

State and county	Location and case No.	Date and name of newspaper where notice was published	Chief executive officer of community	Effective date of modification	Community
Douglas	Town of Parker (02-08-171P).	Oct. 10, 2002, Oct. 17, 2002, <i>Denver Post</i> .	The Honorable Gary Lasater, Mayor, Town of Parker, 20120 East Main Street, Parker, Colorado 80138.	Jan. 16, 2003	080310
Douglas	Unincorporated Areas (02-08-171P).	Oct. 10, 2002, Oct. 17, 2002, <i>Denver Post</i> .	The Honorable James R. Sullivan, Chairman, Douglas County Board of Commissioners, 100 Third Street, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104.	Jan. 16, 2003	080049
Garfield	City of Rifle (02-08-123P).	Dec. 26, 2002, Jan. 2, 2003, <i>Citizen Telegram</i> .	The Honorable Keith Lambert, Mayor, City of Rifle, 202 Railroad Avenue, Rifle, Colorado 81650.	Dec. 4, 2002	085078
Larimer	City of Fort Collins (01-08-092P).	Nov. 7, 2002, Nov. 14, 2002, <i>Fort Collins Coloradoan</i> .	The Honorable Ray Martinez, Mayor, City of Fort Collins, P.O. Box 580, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-0580.	May 30, 2001	080102
Hawaii:					
Hawaii	Hawaii County (99-09-680P).	Nov. 7, 2002, Nov. 14, 2002, <i>Hawaii Tribune Herald</i> .	The Honorable Harry Kim, Mayor, Hawaii County, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720.	Aug. 15, 2000	155166
Honolulu	City and County of Honolulu (00-09-244P).	Nov. 7, 2002, Nov. 14, 2002, <i>Honolulu Star Bulletin</i> .	The Honorable Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu, 530 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.	Feb. 1, 2001	150001
Missouri:					
Clay	Unincorporated Areas (03-07-0112P).	Jan. 2, 2003, Jan. 9, 2003, <i>Kearney Courier</i> .	The Honorable Thomas Brandon, Presiding Commissioner, Clay County, Clay County Courthouse, One Courthouse Square, Liberty, Missouri 64068.	Apr. 24, 2003	290086
Montana:					
Gallatin	City of Bozeman (00-08-367P).	Nov. 7, 2002, Nov. 14, 2002, <i>Bozeman Daily Chronicle</i> .	The Honorable Steven Kirchhoff, Mayor, City of Bozeman, P.O. Box 1230, Bozeman, Montana 59771-1230.	Dec. 20, 2000	300028
Texas:					
Bexar	City of San Antonio (00-06-862P).	Nov. 7, 2002, Nov. 14, 2002, <i>San Antonio Express News</i> .	The Honorable Ed Garza, Mayor, City of San Antonio, P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966.	Apr. 2, 2001	480045
Utah:					
Washington ...	City of St. George (02-08-101P).	Dec. 19, 2002, Dec 26, 2002, <i>Spectrum</i> .	The Honorable Daniel McArthur, Mayor, City of St. George, 175 East 200 North, St. George, Utah 84770.	Mar. 27, 2003	490177
Washington:					
Spokane	Unincorporated Areas (02-10-614P).	Nov. 21, 2002, Nov. 28, 2002, <i>Spokesman-Review</i> .	Ms. Francine Boxer, Chief Executive Officer, Spokane County, 1116 West Broadway Avenue, Spokane, Washington 99260.	Mar. 25, 2003	530174

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.100, "Flood Insurance")

Dated: January 28, 2003.

