

Flooding source(s)	Location of referenced elevation **	*Elevation in feet (NGVD) + Elevation in feet (NAVD) # Depth in feet above ground		Communities affected
		Effective	Modified	

\*\*BFEs to be changed include the listed downstream and upstream BFEs, and include BFEs located on the stream reach between the referenced locations above. Please refer to the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map located at the community map repository (see below) for exact locations of all BFEs to be changed.

Send comments to William R. Blanton, Jr., Chief, Engineering Management Branch, Mitigation Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472.

#### ADDRESSES

##### Unincorporated Areas of Anderson County

Maps are available for inspection at County Courthouse, 500 North Church Street, Palestine, TX 75801.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 97.022, "Flood Insurance.")

Dated: October 31, 2008.

**Michael K. Buckley,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator, Mitigation Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

[FR Doc. E8-26709 Filed 11-7-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-12-P

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Part 51

[WC Docket No. 04-347; FCC 08-237]

#### Petition of South Slope for Classification as an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon, IA Exchanges; Section 251(h)(2)

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** In the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) seeks comment on whether South Slope Cooperative Telephone Company, Inc. (South Slope) should be treated as an incumbent local exchange carrier (LEC) for purposes of section 251 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, (Communications Act or Act) in the Iowa exchanges of Oxford, Tiffin and Solon as provided for in section 251(h)(2) of the Act. The Commission also requests comment on the appropriate regulatory treatment of South Slope and Iowa Telecommunications Services, Inc. (Iowa Telecom), the legacy incumbent LEC in those exchanges pursuant to section 251 of the Act, if the Commission concludes that South Slope should be accorded incumbent LEC treatment in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges.

**DATES:** Comments are due on or before December 10, 2008. Reply comments are due on or before December 31, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by WC Docket No. 04-347, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Federal Communications Commission's Web site:* <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Parties choosing to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing in WC Docket No. 07-38. 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 the Commission continues to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). 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. The Commission's mail contractor, Vistrionix, 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, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.
- *People with Disabilities:* Contact the FCC to request reasonable

accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by e-mail: [FCC504@fcc.gov](mailto:FCC504@fcc.gov) or phone: 202-418-0530 or TTY: 202-418-0432.

For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Claudia Pabo, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, (202) 418-0940.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WC Docket No. 04-347, adopted on October 7, 2008, and released on October 10, 2008. The complete text of this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is available for public inspection Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554. The complete text is available also on the Commission's Internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov>. Alternative formats are available for persons with disabilities by contacting the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, at (202) 418-0531, TTY (202) 418-7365, or at [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov). The complete text of the decision may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Best Copying and Printing, Inc., Room CY-B402, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, telephone (202) 488-5300, facsimile (202) 488-5563, TTY (202) 488-5562, or e-mail at [fcc@bcpweb.com](mailto:fcc@bcpweb.com).

#### Synopsis of Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

1. In 2004, South Slope, a cooperative telephone company providing service in Iowa, filed a petition requesting that it be treated as an incumbent LEC in the Iowa exchanges of Oxford, Tiffin and

Solon. In 2001, South Slope began to construct facilities in these three exchanges where Iowa Telecom is currently the incumbent LEC. South Slope estimates that it now serves approximately 90 percent of the subscribers in these three exchanges.

2. In the NPRM, the Commission seeks comment on whether South Slope should be treated as an incumbent LEC for purposes of section 251 of the Communications Act in the Iowa exchanges of Oxford, Tiffin and Solon as provided for in section 251(h)(2) of the Act. The Commission also requests comment on the appropriate regulatory treatment of South Slope and Iowa Telecom, the legacy incumbent LEC in those exchanges pursuant to section 251(h)(1) of the Act, if the Commission concludes that South Slope should be accorded incumbent LEC treatment in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges.

3. Section 251(h)(1) of the Act defines an incumbent LEC as a local exchange carrier that, on the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, provided local exchange service in an area and was either a member of the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), or became a successor or assign of such a LEC. Section 251(h)(2) provides that the Commission may provide by rule for the treatment of a LEC as an incumbent LEC for the purposes of section 251 if a three-part test is satisfied. Specifically, in order to find that a LEC should be treated as an incumbent LEC for purposes of section 251, the Commission must find that: (1) The LEC at issue occupies a market position within an area that is comparable to the position of a legacy incumbent LEC; (2) the LEC has "substantially replaced" the legacy incumbent LEC; and (3) the reclassification is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity and the purposes of section 251.

4. The Commission sought comment on whether South Slope satisfies the three-part test in section 251(h)(2) and should be treated as an incumbent LEC for purposes of section 251 in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges. The Commission did not address the treatment of South Slope as an incumbent in these three exchanges for purposes of interstate access charges, federal universal service support, and other interstate purposes. The Commission stated that these issues would be addressed as appropriate in other proceedings, including any study area boundary waiver petition that South Slope may file with the Commission.

5. The Commission tentatively concluded that the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges are the relevant area for analyzing South Slope's market position. The Commission also tentatively concluded that South Slope occupies a market position in this area that is comparable to that occupied by a legacy incumbent LEC in light of its extensive facilities build-out and estimate that it now provides local exchange service to approximately 90 percent of the subscribers in these exchanges over its own facilities. The Commission sought comment on these tentative conclusions.

6. In light of South Slope's estimate that it serves approximately 90 percent of the subscribers in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges over its own facilities, the Commission tentatively concluded that South Slope has substantially replaced Iowa Telecom as the local exchange service provider in these exchanges. The Commission sought comment on this tentative conclusion.

