

Advocacy Urges FCC to Open a Rulemaking on Copper Retirement

On May 10, 2007, Advocacy filed a letter with the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission”) in response to the increase in copper retirement petitions before the FCC. Advocacy urged the Commission to open a rulemaking on copper retirement to provide small businesses with a clear channel in which they can voice their concerns on this issue. A complete copy of Advocacy’s letter may be accessed at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/>.

- The rapid increase in copper retirement petitions may have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses. Many small competitive local exchange carriers currently utilize this copper and are experimenting with new ways to offer advanced services. Therefore, a rulemaking would make public the Commission’s analysis on how the increased approval of copper petitions will affect the competitive environment of the U.S. telecommunications market. Based upon input from small businesses, the FCC will be better able to discuss feasible alternatives and make a more balanced decision on this issue.
- A rulemaking will provide small businesses a clear way in which to channel their comments on this issue. Many small businesses do not have the time and resources to track down each individual copper retirement petition as it is filed, particularly small, rural companies outside of Washington, D.C. As such, providing a notice and comment period to address the issues related to copper retirement will create a proper forum where businesses, academics, and other interested parties can provide key data to assist the Commission in addressing copper retirement.
- Opening a rulemaking will foster greater transparency on this issue. Because the telecommunications infrastructure is experiencing unprecedented changes, it is important that a complete public record exist to discuss and document the economic and policy drivers of FCC decision-making.

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