

## **SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

This collection is being submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as an extension to an existing collection in order to obtain the full three-year clearance. There is no change in the reporting and/or third-party disclosure requirements.

### **A. Justification:**

1. In the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 00-297), the Commission invited comment on, among other areas, whether physical collocation in remote terminals presents technical or security concerns and, if so, whether these concerns warranted modification of its collocation rules. The OMB approved this proposed information collection on October 23, 2000. The Commission is seeking extension of the proposed information collection below:

(a) **Proposed Demographic Information and Notifications:** The Commission asked whether physical collocation in remote terminals presents technical or security concerns and, if so, whether these concerns warrant modification of its collocation rules. The Commission asked whether incumbent LECs should be required to provide requesting carriers with demographic and other information regarding particular remote terminals similar to the information available regarding incumbent LEC central offices. Requesting carriers use demographic and other information obtained from incumbent LECs to determine whether they wish to collocate at particular remote terminals.

Statutory authority for this collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. sections 151-154, 201, 202, 251-254, 256, 271, and 303(r).

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

2. This proposed collection will be used by the Commission, the state commissions, and competitive carriers to facilitate the deployment of advanced services and other telecommunications services in implementation of section 251(c)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the Act).

3. The Commission does not prohibit the use of improved technology where appropriate.

4. There will be no unnecessary duplication of information filed.

5. The collection of information potentially burdens all incumbent LECs, most of which are large entities. Some incumbent LECs may have 1,500 or fewer employees, thus meeting the definition of “small business” under the Small Business Act. We include small incumbent LECs in our Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) analysis, although we emphasize that this RFA action has no effect on the Commission’s analyses and determinations in other, non-RFA contexts.

6. If the information sought is not collected or is collected less frequently, it may delay implementation of section 251(c)(6) of the Act and may impede competition in the market for advanced

services and other telecommunications services. This would violate the language and intent of the Act, which requires incumbent LECs to provide physical collocation “on rates, terms, and conditions that are just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory.”

7. There are no circumstances that would cause information collection to be conducted in a special manner.

8. A notice to solicit public comment was published in the Federal Register as required by 5 CFR § 1320.8(d) on **January 12, 2024 (89 FR 2223)**. No PRA comments were received.

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

10. The Commission is not requesting respondents to submit confidential information. Any respondent who submits information to the Commission that the respondent believes is confidential may request confidential treatment of such information under 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 Commission’s estimate of the annual hour burden of the collection of information:

(a) Proposed Demographic and Other Information

(1) Number of respondents: 589.

(2) Frequency of response: On occasion reporting requirement and third-party disclosure requirement.

(3) Total Number of Responses Annually: 1,178 responses.

The Commission estimates that there are 589 incumbent LECs that may need to respond in order to comply with this requirement. We estimate that these incumbent LECs will have 2 filings per respondent per year.

(4) Total Annual Hourly Burden: 2,356 hours. We estimate that it would take respondents approximately 2 hours to comply with the proposed collection.

1,178 responses x 2 hours per response = **2,356 total annual burden hours**

(5) Estimates of in-house cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collection of information. \$231,853.96. We assume the respondents would use in-house personnel comparable in pay to a GS-14/5 Federal employee (\$75.70/hour), plus 30% for overhead (\$22.71), to comply with the recordkeeping requirement. Thus, cost is as follows: 2 hours x \$98.41 x 589 respondents x 2 filings per year = \$231,853.96.

13. The following represents the Commission's estimate of the annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the foregoing proposed collection of information:

(1) Total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its useful life): \$0. The requirements will not require the purchase of additional equipment.

(2) Total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component: \$0. The requirements will not require the purchase of additional equipment.

14. There will be no costs to the Commission because the proposed collection requirements are third party disclosure requirement directed toward incumbent LECs and will not require review by the Commission in most instances.

15. The Commission is reporting decreases/adjustments to this information collection. The decrease in the total number of respondents from 750 to 589 (-161) is due to a decrease in the total number of active incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) reflected in the FCC Form 499 Filer Database, (available at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cgb/form499/499a.cfm>) from 1,500 to 1,178 (-322). We assume approximately half of all ILECs may need to respond to this collection (589). This decrease in the number of respondents accounts for a reduction in the total annual responses from 1,500 to 1,178 (-322), and a decrease in the total annual burden hours from 3,000 hours to 2,356 (-644).

There are no program changes to this information collection.

16. The Commission does not anticipate publishing any of the information collected pursuant to the notices.

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

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.