the informal complaint process.

6. These information collections are required and necessary to carry out the purposes of and to comply with the CVAA. Completion of this information collection will afford the Commission an opportunity to ensure that the disability accessibility provisions mandated by Congress under sections 255, 716, 717, and 718 of the Act will benefit users of covered services and equipment.

If this information collection was not completed, individuals with disabilities may not have access to the information and documentation necessary to learn about or use covered services and equipment. Without this information collection, the Commission would not be able to exercise its authority to waive the accessibility obligations under section 716 for multipurpose services or equipment that is designed primarily for purposes other than to access ACS.

The information collection is required to ensure that telecommunications and ACS providers and equipment manufacturers maintain records necessary to facilitate compliance with and enforcement of accessibility obligations. Moreover, these information collections provide a mechanism by which individuals with disabilities can request dispute assistance to resolve accessibility concerns or file informal or formal complaints about the accessibility of covered services and equipment.

These information collections are necessary to implement sections 255, 716, 717, and 718 of the Act effectively; to inform the Commission, service providers, and equipment manufacturers about accessibility barriers; and provide consumers with a process for reporting and obtaining relief for accessibility concerns and complaints.

7. The collections are not being conducted in any manner inconsistent with the guideline of 5 CFR § 1320.
8. The Commission published a notice in the *Federal Register* as required by 5 CFR § 1320.8(d) seeking comments from the public on the information collection requirements contained in this supporting statement. See 88 FR 42072, June 29, 2023. The Commission has not received any comments in response to the notice.
9. The Commission does not anticipate providing any payment or gift to respondents.
10. Some assurances of confidentiality are being provided to the respondents.

Petitioners (e.g., telecommunications or ACS providers or equipment manufacturers) seeking waivers from the accessibility obligations under section 716 of the Act for

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multipurpose services or equipment may seek confidential treatment of information they provide in support of such petitions pursuant to the Commission's existing rules.²⁴ Third parties may request inspection of confidential information under the Commission's rules.²⁵

Section 717(a)(5)(C) of the Act requires the Commission to keep confidential those records that are: (1) filed by a covered entity at the request of the Commission in response to a complaint; (2) created or maintained by the covered entity pursuant to the rules we adopt today; and (3) directly relevant to the equipment or service that is the subject of the complaint.²⁶ Accordingly, when a covered entity responds to a complaint alleging a violation of section 255, 716, or 718, or responds to a Commission inquiry, the covered entity may request confidential treatment of the documentation, information, and records that it files with the Commission under section 0.459 of the Commission's rules.²⁷ When covered entities file records that fall within the limited scope of section 717(a)(5)(C), they may assert the statutory exemption from disclosure under section 0.457(c) of the Commission's rules.²⁸ In all other cases, covered entities must comply with section 0.459 when seeking protection of their records.²⁹

With respect to the consumer dispute assistance and complaint procedures in Part 14 of the Commission's rules, the Commission is not requesting that complainants submit confidential information (e.g., credit card numbers, social security numbers, or personal financial information) to the Commission. The PIA that the FCC completed on June 28, 2007 gives a full and complete explanation of how the FCC collects, stores, maintains, safeguards, and destroys PII, as required by OMB regulations and by Section 208 of the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note. The PIA may be viewed at: http://www.fcc.gov/omd/privacyact/Privacy_Impact_Assessment.html.

Also, as stated above in question 2, the Commission published a SORN "Informal Complaints, Inquiries, and Requests for Dispute Assistance" in the *Federal Register* on August 15, 2014 (79 FR 48152), which became effective on September 24, 2014, to cover the PII collected related to this information collection, as required by OMB's Memorandum M-03-22 (September 26, 2003) and by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a.

11. There are no questions of a sensitive nature with respect to the information collected.
12. Estimates of burdens for the collection of information are as follows:³⁰

Estimated Number of Covered Entities: 3,500

Section 255 applies to all telecommunications and interconnected VoIP service providers

²⁴ See 47 CFR § 0.459.

²⁵ See 47 CFR § 0.461.

²⁶ 47 U.S.C. § 618(a)(5)(C).

²⁷ 47 CFR § 0.459.

²⁸ 47 CFR § 0.457(c).

²⁹ See 47 CFR § 0.459.

³⁰ Please note that all of the annualized calculations are annualized over a three-year time period.

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and equipment manufacturers. Section 716 applies to ACS providers and equipment manufacturers. Section 718 applies to manufacturers of telephones used with public mobile services that include an Internet browser, and providers of mobile services that arrange for the inclusion of a browser in telephones to sell to customers.

