

requirements of section 3(b) of E.O. 13084 do not apply to this rule.

#### *E. Regulatory Flexibility Act*

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) generally requires an agency to conduct a regulatory flexibility analysis of any rule subject to notice and comment rulemaking requirements unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Small entities include small businesses, small not-for-profit enterprises, and small governmental jurisdictions.

This final rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities because SIP approvals under section 110 and subchapter I, part D of the Clean Air Act do not create any new requirements but simply approve requirements that the State is already imposing. Therefore, because the Federal SIP approval does not create any new requirements, I certify that this action will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Moreover, due to the nature of the Federal-State relationship under the Clean Air Act, preparation of flexibility analysis would constitute Federal inquiry into the economic reasonableness of state action. The Clean Air Act forbids EPA to base its actions concerning SIPs on such grounds. *Union Electric Co., v. U.S. EPA*, 427 U.S. 246, 255–66 (1976); 42 U.S.C. 7410(a)(2).

#### *F. Unfunded Mandates*

Under section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (“Unfunded Mandates Act”), signed into law on March 22, 1995, EPA must prepare a budgetary impact statement to accompany any proposed or final rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in estimated annual costs to State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate; or to private sector, of \$100 million or more. Under section 205, EPA must select the most cost-effective and least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule and is consistent with statutory requirements. Section 203 requires EPA to establish a plan for informing and advising any small governments that may be significantly or uniquely impacted by the rule.

EPA has determined that the approval action promulgated does not include a Federal mandate that may result in estimated annual costs of \$100 million or more to either State, local, or tribal governments in the aggregate, or to the private sector. This Federal action approves pre-existing requirements under State or local law, and imposes

no new requirements. Accordingly, no additional costs to State, local, or tribal governments, or to the private sector, result from this action.

#### *G. Submission to Congress and the Comptroller General*

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a “major” rule as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

#### *H. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act*

Section 12 of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to evaluate existing technical standards when developing a new regulation. To comply with NTTAA, EPA must consider and use “voluntary consensus standards” (VCS) if available and applicable when developing programs and policies unless doing so would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical.

The EPA believes that VCS are inapplicable to this action. Today’s action does not require the public to perform activities conducive to the use of VCS.

#### *I. Petitions for Judicial Review*

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by January 4, 2000. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

#### **List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52**

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Hydrocarbons, Incorporation by

reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides.

Dated: October 6, 1999.

**A. Stanley Meiburg,**

*Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4.*

Part 52 of chapter I, title 40, *Code of Federal Regulations*, is amended as follows:

#### **Part 52—[AMENDED]**

1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 7401–7671q.

#### **Subpart RR—Tennessee**

2. Section 52.2239 is amended by adding paragraph (c)(128) to read as follows:

#### **§ 52.2239 Original Identification of plan section.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(128) Revisions to Chapter 16, “Open Burning”, of the Knox County portion of the Tennessee State Implementation Plan were submitted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation on February 26, 1993. Revisions to Chapter 25, “Permits”, of the Knox County portion of the Tennessee State Implementation Plan were submitted by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation on June 23, 1998.

(i) Incorporation by reference.

(A) Section 16.3 Exceptions to Prohibition—With Permit, adopted on January 13, 1993.

(B) Section 25.6 Exemptions, paragraph E, adopted on June 10, 1998.

(ii) Other material. None.

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#### **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

#### **41 CFR Part 101–11**

#### **RIN 3090–AG02**

#### **Relocation of FIRM Provisions Relating to GSA’s Role in the Records Management Program**

**AGENCY:** Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA.

**ACTION:** Interim rule; extension of expiration date.

**SUMMARY:** The General Services Administration (GSA) is extending the expiration date of an interim rule on Federal Property Management Regulations provisions regarding records management.

**DATES:** *Effective date:* The interim rule published at 61 FR 41000 was effective August 8, 1996.

*Expiration Date:* The expiration date of the interim rule published at 61 FR 41000 is extended through December 31, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** R. Stewart Randall, Jr. Office of Governmentwide Policy, telephone 202-501-4469.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FPMR interim rule B-1 was published in the **Federal Register** on August 7, 1996, 61 FR 41000. The expiration of the interim rule was December 31, 1997. A supplement published in the **Federal Register** on October 31, 1997, 62 FR 58922, extended the expiration date through December 31, 1998. Another supplement was published in the **Federal Register** on January 19, 1999, 64 FR 2857, that extended the expiration date through December 31, 1999. This supplement further extends the expiration date through December 31, 2000.

