

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Federal-State Joint Board on)	CC Docket No. 96-45
Universal Service)	
)	
ALLTEL Communications, Inc.)	
Petition for Designation as an Eligible)	
Telecommunications Carrier in the State of)	
Virginia)	
)	
ALLTEL Communications, Inc.)	
Petition for Designation as an Eligible)	
Telecommunications Carrier in the State of)	
Alabama)	

ORDER

Adopted: July 3, 2003

Released: July 3, 2003

By the Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division:

Reply Comments Due: July 14, 2003

1. On April 14, 2003, ALLTEL Communications, Inc. (ALLTEL), a commercial mobile radio service (CMRS) carrier, filed with the Commission separate petitions under section 214(e)(6) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, seeking designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to receive federal universal service support for services offered throughout its licensed service areas in the states of Alabama and Virginia.¹ On June 3, 2003, the Wireline Competition Bureau released separate public notices inviting parties to file comments in response to the ALLTEL petitions 10 days after Federal Register publication of the public notices and reply comments 17 days after such publication. Ten days after Federal Register publication of the public notices was June 30, 2003, and 17 days after Federal Register publication is July 7, 2003.² On July 2, 2003, ALLTEL filed a petition to extend the deadlines

¹ See *ALLTEL Communications, Inc. Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Alabama*, filed April 14, 2003; *ALLTEL Communications, Inc. Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia*, filed April 14, 2003. On May 21, 2003, ALLTEL filed amendments to its petitions further delineating and modifying the list of wire centers for which ALLTEL seeks ETC designation. See *First Amendment to the Application of ALLTEL Communications, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Alabama*, filed May 21, 2003; *First Amendment to the Application of ALLTEL Communications, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia*, filed May 21, 2003.

² See 68 Fed Reg. 36548 (Jun. 18, 2003); 68 Fed. Reg. 36549 (Jun. 18, 2003).

for filing reply comments in response to the petitions by one week to July 14, 2003.³ ALLTEL requests an extension of time in order to give the parties additional time to consider and evaluate oppositions to its petitions filed by Verizon and the Alabama Rural Local Exchange Carriers (Alabama LECs).

2. It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.⁴ In this instance, we find good cause for granting ALLTEL's request. Specifically, ALLTEL did not receive comments in a timely manner due to delays in the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). In addition, according to ALLTEL, Verizon and Alabama LECs do not oppose ALLTEL's request for an extension. Accordingly, we grant ALLTEL's request for extension of time to file reply comments. Parties may file reply comments by **July 14, 2003**. This will enable commenters additional time to develop the record without unduly delaying these proceedings. These matters shall continue to be treated as "permit-but-disclose" proceedings in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.⁵ All other requirements discussed in the public notices remain in effect.

3. For further information, please contact Sheryl Todd, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, 202-418-7400.

4. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 155(c), and sections 0.91, 0.291, 1.46 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, the request for extension of time filed by ALLTEL Communications, Inc. IS GRANTED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Eric Einhorn, Chief
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau

³ See *ALLTEL Communications, Inc. Motion for Extension of Time*, CC Docket No. 96-45, filed July 2, 2003.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.