Service providers and equipment manufacturers that are subject to sections 255, 716, and 718 of the Act are also subject to the recordkeeping and annual certification requirements, and the enforcement procedures established by section 717 of the Act.

Based on the actual number of service providers and equipment manufacturers that filed registration and certification information with the Commission and other related factors, the Commission estimates that there are **3,500 entities** that are subject to sections 255, 716, 717, and 718 of the Act.³¹

(a) 47 CFR § 14.5 Waivers – Multipurpose Services and Equipment

ACS providers and equipment manufacturers or interested parties may petition for a waiver for any feature or function of equipment used to provide or access ACS, or for any class of such equipment, for any provider of ACS, or for any class of such services, that (i) is capable of accessing an ACS; and (ii) is designed for multiple purposes, but is designed primarily for purposes other than using ACS.

All petitions for waiver filed pursuant to this section shall be put on public notice, with a minimum of a 30-day period for comments and oppositions.

Based on the actual number of petitions for waiver filed over the past three years and other related factors, the Commission estimates that 4 ACS providers and equipment manufacturers or interested parties will file waiver petitions per year. Of those 4 petitions, 50% (2 petitions) per year will be filed by an in-house attorney.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 2

Total Number of Annual Responses: 2 Responses

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 5 hours for the submission of the waiver petition.

2 responses/submissions x 5 hours = 10 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 10 hours

Annual “In House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

³¹ Entities that are subject to sections 255, 716, and 718 are also referred to herein, collectively, as telecommunications and ACS providers and equipment manufacturers.

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10 hours to prepare waiver petitions x \$84.55/hour = \$845.50

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$845.50

The Commission estimates that 50% (2 petitions) will be filed by outside counsel, in consultation with an in-house attorney.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 2

Total Number of Annual Responses: 2 Responses

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 1 hour for the consultation with outside counsel on the submission of the waiver petition.

2 responses/submissions x 1 hour = 2 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 2 hours

Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

2 hours for waiver consultations x \$84.55/hour = \$169.10

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$169.10

The Commission estimates that 1 comment or opposition will be filed by interested parties per petition for a total of 8 comments or oppositions filed by a total of 8 respondents.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 8

8 respondents x 1 comment or opposition = 8 responses

Total Number of Annual Responses: 8

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 5 hours for the submission of a comment or opposition.

8 responses/submissions x 5 hours = 40 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 40 hours

Annual “In-House” Costs:

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The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents' costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

40 hours to submit comments or oppositions x \$84.55/hour = \$3,382

Total Annual "In-House" Costs = \$3,382

The Commission estimates that up to all of the 4 respondents filing waiver petitions will file reply comments. Of those 4 reply comments, 50% (2 reply comments) per year will be filed by an in-house attorney.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 2³²

Total Number of Annual Responses: 2 Responses

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 5 hours for preparing the reply comments.

2 responses/submissions x 5 hours = 10 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 10 hours

Annual "In-House" Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents' costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

10 hours to prepare reply comments x \$84.55/hour = \$845.50

Total Annual "In-House" Costs = \$845.50

The Commission estimates that 50% (2 petitions) will be filed by outside counsel, in consultation with an in-house attorney.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 2³³

Total Number of Annual Responses: 2 Responses

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 1 hour for the consultation with outside counsel consulting on the reply comment.

2 responses/submissions x 1 hour = 2 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 2 hours

³² The number of respondents are already accounted for at the beginning of 12(a).

³³ The number of respondents are already accounted for at the beginning of 12(a).

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Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

2 hours to consult on reply comments x \$84.55/hour = \$169.10

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$169.10

(b) 47 CFR §§ 6.11, 7.11, 14.20(d) Information, Documentation, and Training

Providers of telecommunications and interconnected VoIP services, including voicemail and interactive menu services, and manufacturers of equipment used for those services must ensure that the information and documentation that they provide to customers is accessible (e.g., provided in alternate formats as needed), if readily achievable. ACS providers and equipment manufacturers must ensure that the information and documentation that they provide to customers is accessible, if achievable.

The Commission estimates that all 3,500 covered entities subject to these rules will respond to an estimated average of 10 requests for accessible information per year.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 3,500

3,500 service providers and equipment manufacturers x 10 requests = 35,000 annual responses

Total Number of Annual Responses: 35,000 Responses

The Commission estimates that approximately 1 hour will be needed to respond to each request for accessible information.