Anthony S. Lowe,

Administrator, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-3184 Filed 2-7-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket No. 96-45; DA 03-24]

Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) adopts the Delphi version of the forward-looking cost model with certain incorporated

technical improvements, which has been translated from Turbo-Pascal computer language, for calculating high-cost universal service support for non-rural carriers. To avoid the possibility of two successive changes in support amounts within a relatively short period of time, the Bureau defers calculating support for non-rural carriers using the Delphi version of the forward-looking cost model with incorporated technical improvements until the effective date of a Commission order in the separate proceeding addressing the non-rural high-cost support methodology adopted in the Ninth Report and Order, which was remanded to the Commission by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

DATES: Effective March 12, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katie King or Thomas Buckley, Attorneys, Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Order in CC Docket No. 96-45 released on January 7, 2003. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

I. Introduction

1. The Bureau adopts the Delphi version of the forward-looking cost model, which has been translated from Turbo-Pascal computer language, for calculating high-cost universal service support for non-rural carriers. The Bureau also finds that certain technical improvements are necessary to ensure that the forward-looking cost mechanism operates as designed in the *Fifth Report and Order*, 63 FR 63993, November 18, 1998. To avoid the possibility of two successive changes in support amounts within a relatively short period of time, the Bureau shall defer calculating support for non-rural carriers using the Delphi version of the forward-looking cost model with incorporated technical improvements until the effective date of an order in the separate proceeding addressing the non-rural high-cost support methodology adopted in the *Ninth Report and Order*, 64 FR 67416, December 1, 1999, which was remanded to the Commission by the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. The Bureau finds, however, that adopting the Delphi version with incorporated technical improvements at this time is appropriate to enable its staff to perform necessary work to determine cost per loop estimates used to calculate high-cost support and to allow the Commission to consider such estimates in conjunction with its review of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's (Joint Board) recommendations in the *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding.

II. Discussion

2. In this Order, the Bureau determines that it should use the Delphi version of the forward-looking cost model for calculating and targeting support for non-rural carriers. The Bureau also finds that the technical improvements incorporated into the Delphi version of the model and

discussed herein are necessary and appropriate to ensure that the forward-looking cost mechanism operates as designed in the *Fifth Report and Order*. As discussed below, calculating support using the Delphi version of the cost model with incorporated technical improvements could lead to changes in support amounts. The *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding also could lead to modifications of the non-rural high-cost support methodology that, in turn could lead to changes within a relatively brief time in support amounts. To avoid the possibility of two successive changes in support amounts resulting from adoption of the Delphi version with incorporated technical improvements and thereafter a final Commission action in the *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding, the Bureau shall defer calculating support for non-rural carriers using the Delphi version with incorporated technical improvements until the effective date of an order in the *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding.

3. *Translation to Delphi Computer Language.* The Bureau concludes that it is appropriate to use the outside plant portion of the forward-looking cost model that has been translated to Delphi computer language. Delphi, essentially an upgraded version of the previously used Turbo-Pascal language, is a more advanced and easier-to-use computer language than Turbo-Pascal. In particular, unlike Turbo-Pascal, Delphi computer language allows a user to step through the source code line-by-line. This improvement will allow the Bureau and interested parties to better understand and follow the logic of the model in reaching its results. In addition, the Delphi computer language processes data more quickly and is more adaptable to the Windows operating system than Turbo-Pascal. As such, translation to Delphi will enable the Bureau and interested parties to more easily use and analyze the cost model and its results.

4. The Bureau deferred adoption of Delphi computer language for the model last year in part to allow it to consider arguments that it should instead adopt a version of the outside plant portion of the model in Visual Basic computer language submitted by Qwest. Based on an examination of the record developed in response to the *Delphi Public Notice*, 66 FR 34447, June 28, 2001, the Bureau does not adopt the Visual Basic model submitted by Qwest for the reasons stated below. Because Delphi computer language uses the same logic in its programming steps as Turbo-Pascal, the translation to Delphi does not fundamentally change the organization

of the model logic. Interested parties and Bureau staff already have invested a substantial amount of time understanding, testing, and fine tuning the Turbo-Pascal and Delphi computer code. Visual Basic, on the other hand, is an entirely different computer language. As a result, the Bureau finds it would be less reasonable to adopt the Visual Basic version than the Delphi translation. Rather, on this record, the Bureau finds it appropriate to use the outside plant portion of the model that has been translated to Delphi computer language.

