

Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. 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, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

Parties filing electronic media should be advised that the Commission released a public notice on August 22, 2003 providing new guidance for mailing electronic media.¹ In brief, electronic media should not be sent through USPS because of the eradication process USPS mail must undergo to complete delivery. Hand or messenger delivered electronic media for the Commission's Secretary should be addressed for delivery to 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002, and other messenger-delivered electronic media should be addressed for delivery to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.

Parties also must send three paper copies of their filing to Sheryl Todd, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Room 5-B540, Washington, DC 20554. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554.

Pursuant to § 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which ex parte communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

Federal Communications Commission.

Eric N. Einhorn,

*Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau,
Telecommunications Access Policy Division.*

[FR Doc. 03-31969 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 94-129; DA 03-3832]

Joint Petition of Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company and Nebcom, Inc. and Petitions of Great Plains Communications, Inc. and the Nebraska Central Telephone Company for Waiver of the Requirement That a Local Exchange Carrier Verify Inbound Requests of Customers Who Want To Change to an Affiliated Interexchange Carrier

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document seeks public comment on petitions filed requesting a waiver of the requirement that a local exchange carrier (LEC) verify the inbound carrier change request(s) when a customer seeks to switch to the LECs interexchange carrier affiliate.

DATES: Interested parties may file comments in this proceeding on or before January 2, 2004. Reply comments may be filed on or before January 20, 2004. Parties that may have already submitted comments in this proceeding need not resubmit those comments unless they choose to update them.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. *See*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for further filing instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy Stevenson, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, Policy Division at (202) 418-7039 (voice), or e-mail at Nancy.Stevenson@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: When filing comments, please reference CC Docket No. 94-129. 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 FR 24121, May 1, 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, 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 who 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 Services 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, NE., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. 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, SW., Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW., Room TW-B204, Washington, DC 20554.

Parties who choose to file by paper should also submit their comments on diskette. These diskettes should be submitted, along with three paper copies, to: Nancy Stevenson, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, Policy Division, 445 12th Street, SW., Room 4-C763, Washington DC 20554. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette formatted in an IBM compatible format using Word 97 or compatible software. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly

¹ Reminder—Filing Locations for Paper Documents and Instructions for Mailing Electronic Media, Public Notice, DA 03-2730 (rel. Aug. 22, 2003).

labeled with the commenter's name, proceeding (including the lead docket number in this case, CC Docket No. 94-129, type of pleading (comment or reply comment), date of submission, and the name of the electronic file on the diskette. The label should also include the following phrase "Disk Copy—Not an Original." Each diskette should contain only one party's pleadings, preferably in a single electronic file. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are subject to disclosure.

Copies of any subsequently filed documents in this matter will be 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, DC 20554. The complete text of this *public notice* may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202) 863-2893, facsimile (202) 863-2898, or via e-mail qualexint@aol.com.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0531 (voice), (202) 418-7365 (TTY). This *public notice* can also be downloaded in Text and ASCII formats at: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/policy>.

Federal Communications Commission.

Nancy Stevenson,

(Acting) Deputy Chief, Policy Division,
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau.

[FR Doc. 03-31967 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Notice of Availability on Transforming Healthcare Quality Through Information Technology (THQIT)—Implementation Grants

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of a Request for Applications (RFA) on Implementation grants to evaluate the effects of health information technology (HIT) on improving patient safety and quality of health care.

The objective of this RFA is to support organization and community-wide implementation and diffusion of HIT and to assess the extent to which HIT contributes to measurable and sustainable improvement in patient safety, cost and overall quality of care. Research resulting from this RFA should inform AHRQ, providers, patients, payers, policymakers, and the public about how HIT can be successfully implemented in diverse health care settings and lead to safer and better health for all Americans.

DATES: The following dates will assist the applicant in timing the development of his/her application:

- Technical Assistance (TA)—Respond by January 27, 2004. TA conference call date: January 29, 2004, at 1 pm e.s.t.
- Letter of Intent Receipt Date—Due to AHRQ February 6, 2004.
- Application Receipt Date—April 22, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The RFA was published on November 20, 2003, in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts (NIH Guide). This document is available at <http://www.ahrq.gov> (under Funding Opportunities) or at the NIH Guide, <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-04-011.html>.

More information on the TA, where to send your application, etc. is described in the RFA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Young, M.D., Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, 540 Gaither Road, Rockville, MD 20850, Telephone: (301) 427-1580, FAX: (301) 427-1597, E-mail: syoung@ahrq.gov.

It is recommended you carefully review the RFA prior to attendance at the TA session.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: With this notice potential applicants are informed that this RFA includes a cost sharing requirement. Specific details of the cost sharing component are included in the RFA.

This RFA uses the U01 Cooperative Agreement mechanism. The funds available for FY 04 for this RFA are up to \$24 million. AHRQ intends to fund up to 48 new implementation grants with up to \$14 million earmarked for

rural and small hospitals. The project period for funded grants is up to three years.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

Carolyn M. Clancy,
Director.

[FR Doc. 03-31958 Filed 12-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-90-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Notice of Meetings

In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as amended (5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announces meetings of scientific peer review groups. The subcommittees listed below are part of the Agency's Health Services Research Initial Review Group Committee.

The subcommittee meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, section 10(d) of 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2 and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6). Grant applications are to be reviewed and discussed at these meetings. These discussions are likely to involve information concerning individuals associated with the applications, including assessments of their personal qualifications to conduct their proposed projects. This information is exempt from mandatory disclosure under the above-cited statutes.

1. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Care Research Training.

Date: January 22-23, 2004 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on January 22 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

2. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Care Technology and Decision Sciences.

Date: February 19-20, 2004 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on February 19 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

3. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Research Dissemination and Implementation.

Date: February 23-24, 2004 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on February 23 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

4. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Systems Research.

Date: February 26-27, 2004 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on February 26 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

5. *Name of Subcommittee:* Health Care Quality and Effectiveness Research.

Date: February 26-27, 2004 (Open from 8 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. on February 26 and closed for remainder of the meeting).

All the meetings above will take place at: AHRQ, John Eisenberg Building, 540 Gaither road, Conference Center, Rockville, Maryland 20850.