35,000 responses x 1 hour = 35,000 hours

Total Number of Annualized Burden Hours: 35,000 hours**Annual “In-House” Costs:**

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to mid-level federal employees (GS-13/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$60.83 per hour to comply with the requirement.

35,000 hours to provide accessible information x \$60.83/hour = \$2,129,050

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$2,129,050

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(c) 47 CFR § 14.31(a) Recordkeeping

Each service provider and equipment manufacturer must create and maintain, in the ordinary course of business and for a two-year period from the date a product ceases to be manufactured or a service ceases to be offered, records of the efforts taken by such service provider or equipment manufacturer to implement sections 255, 716, and 718 with regard to the product or service, including:

- (1) information about the service provider's or equipment manufacturer's efforts to consult with individuals with disabilities;
- (2) descriptions of the accessibility features of its products and services; and
- (3) information about the compatibility of its products and services with peripheral devices or specialized customer premise equipment commonly used by individuals with disabilities to achieve access.

The Commission estimates that all 3,500 service providers and equipment manufacturers will be subject to this rule.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 3,500

Total Number of Annual Responses: 3,500 annual responses

1 response x 3,500 responses = 3,500 responses per year

The Commission estimates that each respondent will require an average of 2 hours per month or 24 hours per year to produce and maintain these records.

3,500 responses x 24 hours / year = 84,000 hours

Total Number of Annualized Burden Hours: 84,000 hours

Annual "In-House" Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to mid-level federal employees (GS-13/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents' costs to be about \$60.83 per hour to comply with the requirement.

84,000 hours to produce and maintain records x \$60.83/hour = \$5,109,720

Total Annualized "In-House" Costs = \$5,109,720

(d) 47 CFR § 14.31(b) Annual Certification

An officer of each service provider and equipment manufacturer must sign and file a compliance certificate with the Commission annually that states that the service provider or equipment manufacturer has established adequate operating procedures to ensure compliance with the recordkeeping rules and that records are being kept accordingly.

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The certificate shall identify the name and contact details of the person or persons within the company that are authorized to resolve accessibility complaints, and the agent designated for service pursuant to section 14.35(b) of the Commission's rules.³⁴ The certificate must be updated when necessary to keep the contact information current.

The Commission estimates that all 3,500 service providers and equipment manufacturers will be subject to this rule.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 3,500

Total Number of Annual Responses: 3,500 Responses

1 response x 3,500 responses = 3,500 responses per year

The Commission estimates that each respondent will require an average of .50 hour per year to produce and submit this annual certification.

3,500 responses x .50 hour = 1,750 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,750 hours

Annual "In-House" Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents' costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

1,750 hours for annual certifications x \$84.55/hour = \$147,962.50

Total Annual "In-House" Costs = \$147,962.50

(e) 47 CFR § 14.32 Consumer Requests for Dispute Assistance

A request for dispute assistance (RDA) to resolve an accessibility problem related to telecommunications or ACS may be submitted to CGB through the FCC's online Consumer Complaint Center or by any other reasonable means, and should include certain information.

CGB shall forward the RDA to the service provider or equipment manufacturer named or determined to be implicated by the RDA using the contact details provided under section 14.31(b) of the Commission's rules. CGB must assist the requester and the service provider or equipment manufacturer for at least 30 days to resolve the accessibility problem. At the end of that 30-day period, or any 30-day extension period, the requester may file an informal complaint with the Enforcement Bureau, at which time the CGB dispute assistance process will be closed and no longer available to the complainant.

³⁴ Every service provider and equipment manufacturer subject to section 255, 716, or 718 shall designate an agent for service of process in the annual certification pursuant to section 14.31 of the Commission's rules. 47 CFR § 14.35(b).

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The number of RDAs, along with their associated burdens for consumer submission and staff review are included in the collection for all FCC complaints under OMB Control Number 3060-0874.³⁵ Although that collection is primarily for electronic filing, it acknowledges that a small percentage of complaints will be filed by telephone, fax, and letter and adjusts the burdens accordingly.

The information collection burdens associated with processing requests for dispute assistance are retained in this collection.

Based on the Commission's experience over the past three years and other related factors, the Commission estimates that a total of 40 requests for dispute assistance will be filed each year by 40 consumers and other interested parties under sections 255, 716, and 718 of the Act.

Because OMB Control Number 3060-0874 does not include consumer responses to Commission requests for additional information to resolve their requests for dispute assistance, we include the burdens associated with such responses here. The Commission estimates 40 consumers will provide additional information to the Commission.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 40

Total Number of Annual Responses: 40 Responses

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 1 hour for the submission of the additional information.

