announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before May 26, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Please address written comments to Rick McAleer, Export-Import Bank of the United States, 811 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20571, (202) 565–3958.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Copies of these submissions and any additional information may be obtained from Dan Garcia, Export-Import Bank of the United States, 811 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20571, (202) 565–3355.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract: OMB 3048–0005: Two applications fall under this collection. EIB–95–9 is the Ex-Im Bank Letter of Interest Application Form and EIB–95–10 is the Ex-Im Bank Preliminary Commitment and Final Commitment Application Form. There is no change to EIB–95–9 other than a three-year extension of the expiration date. EIB–95–10 is being changed to incorporate additional information requirements that had been requested later in the application process. OMB 3048–0009: Nine applications fall under this collection, only one is being changed (EIB–92–48, Ex-Im Bank Application for Medium-Term Export Credit Insurance). Like, EIB–95–10, EIB–92–48 is being changed to incorporate additional information requirements that had originally been requested later in the application process. The purpose of these application changes is to improve the processing time by requesting all necessary information up-front.

Burden Statement Summary:

Type of request: Revision and extension of expiration date.

OMB Number: 3048–0005 and 3048–0009.

Form Number: EIB–95–9; EIB–95–10; and EIB–92–48.

Title: EIB–95–9—Ex-Im Bank Letter of Interest Application Form; EIB–95–10—Ex-IM Bank Preliminary Commitment and Final Commitment Application Form; and EIB–92–48—Application for Medium-Term Export Credit Insurance.

Frequency of Use: Submission of Applications

Respondents: Any U.S. or foreign bank, other financial institution, other responsible party including the exporter or creditworthy borrowers in a country eligible for Ex-Im Bank assistance.

Estimated total number of annual responses: EIB–95–9:900, EIB–95–10: 550, EIB–92–48: 550.

Estimated total number of hours needed to fill out the form: EIB–95–9: 300, EIB–95–10: 825, EIB–92–48: 825.

Dated: March 23, 1998.

Dan Garcia,

Agency Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 98–8015 Filed 3–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6690–01–M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[CC Docket No. 87–313; DA 98–484]

Accounting and Audits Division

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Public Notice invites interested parties to comment on a proposal of numerous modifications to the ARMIS Report 43–07 Infrastructure Report. These modifications would reflect recent changes in the telecommunications industry and capture a more accurate picture of the infrastructure deployed in the public network, particularly in rural areas. The proposed modifications are organized according to each table in the ARMIS Infrastructure Report. Our goal is to improve the Commission's existing infrastructure monitoring system so that the Commission, the states, and other interested parties will have the data necessary to make informed decisions and to track the deployment of new technologies.

DATES: Comments are to be filed on or before April 24, 1998. Reply comments are due on or before May 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW., Washington, DC 20052.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony Dale, Common Carrier Bureau, Accounting and Audits Division, (202) 418–2260, or via E-mail to ''dbyrd@fcc.gov''.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Common Carrier Bureau (''the Bureau'') is considering modifications to the Commission's primary tool for assessing infrastructure development in the Automated Reporting Management Information System (''ARMIS''), the ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report. These modifications would reflect recent changes in the telecommunications industry and capture a more accurate picture of the infrastructure deployed in the public network, particularly in rural areas. The ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report illustrates the deployment of infrastructure in the networks of mandatory price cap local exchange carriers (''LECs'') by collecting four categories of data: (1) switching equipment; (2) transmission facilities; (3) call set-up time; and (4) plant additions and book costs. The ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report is organized into four tables, one for each category of data.

2. The proposed modifications are organized according to each table in the ARMIS Infrastructure Report. Our goal is to improve the Commission's existing infrastructure monitoring system so that the Commission, the states, and other interested parties will have the data necessary to make informed decisions and to track the deployment of new technologies.

