

requirements. As such, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that a technical correction is not a "significant regulatory action" subject to review by OMB under Executive Order 12866, entitled *Regulatory Planning and Review* (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993). Nor does this final rule contain any information collection requirements that require review and approval by OMB pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Because this action is not economically significant as defined by section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, this action is not subject to Executive Order 13045, entitled *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks* (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997). This action will not result in environmental justice related issues and does not, therefore, require special consideration under Executive Order 12898, entitled *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

Since the Agency has made a "good cause" finding that this action is not subject to notice-and-comment requirements under the APA or any other statute (see Unit II.B.), this action is not subject to provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), or to sections 202 and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) (Public Law 104-4). In addition, this action does not significantly or uniquely affect small governments or impose a significant intergovernmental mandate, as described in sections 203 and 204 of UMRA.

This final rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States or on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the national government and the States or one or more Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government or between the Federal government and Indian tribes. As such, this action have any "tribal implications" as described in Executive Order 13175, entitled *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (65 FR 67249, November 6, 2000), or any "federalism implications" as described in Executive Order 13132, entitled *Federalism* (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999).

This action does not involve any technical standards that require the Agency's consideration of voluntary consensus standards pursuant to section 12(d) of the National Technology

Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA), Public Law 104-113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note).

In issuing this final rule, EPA has taken the necessary steps to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize potential litigation, and provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct, as required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988, entitled *Civil Justice Reform* (61 FR 4729, February 7, 1996).

EPA has complied with Executive Order 12630, entitled *Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights* (53 FR 8859, March 15, 1988), by examining the takings implications of this rule in accordance with the "Attorney General's Supplemental Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings" issued under the Executive Order.

For information about the applicability of the regulatory assessment requirements to the final rule that was issued on September 29, 1999 (64 FR 52450), please refer to the discussion in Unit VIII. of that document.

IV. 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 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**. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: March 12, 2001.

James Jones.

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, 40 CFR chapter I is amended as follows:

PART 180—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 321(q), 346(a) and 371.

2. By withdrawing the final rule correction to § 180.377(b) as published in the **Federal Register** of September 27, 2000 (65 FR 57956) (FRL-6741-3).

3. In § 180.377, by revising paragraph (a)(2) and by adding text to paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 180.377 Diflubenzuron; tolerances for residues.

(a)***

(2) Tolerances are established for residues of the insecticide diflubenzuron (*N*-[[4-chlorophenyl]amino]-carbonyl]-2,6-difluorobenzamide) and its metabolites 4-chlorophenylurea and 4-chloroaniline on rice grain at 0.02 ppm and rice straw at 0.8 ppm.

(b) *Section 18 emergency exemptions.* Time-limited tolerances are established for residues of diflubenzuron and its metabolites, PCA (4-chloroaniline) and CPU (4-chlorophenylurea), expressed as the parent diflubenzuron, in connection with use of this pesticide under a section 18 emergency exemption granted by EPA. The tolerances will expire on the dates specified in the following table:

Commodity	Parts per million	Expiration/revocation date
Pears	0.5	3/31/01

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket No. 96-45; FCC 01-85]

Petition for Reconsideration Filed by AT&T

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; petition for reconsideration.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission denies AT&T's Petition for Reconsideration to adopt a proposal to base contributions on current revenues. The Commission concludes that under this proposal, the contribution factor is set using prior-year revenues, but carriers contribute based on application of this contribution factor to their current revenues.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Smith, Attorney, Common

Carrier Bureau, Accounting Policy Division, (202) 418-7400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45 released on March 14, 2001. 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, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

1. The Commission denies AT&T's Petition for Reconsideration at this time to adopt a proposal to base contributions on current revenues. The Commission concludes that under this proposal, the contribution factor is set using prior-year revenues, but carriers contribute based on application of this contribution factor to their current revenues. This proposal would increase reporting burdens on carriers by requiring carriers to file revenue information 13 times per year within very short timeframes. We agree with the majority of commenters that this proposal would be unduly burdensome on carriers, particularly smaller carriers. We also have concerns that the adoption of this proposal might affect the sufficiency of the universal service fund and require the collection of a reserve fund to protect against a fund shortfall. For these reasons, we decline to adopt this proposal at this time and deny AT&T's petition.

2. The Commission will send a copy of this Order in a report to be sent to Congress pursuant to the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, *see* 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A). In addition, the Commission will send a copy of the Order to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration. A copy of the Order and FRFA (or summaries thereof) will also be published in the **Federal Register**. *See* 5 U.S.C. 604(b).

I. Ordering Clauses

3. Pursuant to the authority contained in sections 4(i), 4(j), 254, and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, this Order on Reconsideration is adopted.

4. The Petition for Reconsideration filed on March 1, 2000 by AT&T is denied.

5. The Commission's Consumer Information Bureau, Reference Information Center shall send a copy of this Order on Reconsideration to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

List of Subjects 47 CFR Part 54

Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Telecommunications, Telephone.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[CC Docket No. 96-45; FCC 01-85]

Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Commission modifies the existing methodology used to assess contributions that carriers make to the federal universal service support mechanisms. Specifically, the Commission modifies the existing contribution methodology to reduce the interval between the accrual of revenues and the assessment of universal service contributions based on those revenues. Currently, contributions to the federal universal service support mechanisms are based on carriers' interstate and international end-user telecommunications revenues from the prior year. With this modification, the Commission shortens the interval between the accrual of revenues and assessment based on those revenues by six months.

DATES: Effective April 23, 2001.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Commission's Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45 released on March 14, 2001. 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, SW., Washington, DC 20554.

I. Introduction

1. In this Order, we modify the existing methodology used to assess contributions that carriers make to the federal universal service support mechanisms. Specifically, we modify the existing contribution methodology to reduce the interval between the accrual of revenues and the assessment of universal service contributions based on those revenues. Currently, contributions to the federal universal

service support mechanisms are based on carriers' interstate and international end-user telecommunications revenues from the prior year. With this modification, we shorten the interval between the accrual of revenues and assessment based on those revenues by six months.

2. By reducing the interval between the accrual and assessment of revenues for contributions to the universal service fund, the revised methodology will improve upon the existing methodology by basing assessments on revenue data that are more reflective of current market conditions. As a result, the revised contribution methodology will prevent the possibility that certain carriers will be at a competitive disadvantage as market conditions change. By our action today, we ensure that the assessment of contributions to the federal universal service support mechanisms remains competitively neutral, and that the mechanisms continue to meet the statutory requirement of section 254(d) to be specific, predictable, and sufficient.

3. Although the action we take today improves the operation of the current universal service assessment methodology, we believe that more fundamental modifications may be warranted to simplify the way in which carriers contribute to the universal service mechanisms. Accordingly, very shortly we intend to initiate a proceeding to seek comment on whether and how to modify our rules related to carriers' recovery of their universal service contribution obligations to simplify the process for carriers and consumers and ensure that the universal service fund remains sufficient and predictable.

II. Discussion

4. We modify the existing contribution methodology to significantly reduce the current interval between the accrual of revenues and the assessment of universal service contributions based on those revenues. Although we continue to believe that the current methodology is competitively neutral and satisfies the requirements of the Act, we conclude that reducing this interval will be superior to the current methodology by basing assessments on revenue data that are more reflective of current market conditions, without significantly increasing administrative costs for carriers and USAC. The shortened interval will allow contributions to better reflect market trends influencing carriers' revenues, such as the entry of new providers into the interstate marketplace. As a result, the revised