#### List of Subjects in 41 CFR part 101-11

Archives and records, Computer technology, Telecommunications, Government procurement, Property management, Records management, and Federal information processing resources activities.

Therefore the expiration date for interim rule B-1 adding 41 CFR part 101-11 published at 61 FR 41000, August 7, 1996, and extended until December 31, 1999 at 64 FR 2857, January 19, 1999, is further extended until December 31, 2000.

Dated: October 26, 1999.

**David J. Barram,**

*Administrator of General Services.*

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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Parts 54 and 69

[CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262; FCC 99-290]

### Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Access Charge Reform

**AGENCY:** Federal Communications Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document concerning the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service: Access Charge Reform adopts modifications to the Commission's rules consistent with the portions of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit decision concerning the assessment and recovery of universal service contributions, and the Lifeline program.

**DATES:** Effective November 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jack Zinman, Attorney, Common Carrier Bureau, Accounting Policy Division, (202) 418-7400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This is a summary of the Commission's Sixteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, Eighth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Sixth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-262 released on October 8, 1999. The full text of this document is available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Reference Center, Room CY-A257, 445 Twelfth Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20554.

#### I. Introduction

1. On July 30, 1999, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a decision affirming in part, remanding in part, and reversing in part the Commission's May 8, 1997 *Universal Service Order*, 62 FR 32862 (June 17, 1997). Several of the court's rulings in that decision affect the assessment and recovery of universal service contributions, as well as the Commission's Lifeline program for low-income consumers. The court's mandate from the decision is scheduled to take effect on November 1, 1999. Accordingly, in this Order, we adopt modifications to our rules consistent with those portions of the court's decision concerning the assessment and recovery of universal service contributions, and the Lifeline program. These rule changes shall become effective on November 1, 1999.

2. This Order reflects our effort to respond promptly to the court's forthcoming mandate. The actions we take are transitional in view of the limited time and data available to us in implementing the court's mandate that we change our rules and past practices by a specific date. In view of these constraints, our actions represent our best effort to take short-term action, subject to later refinement if necessary, in order to assure compliance with the court's mandate.

#### II. Opinion by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals

3. Numerous parties filed petitions for review of the Commission's Universal Service Order. Those petitions were consolidated before the Fifth Circuit, which issued an opinion on July 30, 1999. In response to the arguments of Petitioner COMSAT Corporation (COMSAT), the court reversed and remanded to the Commission for further consideration the Commission's decision to assess contributions based on contributors' combined interstate and international revenues. COMSAT did not challenge the Commission's jurisdiction to include international revenues in calculating carriers' contributions. COMSAT argued, however, that including the international revenues of interstate carriers in the revenue base was unreasonable for carriers such as COMSAT whose interstate revenues account for a small percentage of their total annual revenues and whose annual contribution to universal service would exceed their annual interstate revenues. COMSAT argued, and the court agreed, that this result is contrary to the statutory requirement in section 254(d) of the Act, that contributions be made on an "equitable and nondiscriminatory basis." Specifically, the court found that the Commission failed to demonstrate how requiring COMSAT to pay more in universal service contributions than it derives in interstate revenues satisfies the "equitable" language of section 254(d). Additionally, the court criticized the contribution requirement at issue as "discriminatory" under section 254(d), on the basis that the application of that requirement "damages some international carriers like COMSAT more than it harms others." Accordingly, the court reversed and remanded for further consideration the Commission's decision to assess the international revenues of interstate carriers.

4. With respect to the Commission's methodology for assessing contributions for the universal service support mechanisms for schools and libraries, and rural health care providers, the court found that the Commission had exceeded its jurisdictional authority by assessing contributions for those programs based, in part, on the intrastate revenues of universal service contributors. Accordingly, the court reversed the Commission's decision to include intrastate revenues in the contribution base for the schools and libraries, and rural health care support mechanisms.