5. *Technical Improvements.* As noted above, the Commission foresaw that technical improvements would be necessary to ensure that the model operates as designed and instructed the Bureau to implement such improvements where necessary and appropriate. After posting a Delphi version of the model, the Bureau sought recommendations on improvements to that Delphi version, incorporated technical improvements where necessary, and then posted a revised Delphi version of the model on the Bureau's website. In the *2002 Line Counts Update Order*, 67 FR 3118, January 23, 2002, the Bureau stated that more time was needed to study the effect these improvements would have on high-cost support calculations.

6. After investigating the various technical improvements incorporated into the posted Delphi version of the model, the Bureau discovered that two changes in particular impacted cost estimates generated by the model, which in turn could affect high-cost support calculations. First, a correction was made to locate drop terminals using the 360 feet square grid cell assumption adopted in the *Fifth Report and Order*, 63 FR 63993, November 18, 1998, rather than 1000 feet square grid cells. This correction places drop terminals closer to customer locations and results in an overall decrease in distribution cable and structure costs. Second, Bureau staff corrected the coding that caused the model to read the wrong row of input tables for drop terminal, manhole, and service area interfaces (SAIs) costs. This coding error caused the model to retrieve incorrect values for these outside plant inputs. Correcting this coding error results in higher costs in certain wire centers.

7. The Bureau finds that implementation of these technical improvements is necessary and appropriate to ensure that the model operates as designed in the *Fifth Report and Order*. The Bureau analysis indicates that these technical improvements cause small changes in

cost estimates generated by the model. For instance, using year-end 2000 line counts as input values, the combined effect of these technical improvements would cause the nationwide average cost per line to increase by less than \$0.03 for 2002. However, the effect on statewide average cost per line varies by state. The statewide average cost per line increases in states containing wire centers with higher density zones because such service areas require more underground structure, larger SAIs, and larger drop terminals. By contrast, the average cost per line for states containing wire centers with lower density zones decreases, relative to the nationwide average, because their service areas require less underground structure, smaller SAIs, and fewer large drop terminals. Under the benchmark methodology adopted in the *Ninth Report and Order*, minor changes in nationwide or statewide average costs will affect non-rural high-cost support amounts.

8. The Bureau shall defer calculating support for non-rural carriers using the Delphi version of the cost model with incorporated technical improvements until the effective date of an order in the *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding. The *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding could lead to modifications to the non-rural high-cost support methodology that, in turn, would lead to changes in support

amounts. Calculating support using the Delphi version of the cost model with incorporated technical improvements likewise could lead to changes in support amounts. Section 254(b)(5) of the Communications Act of 1996 Act states that the universal support mechanism should be specific and predictable. Consistent with this principle, the Bureau finds that coordinating the determination of support for non-rural carriers using the revised Delphi version of the cost model, incorporating the technical improvements described above, with the effective date of an order in the *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding will avoid the possibility of two successive changes in the model's calculations and support amounts within a relatively short period of time. Specifically, the Delphi version of the model with incorporated technical improvements will be used for purposes of estimating forward-looking costs and determining support for non-rural carriers following the effective date of an order in the *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding. In the intervening interim period, non-rural support shall continue to be based on cost estimates of the Turbo-Pascal version of the cost model using the data updates adopted in the *2002 Line Counts Update Order*. In addition, the Bureau will continue to adjust support amounts calculated using the current model's cost estimates to

reflect the lines reported by non-rural carriers each quarter. The Bureau finds that adopting the Delphi version with incorporated technical improvements at this time is appropriate to enable the staff to perform necessary work to determine cost estimates under this version. Accompanying this Order is a Public Notice seeking comment on updating line counts and other input values for the Delphi version of the cost model consistent with the framework adopted in the *2001 and 2002 Line Counts Update Orders*, 65 FR 81759, December 27, 2000. Such action will enable the Commission to consider such estimates in conjunction with its consideration of the Joint Board recommendations in the *Ninth Report and Order* remand proceeding.

III. Ordering Clause

9. *It is ordered* pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1–4, 201–205, 214, 218–220, 254, 303(r), 403, and 410 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151–154, 201–205, 214, 218–220, 254, 303(r), 403, and 410, this Order *is adopted*.

10. *It is further ordered* that this Order will be effective March 12, 2003.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03–3111 Filed 2–7–03; 8:45 am]

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