

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
National Exchange Carrier Association)	WC Docket No. 04-259
Petition to Amend Section 69.104 of the)	
Commission's Rules)	RM-10603
)	
)	

ORDER

Adopted: October 6, 2004

Released: October 6, 2004

By the Chief, Pricing Policy Division:

Revised Filing Dates:

Comments: November 12, 2004

Reply Comments: December 13, 2004

INTRODUCTION

1. On July 19, 2003, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (*NPRM*) in the above-captioned matters.¹ Comments and reply comments currently are due to be filed on or before October 12, 2004 and November 12, 2004, respectively.²

2. On October 1, 2004, BellSouth Corp., SBC Communications, Inc., and the Verizon telephone companies filed a *Joint Motion* requesting that the deadlines for filing comments and reply comments be extended to November 12, 2004 and December 12, 2004, respectively.³ They claim that the *NPRM* requests that they gather and submit considerable information, including cost studies and all underlying data, the impact of different network architectures on costs, the impact of changes to subscriber line charge assessments on the interstate common line support universal service fund (ICLS) and other universal service issues, and numerous other issues.⁴ They further claim that a grant of an extension of time would enable them, and all commenting parties, "to supply the necessary data and

¹ *National Exchange Carrier Association Petition to Amend Section 69.104 of the Commission's Rules*, WC Docket No. 04-259, RM-10603, Order Granting Petition for Rulemaking, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Order Granting Interim Partial Waiver, 19 FCC Rcd 13591 (2004).

² 69 Fed. Reg. 50141 (Aug. 13, 2004).

³ *National Exchange Carrier Association Petition to Amend Section 69.104 of the Commission's Rules*, WC Docket No. 04-259, RM-10603, Joint Motion for Extension of Time (filed Oct. 1, 2004) (*Joint Motion*).

⁴ *Id.* at 1-2.

comment on the issues presented . . . in their initial comments, [and, therefore, would] ensure more meaningful reply comments.”⁵

DISCUSSION

3. We hereby grant the *Joint Motion* and extend the comment and reply comment deadlines to November 12, 2004 and December 13, 2004, respectively.⁶ It is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time are not routinely granted.⁷ We find, however, that there is good cause to extend the due date for filing comments and reply comments. As the joint movants note, the issues raised in the *NPRM* are numerous and complex, and complete comments likely will require parties to expend significant time and resources gathering the economic and engineering data necessary to provide a complete record. We agree that a brief extension of time will facilitate the development of a complete and timely record for the Commission’s review and will not prejudice any party.

4. Accordingly, we grant the *Joint Motion*. Parties may file comments by **November 12, 2004**, and reply comments by **December 13, 2004**. This matter shall continue to be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.⁸ All other requirements discussed in the *NPRM* remain in effect. For further information, please contact Jeremy D. Marcus, Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-1520.

5. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), and 5(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j) 155(c), and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, the Joint Motion for Extension of Time filed by BellSouth, SBC, and Verizon IS GRANTED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Tamara L. Preiss
Chief, Pricing Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

⁶ Because December 12, 2004 is a Sunday, we establish December 13, 2004 as the revised reply comment deadline. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.4(j).

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a)

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.