40 responses/submissions x 1 hour = 40 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 40 hours

Annual "In-House" Costs: None

Total Annual "In-House" Costs = \$0³⁶

Similarly, because OMB Control Number 3060-0874 does not include service provider and equipment manufacturer responses to Commission requests for additional information and resolution of consumer requests for dispute assistance, we include the burdens associated with such responses here. The Commission estimates 40 covered entities will provide information to the Commission to resolve the accessibility problem.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 40

Total Number of Annual Responses: 40 Responses

³⁵ See OMB Control Number 3060-0874 (Consumer Complaint Portal: General Complaints, Obscenity or Indecency Complaints, Complaints under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, Slamming Complaints, RDAs and Communications Accessibility Complaints) (July 2021).

³⁶ The Commission estimates that there are no specific "in house" or other annual costs for individuals who submit additional information to resolve their requests for dispute assistance.

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The Commission estimates that each response will require an average of 2 hours for the submission of the additional information to resolve the accessibility problem.

40 responses x 2 hour = 80 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 80 hours

Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

80 hours to prepare answer x \$84.55/hour = \$6,764

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$6,764

(f) 47 CFR § 14.34 Informal Complaints

An informal complaint alleging a violation of section 255, 716 or 718 may be transmitted to the Enforcement Bureau by any reasonable means and should include certain information.

Based on the Commission’s experience over the past three years, the Commission estimates that 2 informal complaints will be filed by 2 of the 40 consumers and other interested parties who file requests for dispute assistance each year.

The number of informal complaints filed, along with their associated burdens are included in the collection for all FCC complaint forms under OMB Control Number 3060-0874. Although that collection is primarily for electronic filing, it acknowledges that a small percentage of complaints will be filed by telephone, fax, and letter and adjusts the burdens accordingly.

The information collection burdens associated with processing informal complaints is retained in this collection. See 47 CFR § 14.36 Answers and Replies to Informal Complaints, below.

The Commission shall forward any informal complaint meeting the requirements of section 14.34 of the Commission’s rules to each service provider or equipment manufacturer named or determined to be implicated by the complaint.

Every service provider and equipment manufacturer subject to section 255, 716, or 718 shall designate an agent for service of process in the annual certification pursuant to section 14.31 of the Commission’s rules.³⁷

47 CFR § 14.36 Answers and Replies to Informal Complaints

³⁷ 47 CFR § 14.35. The annual burdens associated with this requirement are already encompassed in the information collection requirement for 47 CFR § 14.31(b). See *supra* 12(d).

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- (a) The service provider or equipment manufacturer shall file and serve an answer responsive to the complaint and any inquiries set forth by the Commission, and produce documents demonstrating its due diligence in exploring accessibility and achievability.³⁸
- (b) The answer shall be prepared or formatted in the manner requested by the Commission and the complainant.
- (c) The service provider or equipment manufacturer shall serve the complainant and the Commission with a non-confidential summary of the answer filed with the Commission.
- (d) The complainant may file and serve a reply.

(i) Answers:

The Commission estimates that 2 service providers and equipment manufacturers subject to sections 255, 716, and 718 of the Act will file an answer to an informal complaint each year. The Commission estimates that 50% of 2 answers (1 answer) will be prepared by an in-house attorney each year.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 1

1 respondent x 1 answer = 1 annual response

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1

The Commission estimates that the response will require approximately 6 hours for the preparation of the answer.

1 responses/submissions x 6 hours = 6 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 6 hours**Annual "In-House" Costs:**

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents' costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

6 hours to prepare answer x \$84.55/hour = \$507.30

Total Annualized "In-House" Costs = \$507.30

³⁸ Section 14.31(c) of the Commission's rules require that, upon the service of an informal or formal complaint, a service provider or equipment manufacturer must produce to the Commission, upon request, records covered by this section and may assert a statutory request for confidentiality for these records. 47 CFR § 14.31(c). All other information submitted to the Commission pursuant to Subpart D of Part 14 or to any other request by the Commission may be submitted pursuant to a request for confidentiality in accordance with section 0.459 of the Commission's rules. See 47 CFR § 0.459.

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The Commission estimates that 50% of 2 answers (1 answer) will be prepared by outside counsel in consultation with an in-house attorney each year.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 1

1 respondent x 1 answer = 1 annual response

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 1 hour for an in-house attorney to consult with outside counsel regarding preparation of the answer.

