

WCB Presentation To NARUC 2009 Summer Meetings

**Jeremy Marcus
Associate Chief (Acting)
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Jeremy.Marcus@fcc.gov**

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Topics to Address:

- Recent and Upcoming WCB Activity
 - Forbearance
 - Mergers
 - Local Number Portability / VoIP Discontinuance
 - Universal Service and Separations
- **BROADBAND!!!!**

Recent / Upcoming WCB Activity

Forbearance

- Forbearance Procedural Rules Order Released June 29, 2009 (FCC 09-56)
 - Adopts Procedural Rules Governing Forbearance Petitions
 - Complete As Filed
 - Petitioner Bears Burden of Proof
 - Permissive Withdrawal
- D.C. Circuit Court Remand Order: June, 19, 2009
 - Remanded the Commission's Order Regarding a Verizon Forbearance Petition Seeking Relief From Certain Unbundling and Other Requirements in Six East-Coast Cities .
- Pending Petitions:
 - Qwest Petition For Unbundling and Other Relief in Phoenix (March 25, 2010)
 - Universal Service Lifeline/ETC Petitions: I-Wireless (April 2, 2010), Headstart (May 16, 2010), Consumer Cellular (June 30, 2010), Conexions (July 8, 2010)

Recent / Upcoming WCB Activity

Mergers

■ CenturyTel-Embarq

- Order Conditionally Granting Merger Released June 25, 2009 (FCC 09-54)
- Transaction will result in combined company operating as, among other things, an incumbent LEC in 33 states

■ Frontier acquisition of Verizon assets

- Verizon to transfer all incumbent LEC territories in 13 states and some parts of California

Recent / Upcoming WCB Activity

Local Number Portability / VoIP Discontinuance

- Orders Released May 13, 2009
 - VoIP Discontinuance Order (FCC 09-40)
 - Extended Discontinuance of Service Obligations to Interconnected VoIP Service Providers
 - Provide Written Notice to Customers
 - Notify Relevant State Authorities
 - File Application for Discontinuance with the FCC
 - Local Number Portability Order and FNPRM (FCC 09-41)
 - Reduces Porting Interval For Simple Wireline-to-Wireline Ports to One Business Day
 - Includes Further Notice Asking What Steps, If Any, the Commission Should Take to Improve the Process of Changing Providers

Recent / Upcoming WCB Activity

■ Universal Service

- High-Cost Non-rural / Insular NOI (FCC 09-28, Released April 8, 2009)
 - Seeks Comment on High-Cost Support Mechanism Proposals for Non-Rural Carriers
- Lifeline ETC forbearance petitions (see above)

■ Jurisdictional Separations

- Extension Order and Joint Board Referral Order (FCC 09-44, Released May 15, 2009)
 - Extends Separations Freeze to June 30, 2010
 - Refers Review of Separations Rules to Joint Board

Broadband Data and Maps

- **2008 Broadband Data Gathering Order (FCC 08-89, June 2008)**
 - Form 477 Revised to Collect Much More Granular Broadband Data
 - First filings under new form – March 2009

- **2008 Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA)**
 - Congressional finding – need to improve federal broadband data
 - Changes FCC’s Section 706 Proceedings:
 - 706 Report Changed from Periodic to an Annual Report
 - Commission to identify “geographical areas that are not served by any provider of advanced telecommunications capability”
 - Commission to perform an international comparison
 - Requires Consumer Broadband Surveys

- **2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**
 - NTIA Must Create a Broadband Map by Feb. 2011
 - NOFA released July 2, 2009

2009 Rural Broadband Report

- 2008 Farm Bill Required FCC Chairman to Produce a Rural Broadband Strategy Report
- Acting Chairman Copps Delivered the Report to Congress in May 2009
- Identifies Challenges for Rural Broadband
- Recommends Coordination of Rural Broadband Efforts with all Stakeholders

National Broadband Plan for America

- FCC Must Create a National Broadband Plan by February 2010 that:
 - Ensures that all people of the United States have access to broadband capability
 - Establishes benchmarks for meeting that goal
 - Addresses affordability, utilization, and an array of national purposes

- Notice of Inquiry released in April 2009:
 - Seeks comment on a wide range of issues
 - FCC received over 8000 pages of comments in early June; replies due July 21

- Commission Will Hold at least 21 Public Workshops in August to Early September

- See www.broadband.gov for up to date information