7. The Commission also sought comment on whether the treatment of South Slope as an incumbent LEC for purposes of section 251 in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges would satisfy the public interest standard.

8. The Commission has previously found that the Act does not automatically convert the legacy incumbent LEC into a competitive LEC when another LEC is designated as an incumbent LEC in a particular area under section 251(h)(2). Instead, the Commission concluded that the elimination of unnecessary regulation is appropriately addressed through the removal of dominant carrier regulation and forbearance under section 10 of the Act.

9. The Commission tentatively concluded that Iowa Telecom should be given non-dominant regulatory treatment for interstate purposes in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges if South Slope is accorded incumbent LEC status for purposes of section 251. The Commission sought comment on this tentative conclusion. The Commission also stated that Iowa Telecom may request additional deregulation in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges by filing a formal petition for forbearance consistent with the Commission's rules.

10. The Commission sought comment on whether it should address, in this proceeding, the long-term regulation of South Slope's interstate operations in the Oxford, Tiffin and Solon exchanges if South Slope is accorded section 251(h)(2) incumbent LEC status. If the Commission addresses long-term regulation of South Slope's interstate

operations in these exchanges in the current proceeding, it asked what regulations should apply to South Slope's interstate offerings. For example, the Commission asked whether South Slope should be regulated as a dominant carrier in these three exchanges if it is treated as a section 251(h)(2) incumbent LEC for purposes of section 251.

#### Ex Parte Presentations

11. This proceeding shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules. 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 is generally required. Other rules pertaining to oral and written presentations are set forth in section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules as well.

#### Comment Filing Procedures

12. Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated on the first page of this document. All filings related to this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking should refer to WC Docket No. 04-347. Comments may be filed using: (1) The Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS); (2) the Federal Government's rulemaking Portal; or (3) by filing paper copies. *See* Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24,121 (1998).

- *Electronic Filers:* Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs> or the Federal eRulemaking Portal, <http://www.regulations.gov>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the Web site for submitting comments.

- For ECFS filers, if multiple dockets or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, filers must transmit one electronic copy of the comments for each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, filers 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, filers should send an e-mail to [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov), and include the

following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in response.

- **Paper Filers:** 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, filers 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 the Commission continues to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- The Commission's contractor 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, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

13. Comments and reply comments and any other filed documents in this matter may be obtained from Best Copy and Printing, Inc., in person at 445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, *via* telephone at (202) 488-5300, *via* facsimile at (202) 488-5563, or *via* e-mail at [FCC@BCPIWEB.COM](mailto:FCC@BCPIWEB.COM). The pleadings will also be available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20554, and through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) accessible on the Commission's Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs>.

14. 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](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

15. Comments and reply comments must include a short and concise

summary of the substantive arguments raised in the pleading. Comments and reply comments also must comply with section 1.49 and all other applicable sections of the Commission's rules. All parties are encouraged to utilize a table of contents, and to include the name of the filing party and the date of the filing on each page of their submission.

16. Commenters who file information that they believe should be withheld from public inspection may request confidential treatment pursuant to section 0.459 of the Commission's rules. Commenters should file both their original comments for which they request confidentiality and redacted comments, along with their request for confidential treatment. Commenters should not file proprietary information electronically. Even if the Commission grants confidential treatment, information that does not fall within a specific exemption pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) must be publicly disclosed pursuant to an appropriate request. *See* 47 CFR 0.461; 5 U.S.C. 552. The Commission may grant requests for confidential treatment either conditionally or unconditionally. As such, the Commission has the discretion to release information on public interest grounds that does fall within the scope of a FOIA exemption.

#### Initial Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Analysis

17. This document does not contain proposed information collection(s) subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any new or modified "information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees," pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, *see* 47 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4).

#### Legal Basis

18. The legal basis for any action that may be taken pursuant to the NPRM is contained in sections 1, 2, 4(i)-(j), 201, 203, 214, 251, 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 152, 154(i)-(j), 201, 203, 214, 251, 303(r).

#### Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

19. In this NPRM, the Commission seeks comment on whether South Slope should be treated as an incumbent LEC for purposes of section 251 of the Act in the Iowa exchanges of Oxford, Tiffin and Solon pursuant to section 251(h)(2) of the Act. The Commission also requests comment on the appropriate regulatory treatment of South Slope and

Iowa Telecom, the legacy incumbent LEC in those exchanges, if the Commission concludes that South Slope should be accorded incumbent LEC treatment in these exchanges under section 251(h)(2) of the Act.

20. South Slope is a cooperative telephone company that provides local exchange service and exchange access service to approximately 19,500 access lines in the general vicinity of Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, Iowa. Iowa Telecom is the legacy incumbent LEC that serves the Oxford, Solon, and Tiffin, Iowa exchanges. Because the proposed rule affects only South Slope and Iowa Telecom, we find that any potential action in this proceeding would not affect a substantial number of small entities.

21. Therefore, we certify that the proposals in this NPRM, if adopted, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

22. The Commission will send a copy of this NPRM, including a copy of this Initial Regulatory Flexibility Certification, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the SBA. This initial certification will also be published in the **Federal Register**.

#### Federal Rules That May Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict With the Proposed Rules

23. None.

#### Ordering Clauses

24. Accordingly, *it is ordered* that, pursuant to the authority contained in sections 1, 2, 4(i)-(j), 201, 203, 214, 251, and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 152, 154(i)-(j), 201, 203, 214, 251, and 303(r), this NPRM is adopted.

25. *It is further ordered* that the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of this Notice, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Certification, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene H. Dortch**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. E8-26813 Filed 11-7-08; 8:45 am]

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