1 response/submission x 1 hour = 1 hour

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1 hour**Annual “In-House” Costs:**

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

1 hour to prepare answer x \$84.55/hour = \$84.55

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$84.55

(ii) Engineering Analysis:

The Commission estimates that 50% of 2 answers (1 answer) will include an in-house engineering analysis each year.³⁹

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 1⁴⁰

1 respondent x 1 analysis = 1 annual response

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1⁴¹

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 5 hours for the preparation of an engineering analysis.

³⁹ Section 14.20(b) of the Commission’s rules require ACS providers and equipment manufacturers to identify barriers to accessibility and usability; consider performance objectives as early as possible in the design stage; and implement them if achievable. See 47 CFR § 14.20(b). Telecommunications service providers and equipment manufacturers that are subject to section 255 of the Act have similar obligations to ensure accessibility when readily achievable. See 47 U.S.C. § 255.

⁴⁰ The number of respondents mentioned herein are already included in the number of respondents for the “Answers” burdens. See *supra* 12(f)(i).

⁴¹ The number of responses mentioned herein are already included in the number of responses for the “Answers” burdens. See *supra* 12(f)(i).

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1 responses/submissions x 5 hours = 5 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 5 hours

Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

5 hours to prepare engineering analysis x \$84.55/hour = \$422.75

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$422.75

The Commission estimates that 50% of 2 answers (1 answer) will include an analysis by a contract engineer, in consultation with staff engineers, each year.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 1⁴²

1 respondent x 1 analysis = 1 annual response

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1⁴³

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 1 hour for an in-house engineer to consult with the contract engineer regarding preparation of the engineering analysis.

1 response/submission x 1 hour = 1 hour

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1 hour

Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

1 hour for engineering consultations x \$84.55/hour = \$84.55

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$84.55

(iii) Replies:

⁴² The number of respondents mentioned herein is already included in the number of respondents for the “Answers” burdens. See *supra* 12(f)(i).

⁴³ The number of responses mentioned herein is already included in the number of responses for the “Answers” burdens. See *supra* 12(f)(i).

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The Commission estimates that each of the 2 complainants will file a reply to the answer each year.

Total Number of Annual Respondents: 2

2 respondents x 1 reply = 2 annual responses

Total Number of Annual Responses: 2 Responses

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 2 hours for the submission of the reply.

2 responses/submissions x 2 hours = 4 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 4 hours**Annual “In-House” Costs: None**

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$0⁴⁴

(iv) 47 CFR § 14.37 Review and Disposition of Informal Complaints

The Commission will investigate the allegations in any informal complaint within 180 days after the complaint was filed, issue an order and finding, and provide a basis therefore, unless the complaint is resolved before that time.

If the Commission determines in an order that the service provider or equipment manufacturer violated section 255, 716, or 718, the Commission may direct the service provider or equipment manufacturer to bring the service or the next generation of the equipment into compliance within a reasonable period of time and take other enforcement action deemed appropriate. The service provider or equipment manufacturer shall have a reasonable opportunity to comment on the Commission’s proposed remedial action before the Commission issues a final order with respect to that action.

The Commission estimates that 50% of the 2 informal complaints (1 complaint) will result in proposed remedial action annually.

Of the 1 proposed remedial action, 50% (0.5 rounded to 1 annual proposed remedial action) will be reviewed by an in-house staff attorney.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 1

1 respondent x 1 analysis = 1 annual response

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1 Response

⁴⁴ The Commission estimates that there are no specific “in house” or other annual costs for individuals who file replies.

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The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 2 hours for the review of the proposed remedial action.

1 review of proposed remedial action x 2 hours = 2 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 2 hours

Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

2 hours to review proposed remedial action x \$84.55/hour = \$169.10

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$169.10

The Commission estimates that, of the 1 proposed remedial action response, 50% (0.5 rounded to 1 annual proposed remedial action) will be reviewed by outside counsel, in consultation with an in-house attorney, annually.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 1

1 respondents x 1 analysis = 1 annual response

Number of Annual Responses: 1 Response

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 1 hour for the consultation on the proposed remedial action.

1 consultation x 1 hour = 1 hour

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1 hour

Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

1 hour to consult on proposed remedial action x \$84.55/hour = \$84.55

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$84.55

(g) 47 CFR §§ 1.720 – 1.740⁴⁵ Formal Complaints

⁴⁵ The rules covered by 47 CFR §§ 1.720-1.740 pertain to formal complaints related to advanced communications systems, as well as several other formal complaints found in other collections. This collection covers only formal complaints arising under 47 U.S.C. 255, 617, 619, and 47 CFR Part 14.