Table I—Switching Equipment Reporting

3. *Asynchronous Transfer Mode Switching.* Table I of ARMIS Report 43–07 provides data on the quantity, features, and number of lines served for three types of switches: (1) electromechanical switches, (2) analog stored program control switches, and (3) digital stored program control switches. Information on switches capable of transmitting the Asynchronous Transfer Mode (''ATM'') protocol is not included in this report. Because ATM is a new technology that carriers are deploying in their networks, we propose including information for ATM switches in Table I, and we seek comment on the characteristics of ATM that carriers should provide in the ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report.

4. *Switched Multi-megabit Data Service and Frame Relay Service.* Switched multi-megabit data service (''SMDS'') and frame relay service are high-speed data telecommunications services built upon packet-switching technology. These services are widely offered to business customers for high-volume usage. We propose that carriers report data on SMDS and frame relay services in Table I of the ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report and seek comment on which characteristics of switches used to provide SMDS and frame relay services carriers should report.

Table II—Transmission Facilities Reporting

5. Table II of the ARMIS Report 43–07 includes information about existing transmission facilities, which are components of the telecommunications network that physically link nodes in the network. Transmission facilities are used to carry voice, video, and data traffic. Carriers use either analog or digital technology on copper wire, coaxial cable, fiber, radio, and other media.

6. *Rural Transmission Facilities.* Although mandatory price cap carriers disaggregate reported data to reflect MSA and non-MSA categories in Table I of ARMIS Report 43–07, Table II does not require carriers to disaggregate data by MSA and non-MSA categories. Because the reporting carriers do not distinguish between rural and urban transmission facilities, the Commission cannot assess the deployment of advanced telecommunications infrastructure or compare rural and urban infrastructure development. Therefore, we propose modifying Table II of ARMIS Report 43–07 to require carriers to report data disaggregated by MSA and non-MSA. We seek comment on whether this level of disaggregation will assist the Commission and other interested parties in measuring the deployment of advanced telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas, or whether we should consider a greater level of detail.

7. *Coaxial Cable.* In the first section of Table II, ''Sheath Kilometers,'' carriers report data for three categories of cable: (1) twisted pair copper; (2) fiber; and (3) other. Coaxial cable is currently included in the ''Other'' category. Coaxial cable is being deployed to provide telecommunications services to the public. Our existing reporting requirements do not provide the extent of coaxial cable deployed in the network. Including coaxial cable as a separate category would allow the Commission to monitor the use of that technology in competition with traditional transmission facilities. We propose modifying Table II so that carriers report coaxial cable separately as a discrete category instead of the aggregated ''Other'' category. We seek comment on this proposal.

8. *Interoffice Working Facilities.* In the ''Interoffice Working Facilities'' section of Table II, fiber is reported under the heading ''Digital Carrier Links.'' Fiber is frequently used in metropolitan areas to transmit analog video signals. Currently, Table II does not contain a separate row that reports how much interoffice fiber is used for analog transmission. We propose including a row that would contain this information. We solicit comment on this proposal.

9. *Loop Plant-Central Office Terminations.* In the ''Loop Plant-Central Office Terminations'' section of Table II carriers report fiber used in digital mode, but not fiber used in an analog mode. Adding a category for reporting fiber used in an analog mode would provide a better picture of infrastructure development and permit benchmarking. We propose that, in addition to reporting fiber interoffice working facilities used for analog transmission as mentioned above, carriers should report on fiber loops used for analog transmission. We solicit comment on this proposal.

10. *Digital Loop Carrier.* For a number of years, carriers have been using digital loop carrier (''DLC'') systems to reduce the cost of serving subscribers. The expanding deployment of digital end office switches has fostered the development and deployment of a new version of DLC, called Integrated Digital Loop Carrier (''IDLC''), which allows carriers to serve even more subscribers with fewer transmission paths. IDLC, which is generally deployed over fiber-optic cable, provides high-capacity transmission facilities closer to subscribers, so that these subscribers can use advanced telecommunications services. We propose requiring carriers to report data about DLC and IDLC deployment in the ''Loop Plant-Central Office Terminations'' section of Table II. Information about DLC and IDLC deployment would assist the Commission and the states in monitoring the development of new technologies used in the local loop. We seek comment on this proposal and on categories of data that would provide an accurate picture of DLC and IDLC deployment without placing an undue administrative burden on the reporting LECs.

