



OFFICE OF ADVOCACY *FACTSHEET*

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Advocacy Asks FCC to Consider Impact of Verizon's Petition on Small Entities

On March 8, 2005, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a reply comment with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging the FCC to conduct an analysis consistent with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) when considering Verizon's Petition for Forbearance. A complete copy of Advocacy's comments may be accessed at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/>.

- On December 20, 2004, Verizon filed a petition under Section 10 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 asking the FCC to forbear from applying Title II regulations and the *Computer Inquiry* rules to broadband services offered by Verizon. Section 10 allows the Commission to forbear from applying any regulation to a telecommunications carrier if the FCC determines that: (1) enforcement of the regulation is not necessary to ensure that the charges and practices are just and reasonable and are not unreasonably discriminatory; (2) enforcement is not necessary for the protection of consumers; and (3) forbearance is consistent with the public interest.
- Advocacy believes the FCC should consider the impact on small businesses when considering Verizon's petition. A thorough economic impact analysis will assist the FCC in answering whether or not a Section 10 petition is in the public interest.
- Advocacy encourages the FCC to reach out to small entities, especially small Internet Service Providers, to determine the impact on them from Verizon's Petition. The FCC can draw a significant amount of information from the initial comments from small ISPs, including the numbers of small ISPs affected and some general information on how they are affected.
- The RFA and Executive Order 13272 require government agencies to analyze the impact of proposed and final rules on small entities and consider less burdensome alternatives. Likewise, Advocacy encourages small businesses to collect impact information and submit it to the Commission.

For more information, visit Advocacy's website at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/> or contact Eric Menge at (202) 205-6949.