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Formal complaint proceedings are generally resolved on a written record consisting of a complaint, answer, and joint statement of stipulated facts, disputed facts and key legal issues, along with all associated affidavits, exhibits and other attachments. Commission proceedings may also require or permit other written submissions such as briefs, written interrogatories, and other supplementary documents or pleadings.

The Commission estimates that 1 complaint and 1 answer will be filed involving 1 complainant and 1 defendant annually.⁴⁶ Of these responses, 50% of respondents will be represented by an in-house attorney.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 1

1 respondent x 1 complaint or answer = 1 response

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1 Response

The Commission estimates 5 hours of paralegal time and 35 hours of in-house counsel time will be needed to prepare each complaint or answer.

1 response/submission x 5 hours/paralegal time + 35 hours/in-house counsel time = 40 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 40**Annual “In-House” Costs:**

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to mid-level federal employees (paralegal, GS-12/5) and senior level federal employees (attorney, GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$51.15 and \$84.55, respectively, to comply with the requirement.

5 hours for the complaint or answer x \$51.15/hour = \$255.75
35 hours for the complaint or answer x \$84.55/hour = \$2,959.25

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$3,215

The Commission estimates that 50% of 2 respondents (1 complainant and 1 defendant) will be represented by outside counsel in consultation with an in-house staff attorney in the filing of 1 complaint or 1 answer during the three-year OMB approval period.

Maximum Number of Annual Respondents: 1

1 respondent x 1 complaint or answer = 1 response

Total Number of Annual Responses: 1 Response

The Commission estimates that each response will require approximately 5 hours for the consultation on the preparation and filing of the complaint or answer.

⁴⁶ The cumulative number of respondents for this requirement is 2.

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1 consultation x 5 hours = 5 hours

Total Number of Annual Burden Hours: 5 hours

Annual “In-House” Costs:

The Commission assumes that respondents use in-house personnel whose pay is comparable to senior level federal employees (GS-15/5); therefore, the Commission estimates respondents’ costs to be about \$84.55 per hour to comply with the requirement.

5 hours to consult on complaint or answer x \$84.55/hour = \$422.75

Total Annual “In-House” Costs = \$422.75

Cumulative Number of Respondents: 3,541

Cumulative Number of Annual Responses: 42,106

Cumulative Annual Burden Hours: 120,999 hours

Cumulative Annual “In-House” Costs: \$7,403,898.10

	Information Collection	Respondents	Estimated Annual Number of Responses	Estimated Annual Burden Hours Per Response	Annual Burden Hours	Total Annual “In-House” Costs
(a)	§ 14.5 Waivers	12	16	1-10	64	\$5,411.20
(b)	§§ 6.11, 7.11 and 14.20(d) Information	3,500	35,000	1	35,000	\$2,129,050
(c)	§ 14.31(a) Recordkeeping	3,500	3,500	24	84,000	\$5,109,720

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(d)	§§ 14.31(b), 14.35 Annual Certification and Designation of Agents	3,500	3,500	.50	1,750	\$147,962.50
(e)	§ 14.32 Consumer Requests for Dispute Assistance ⁴⁷	40	40	1	40	0
(e)	Covered Entities' Responses	40	40	2	80	\$6,764
(f)(i)	§ 14.36 Answers to Informal Complaints ⁴⁸	2	2	1-6	7	\$591.85
(f)(ii)	§ 14.36 Engineering Analysis	2	2	1-5	6	\$507.30
(f)(iii)	§ 14.36 Replies	2	2	2	4	0
(f)(iv)	§ 14.37 Review and Disposition	1	2	1-2	3	\$253.65
(g)	§§ 47 CFR §§ 1.720 – 1.740 Formal Complaints	2	2	5 - 40	45	\$3,637.75
	Totals	3,541⁴⁹	42,106	.50-40	120,999	\$7,403,898.10

13. The following represents the Commission's estimate of the total annual cost burden resulting from the collection of information:

47 CFR § 14.5 Waivers – Multipurpose Services and Equipment

Based on the actual number of petitions for waiver filed over the past three years and other related factors, the Commission estimates that 4 ACS providers and equipment manufacturers or interested parties will file waiver petitions per year. Of those 4 petitions, the Commission estimates that 50% (2 petitions) will be filed by outside

⁴⁷ The burdens associated with consumer filing of 40 requests for dispute assistance each year are contained in OMB 3060-0874. The burdens associated with consumers and covered entities responding to requests for additional information to resolve the requests for dispute assistance, and Commission processing of requests for dispute assistance are retained in this collection. *See supra* 12(e).