11. *Other Transmission Facility Data.* In the *Universal Service Order*, the Commission adopted rules that provide schools and libraries discounts on all commercially available telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections. (*See* Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, *Report and Order*, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, paras. 424–607 (1997)(62 FR 32862, June 17, 1997). The Commission also adopted rules that provide support to rural health care providers for toll-free Internet access and telecommunications services up to a bandwidth of 1.544 megabits per second. The Commission has noted an increasing interest in the use of the public network for transmitting data and accessing the Internet. Because there is no national standard for the performance of subscriber loops in transmitting data, our existing reporting requirements do not provide us information to assess the ability of subscribers to access the Internet and use high-speed data communications services. In order to have a more complete picture of the capabilities of the existing infrastructure and to measure the extent of access to information services, we propose that carriers should be required to report in the ''Other Transmission Facility Data'' section of Table II a count of the number of working subscriber loops capable of carrying analog data at 9.6 kilobits per second; a count of working subscriber loops capable of carrying analog data at 28.8 kilobits per second; and a count of working subscriber loops capable of carrying digital data at 64 kilobits per second. We seek comment on whether these categories will provide the necessary level of detail, or whether we should consider additional categories to illustrate data communications capabilities in the local loop. In addition, because we recognize that incumbent LECs may not currently maintain records at this level of detail, we invite interested parties to comment on the engineering methods and monitoring equipment carriers could use to accurately measure the performance capability of local loops, and the cost of obtaining this information.

Table III—LEC Set-up Time Reporting

12. Table III of the ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report provides information about LEC call set-up time for calls delivered by the LEC to interexchange carriers. LEC call set-up time reporting measures the time from when the customer completes dialing until the call reaches an interexchange carrier. This table may be irrelevant given the wide deployment of new technologies, such as SS7 network capabilities and ISDN, that greatly reduce call set-up time. We propose removing this table from the ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure report.

Table IV—Additions and Book Costs

13. In Table IV of the ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report, carriers report data concerning access lines in service, access line gain, and total gross capital expenditures. Because this information is reported in other ARMIS reports, or can be extrapolated from existing reports, we propose modifying the ARMIS 43–07 Infrastructure Report to eliminate Table IV. Commission staff would still be able to ascertain this information, so eliminating this table would not inhibit the Commission's ability to monitor the development of infrastructure in the network.

14. *Paperwork Reduction Act.* As part of a continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, we invite the general public to take this opportunity to comment on information collections contained in this Public Notice, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law No. 104–13. Public and agency comments are due at

the same time as other comments on this Public Notice. Comments should address: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

15. *Filing Procedures.* Interested parties may file comments no later than *April 24, 1998.* Reply comments may be filed no later than *May 15, 1998.* All pleadings should reference AAD File No. 98–23. The original and six copies should be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission; one copy should be submitted to Anthony Dale, Accounting and Audits Division, Common Carrier Bureau, 2000 L Street, Suite 201, Washington, DC 20554. Comments and replies must also comply with Section 1.49 and all other applicable sections of the Commission's Rules. We also direct all interested parties to include the name of the filing party and the date of the filing on each page of their comments and replies. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be filed with International Transcription Services (ITS), the Commission's duplicating contractor, at its office at 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 857–3800. All pleadings are available for public inspection and copying in the Accounting and Audits public reference room.

Action by the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC.

Federal Communications Commission.

Kenneth P. Moran,

Chief, Accounting and Audits Division, Common Carrier Bureau.

[FR Doc. 98–7987 Filed 3–26–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Public Information Collections Approved by Office of Management and Budget

March 24, 1998.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the following public information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. For further information contact Shoko B. Hair, Federal Communications Commission, (202) 418–1379.

