



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 04-7
January 9, 2004

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON WAIVER PETITION FILED BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY BOARD OF PUERTO RICO FOR ENTERPRISE MARKET SWITCHING IMPAIRMENT

(CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98 and 98-147)

Comments Due: January 30, 2004

Reply Comments Due: February 13, 2004

On December 30, 2003, the Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico (the Board) filed a waiver petition, under section 51.319(d) of the Commission's rules, requesting that the Commission waive its rule exempting Puerto Rico Telephone Company (PRTC) from unbundling circuit switching used by competitive local exchange carriers (competitive LECs) to provide service to end users using DS1 capacity and above loops in defined Puerto Rico markets.¹ Specifically, the Board seeks to rebut the Commission's finding in the *Triennial Review Order*² that competitive LECs are not impaired without access to local circuit switching to serve enterprise customers. The Board states that due to operational barriers present in the local telecommunications market in Puerto Rico, competitive LECs are impaired without the ability to obtain unbundled local switching to provide service to enterprise customers.

This Public Notice establishes certain procedural requirements relating to consideration of the Board's waiver petition. This matter shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules. See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200, 1.1206. Persons making oral *ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentations must contain summaries of the substance of the presentations and not merely a listing of the subjects discussed. More than a one or two sentence description of the views and arguments presented generally is required. See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b). Other rules pertaining to oral and written *ex parte* presentations in permit-but-disclose proceedings are set forth in section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

¹ *Waiver Petition of the Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico for Enterprise Market Switching Impairment in Defined Puerto Rico Markets*, CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98 and 98-147 (filed Dec. 30, 2003).

² *See Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability*, CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98, 98-147, Report and Order and Order on Remand and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 18 FCC Rcd 16978 (2003) (*Triennial Review Order*), corrected by Errata, 18 FCC Rcd 19020 (2003) (*Triennial Review Order Errata*), petitions for review pending, *United States Telecom Ass'n v. FCC*, D.C. Cir. No. 00-1012 (and consolidated cases).

Pursuant to section 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on the waiver petition on or before **January 30, 2004**, and reply comments on or before **February 13, 2004**. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Suite TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. Two (2) courtesy copies must be delivered to Janice M. Myles, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, 445 12th Street, S.W., Suite 5-C327, Washington, D.C. 20554, or via e-mail janice.myles@fcc.gov; and one (1) copy must be sent to Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See* Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 Fed. Reg. 24121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address>." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply.

Parties that choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. This facility is the only location where hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary will be accepted. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Filings and comments are also available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. They may also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, D.C. 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Jeremy Miller, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-1580, or via e-mail jeremy.miller@fcc.gov.

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