⁴⁸ The burdens associated with filing 2 informal complaints each year are contained in OMB 3060-0874. The burdens associated with processing informal complaints are in this collection. *See supra* 12(f).

⁴⁹ The Commission estimates that a total of **3,541** unique respondents are represented by this three-year information collection:

3,500 entities that are subject to sections 255, 716, 717, and 718 of the Act, including the information, recordkeeping, and certification requirements under the Commission's rules;

40 consumers who respond to requests for additional information about their requests for dispute assistance (who include the two consumers who file replies to informal complaints); and

1 consumer who files a formal complaint (who is not among the 40 consumers who respond to requests for additional information).

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counsel, in consultation with an in-house attorney. The Commission estimates 5 hours will be needed to prepare each of these waiver petitions. The Commission estimates that outside counsel will charge approximately \$300.00 per hour:

2 petitions prepared by outside counsel x 5 hours/petition x \$300.00/hour = \$3,000.00 annual cost

The Commission estimates that up to all of the 4 respondents filing waiver petitions, or 4 respondents, will file reply comments. Of those 4 reply comments, 50% (2 reply comments) per year will be filed by outside counsel, in consultation with an in-house attorney. The Commission estimates 5 hours will be needed to prepare each of these reply comments. The Commission estimates that outside counsel will charge approximately \$300.00 per hour:

2 replies prepared by outside counsel x 5 hours/reply x \$300.00/hour = \$3,000.00 annual cost

47 CFR § 14.36 Answers and Replies to Informal Complaints

The Commission estimates that 2 service providers and equipment manufacturers subject to sections 255, 716, and 718 of the Act will file an answer to an informal complaint each year.

Of those 2 answers, 50% (1 answer) will be prepared by outside counsel, in consultation with an in-house attorney. The Commission estimates 6 hours will be needed to prepare each of these answers. The Commission estimates that outside counsel will charge approximately \$300.00 per hour:

1 answer prepared by outside counsel x 6 hours/answer x \$300.00/hour = \$1,800.00 annual cost

The Commission estimates that 50% of 2 answers (1 answer) will include an analysis by a contract engineer in consultation with staff engineers. The Commission estimates 5 hours will be needed to prepare each of these analyses. The Commission estimates that contract engineers will charge approximately \$250.00 per hour:

1 analysis by a contract engineer x 5 hours/analysis x \$250.00/hour = \$1,250.00 annual cost

Section 14.36(b) of the Commission's rules requires that the answer to the complaint be prepared or formatted in the manner requested by the Commission and the complainant. The Commission estimates that 50% of 2 answers (1 answer) will require such alternative formatting (e.g., Braille). The Commission estimates that respondents will outsource such formatting of complaint answers and that 1 hour will be needed to format each answer. The Commission estimates that formatting services will charge approximately \$150.00 per hour:

1 answer in alternative format x 1 hour/answer x \$150.00/hour = \$150.00 annual cost

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47 CFR § 14.37 Review and Disposition of Informal Complaints

The Commission estimates that 50% of the 2 informal complaints filed (1 complaint) will result in proposed remedial action each year. Of the 1 proposed remedial action, 50% (0.5 rounded to 1 proposed remedial action each year) will be reviewed by outside counsel, in consultation with an in-house attorney. The Commission estimates 2 hours will be needed to review each of these proposed remedial actions. The Commission estimates that outside counsel will charge approximately \$300.00 per hour:

1 proposed remedial actions x 2 hours/action x \$300.00/hour = \$600.00 annual cost

47 CFR §§ 1.720 – 1.740⁵⁰ Formal Complaints

The Commission estimates that 1 complaint and 1 answer will be filed each year involving 1 complainant and 1 defendant. Of these responses, 50% of respondents will be represented by outside counsel in consultation with an in-house staff attorney in the filing of 1 complaint or 1 answer. The Commission estimates 5 hours of paralegal time and 25 hours of outside counsel time will be needed to prepare each complaint or answer. The Commission estimates that paralegals will charge approximately \$100.00 per hour and outside counsel will charge approximately \$300.00 per hour:

1 answer/complaint x 5 paralegal hours x \$100.00/hour = \$500.00 annual cost

1 answer/complaint x 25 outside counsel hours x \$300.00 = \$7,500.00 annual cost

(a) Total annualized capital/start-up costs: None

(b) Total annual cost (operational and maintenance): \$17,800.00

(c) Total annual cost requested: \$17,800.00

14. Estimates of annual costs to the Federal government are as follows:

47 CFR § 14.5 Waivers – Multipurpose Services and Equipment

The Commission estimates that 4 ACS providers and equipment manufacturers or interested parties will file waiver petitions per year.