Federal Communications Commission

OMB Control No.: 3060–0823.

Expiration Date: 09/30/98.

Title: Pay Telephone Reclassification Memorandum Opinion and Order, CC Docket No. 96–128.

Form No.: N/A.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities.

Estimated Annual Burden: 400 respondents; 111.7 hours per response (avg.); 44,700 total annual burden hours.

Estimated Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden: $0.

Frequency of Response: On occasion, monthly, quarterly, annually, one-time.

Description: In the Payphone Orders, the Commission adopted new rules and policies governing the payphone industry to implement Section 276 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Those rules and policies in part establish a plan to ensure fair compensation for ''each and every completed intrastate and interstate call using [a] payphone.'' Specifically, the Commission established a plan to ensure that payphone service providers (PSPs) were compensated for certain noncoin calls originated from their payphones. As part of this plan, the Commission required that by October 7, 1997, LECs provide payphone-specific coding digits to PSPs, and that PSPs provide those digits from their payphones to IXCs. The provision of payphone-specific coding digits is a prerequisite to payphone per-call compensation payments by IXCs to PSPs for subscriber 800 and access code calls. The Common Carrier Bureau, on its own motion, subsequently provided a waiver until March 9, 1998, for those payphones for which the necessary coding digits were not provided to identify calls. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) (released March 9, 1998), we clarify the requirements established in the Payphone Orders for the provision for payphone-specific coding digits and for tariffs that LECs must file pursuant to the Payphone Orders. We also grant a waiver of Part 69 of the Commission's rules so that LECs can establish rate elements to recover the costs of implementing FLEX ANI to provide payphone-specific coding digits for per-call compensation. The Commission in the Memorandum Opinion and Order, therefore, is effecting the following collections of information made in regard to information disclosures required in the Payphone Orders to implement Section 276 of the Act. The collection requirements are as follows: a. LEC Tariff to provide FLEX ANI to IXCs: The MO&O requires that local exchange carriers (LECs) implement FLEX ANI to comply with the requirements set forth in the Payphone Orders. LECs must provide to IXCs through their interstate tariffs, FLEX ANI service so that IXCs can identify which calls come from a payphone. LECs (and PSPs) must provide FLEX ANI to IXCs without charge for the limited purpose of per-call compensation, and accordingly, LECs providing FLEX ANI must revise their interstate tariffs to reflect FLEX ANI as a nonchargeable option to IXCs no later than March 30, 1998, to be effective no later than April 15, 1998, in those areas that it is available. (*No. of respondents:* 400; *hours per response:* 35 hours; *total annual burden:* 14,000 hours.) b. LEC Tariff to recover costs: LECs must file a tariff to establish a rate element in their interstate tariffs to recover their costs from PSPs for providing payphone-specific coding digits to IXCs. This tariff must reflect the costs of implementing FLEX ANI to provide payphone-specific coding digits for payphone compensation, and provide for recovery of such costs over a reasonable time period through a monthly recurring flat-rate charge. LECs must provide cost support information for the rate elements they propose. The Bureau will review these LEC rate element tariff filings, the reasonableness of the costs, and the recovery period. LECs will recover their costs over an amortization period of no more than ten years. The rate element charges will discontinue when the LEC has recovered its cost. (*No. of respondents:* 400; *hours per response:* 35 hours; *total annual burden* 14,000 hours.) c. LECs must provide IXCs information on payphones that provide payphone-specific coding digits for smart and dumb payphones: LECs must provide IXCs information on the number and location of smart and dumb payphones providing payphone-specific coding digits, as well as the number of those that are not. (*No. of respondents:* 400; *hours per response:* 24 hours; *total annual burden:* 9600 hours.) d. LECs must provide IXCs and PSPs information on where FLEX ANI is available now and when it is to be scheduled in the future: Within 30 days of the release of the MO&O, LECs should be prepared to provide IXCs, upon request, information regarding