

minimum number of hopping channels. For frequency hopping systems employing channel bandwidths of 250 kHz or greater, we propose to reduce the minimum number of hopping channels to 25. Consistent with this plan, we are also proposing to modify the maximum average time of occupancy on any hopping frequency to 0.4 seconds in any 10 second period to correspond to the reduction in the number of hopping channels. Comments are also requested as to whether the rules should specify a formula for the minimum number of hopping channels based on the amount by which the bandwidth of the hopping channel exceeds 250 kHz.

7. Further, in order to reduce the potential for interference due to the smaller number of hopping channels, we propose to require that frequency hopping spread spectrum systems in the 915 MHz band that use fewer than 50 hopping channels operate with a maximum peak transmitter output power of 500 mW.

8. We are also denying the Petition for Rule Making from Symbol to reduce the minimum number of hopping channels for frequency hopping spread spectrum systems operating in the 2450 MHz or 5800 MHz bands.

9. There are also several additional regulations concerning Part 15 spread spectrum transmission systems that need to be clarified, codified or amended. They are Spectral power density, Short duration transmissions, Measurement of processing gain, Limits on unwanted emissions, Frequency hopping coordination, External radio frequency power amplifiers, Transition provisions, Definition of direct sequence and Pseudorandom sequence and frequency hopping systems. These are discussed in more detail in the full text of the Commission's *NPRM*, ET Docket 96-8.

#### Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

1. *Reason for Action:* This rule making proceeding is initiated to obtain comment regarding proposed changes to the regulations for non-licensed spread spectrum transmitters.

2. *Objectives:* The Commission seeks to determine if the standards should be amended as sought in Petitions for Rule Making filed by WMC, Symbol and SpectraLink. Additional amendments are also proposed to clarify the existing regulations and to codify existing policies into the rules.

3. *Legal Basis:* The proposed action is authorized under Sections 4(i), 301, 302, 303(e), 303(f), 303(r), 304 and 307 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Sections 154(i), 301, 302, 303(e), 303(f), 303(r), 304 and 307.

4. *Reporting, Recordkeeping and Other Compliance Requirements:* Part 15 spread spectrum transmitters are already required to be authorized under the Commission's certification procedure as a prerequisite to marketing and importation. The changes proposed in this proceeding would not change any of the current reporting or recordkeeping requirements. Further, the proposed regulations add permissible methods of operation and would not require the modification of any existing products.

5. *Federal Rules Which Overlap, Duplicate or Conflict With These Rules:* None.

6. *Description, Potential Impact and Number of Small Entities Involved:* The actions proposed in this proceeding add permissible methods of operation and will not require the modification of any existing products. Accordingly, there should be no mandatory impact on any small entities.

7. *Any Significant Alternatives Minimizing the Impact on Small Entities Consistent with Stated Objectives:* None.

#### List of Subjects

##### 47 CFR Part 2

Communications equipment, Radio.

##### 47 CFR Part 15

Communications equipment, Radio.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

*Acting Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-8386 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

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#### 47 CFR Parts 36 and 69

[CC Docket No. 96-45; DA-96-483]

#### Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule: extension of time.

SUMMARY: On April 1, 1996, the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") released an Order ("Order") extending the deadline for filing comments to its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order Establishing Joint Board, released March 8, 1996 (CC Docket No. 96-45). Previously, comments were due April 8, 1996 and reply comments were due May 3, 1996. The Order extends the comment deadline to April 12, 1996 and extends the reply comment deadline to May 7, 1996. This extension will allow

interested parties additional time to file comments and reply comments.

DATES: Comments are due on or before April 12, 1996. Reply comments are due on or before May 7, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah A. Dupont, Senior Attorney, 202 418-0850, Accounting and Audits Division, Common Carrier Bureau.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 8, 1996, the Federal Communications Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order Establishing Joint Board ("NPRM"), 61 FR 10,499. The Commission sought comment on all matters discussed in that NPRM. The deadline for comments was April 8, 1996 and the deadline for reply comments was May 3, 1996. On April 1, 1996, the Commission released an Order that denied the joint request of the following groups for a thirty-day extension of both the comment deadline and the reply comment deadline: the Consumer Federation of America; Alliance for Community Media; American Library Association; Benton Foundation; Center for Media Information; Consortium for School Networking; National Education Association; National School Boards Association; People for the American Way Action Fund; United Church of Christ, Office of Communications; and United States Catholic Conference. However, the Order extends the comment period until April 12, 1996 and the reply comment period until May 7, 1996 for all interested parties.

Federal Communications Commission.

Kenneth P. Moran,

*Chief, Accounting and Audits Division, Common Carrier Bureau.*

[FR Doc. 96-8536 Filed 4-2-96; 4:21 pm]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

##### Surface Transportation Board

##### 49 CFR Part 1002

[STB Ex Parte No. 542]

#### Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed In Connection With Licensing and Related Services—1996 Update

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.