The Commission will use GS 15/5 (\$84.55) staff attorneys to review these waiver petitions, comments and oppositions, and reply comments. The Commission estimates that this will require 2 to 4 hours (average 3 hours) for this review per petition.

4 petitions x 3 hours/petition x \$84.55/hour = \$1,014.60 annual cost

⁵⁰ The rules covered by 47 CFR §§ 1.720-1.740 pertain to formal complaints related to advanced communications systems, as well as several other formal complaints found in other collections. This collection covers only formal complaints arising under 47 U.S.C. 255, 617, 619, and 47 CFR Part 14.

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47 CFR § 14.32 Consumer Dispute Assistance

The Commission estimates that 40 RDAs will be filed each year. The Commission will use GS 13/5 (\$60.83) staff analysts to review and forward these requests to service providers and equipment manufacturers. The Commission estimates that this will require 1 hour per request.

40 requests x 1 hour/request x \$60.83/hour = \$2,433.20 annual cost

The Commission will use GS 15/5 (\$84.55) staff attorneys to work with the consumer and the covered entity to resolve each of the 40 RDAs. The Commission estimates that this will require an average of 3 hours per request.

40 requests x 3 hours/request x \$84.55 = \$10,146 annual cost

47 CFR § 14.35 Procedure; Designation of Agents for Service

The Commission shall forward any informal complaint meeting the requirements of section 14.34 of the Commission's rules to each service provider or equipment manufacturer named or determined to be implicated by the complaint.

Every service provider and equipment manufacturer subject to section 255, 716, or 718 shall designate an agent for service of process in the annual certification pursuant to section 14.31 of the Commission's rules.

The Commission estimates that 2 informal complaints will be filed each year. The Commission will use GS 13/5 (\$60.83) staff analysts to review and forward these informal complaints to service providers and equipment manufacturers. The Commission estimates that this will require 1 hour per informal complaint.

2 requests x 1 hour/request x \$60.83/hour = \$121.66 annual cost

47 CFR § 14.36 Answers to Informal Complaints

The Commission estimates that 2 service providers and equipment manufacturers subject to sections 255, 716, and 718 of the Act will file an answer to an informal complaint each year. The Commission will use GS 15/5 (\$84.55) staff attorneys to review these answers and documents produced. The Commission estimates that this will require 2 to 4 hours (average 3 hours) for this review per answer.

2 answers x 3 hours/answer x \$84.55/hour = \$507.30 annual cost

The Commission estimates that both answers filed each year will include an analysis by an engineer, which will result in 2 responses per year. The Commission will use GS 15/5 (\$84.55) staff engineers to review these engineering analyses. The Commission

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estimates 1 to 3 hours (average 2 hours) will be needed to review these engineering analyses.

2 engineering analyses x 2 hours/analysis x \$84.55/hour = \$338.20 annual cost

47 CFR §§ 1.720 – 1.740⁵¹ Formal Complaints

The Commission estimates that 1 complaint and 1 answer will be filed each year involving 1 complainant and 1 defendant. The Commission will use GS 13/5 (\$60.83) staff paralegals and GS 15/5 (\$84.55) staff attorneys to review these formal complaints and answers. The Commission estimates that this will require 6 hours of paralegal time, and 10 hours of attorney time for this review per complaint or answer.

2 filings x 6 hours/filing x \$60.83/hour = \$729.96 annual cost

2 filings x 10 hours/filing x \$84.55/hour = \$1,691 annual cost

Total Cost to Federal Government: \$16,981.92

15. There are no program changes or adjustments to this information collection.
16. The Commission posts on its website designated agent and other contact information submitted to the Commission pursuant to the information collection requirements discussed above. The Commission may also post aggregate complaint information on its website and will comply with all valid FOIA requests with regard to information sought pertaining to accessibility complaints.
17. The Commission is not seeking approval not to display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection because the collection does not include a form number.
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 any statistical methods.

⁵¹ The rules covered by 47 CFR §§ 1.720-1.740 pertain to formal complaints related to advanced communications systems, as well as several other formal complaints found in other collections. This collection covers only formal complaints arising under 47 U.S.C. 255, 617, 619, and 47 CFR Part 14.