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(g) The Office of Inspector General shall review the audit findings and audit workpapers and offer its recommendations concerning the conduct of the audit or the audit findings to the independent auditor. Exceptions of the Office of Inspector General to the findings and conclusions of the independent auditor that remain unresolved shall be included in the final audit report.

(h) Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receiving the Office of Inspector General's recommendations and making any revisions to the audit report, the Administrator shall instruct the independent auditor to submit the audit report to the Administrator for its response to the audit findings. At this time the auditor also must send copies of its audit findings to the Office of Inspector General. The Administrator shall provide the independent auditor time to perform additional audit work recommended by the Office of Inspector General.

(i) Within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving the audit report, the Administrator shall respond to the audit findings and send copies of its response to the Office of Inspector General. The Administrator shall instruct the independent auditor that any reply that the independent auditor wishes to make to the Administrator's responses shall be sent to the Office of Inspector General as well as the Administrator. The Administrator's response and the independent auditor's replies shall be included in the final audit report;

(j) Within ten (10) calendar days after receiving the response of the Administrator, the independent auditor shall file with the Commission the final audit report.

(k) Based on the final audit report, the Inspector General may take any action necessary to ensure that the universal service support mechanisms operate in a manner consistent with the requirements of this Part, as well as such other action as is deemed necessary and in the public interest.

[67 FR 13227, Mar. 21, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 18907, Apr. 17, 2003; 71 FR 38267, July 6, 2006]

Subpart I—Review of Decisions Issued by the Administrator

§ 54.719 Parties permitted to seek review of Administrator decisions.

(a) Any person aggrieved by an action taken by a division of the Administrator, as defined in § 54.701(g), may seek review from the appropriate Committee of the Board, as defined in § 54.705.

(b) Any person aggrieved by an action taken by the Administrator pertaining to a billing, collection or disbursement matter that falls outside the jurisdiction of the Committees of the Board may seek review from the Board of Directors of the Administrator, as defined in § 54.703.

(c) Any person aggrieved by an action taken by a division of the Administrator, as defined in § 54.701(g), a Committee of the Board of the Administrator, as defined in § 54.705, or the Board of Directors of the Administrator, as defined in § 54.703, may seek review from the Federal Communications Commission, as set forth in § 54.722.

[63 FR 70577, Dec. 21, 1998]

§ 54.720 Filing deadlines.

(a) An affected party requesting review of an Administrator decision by the Commission pursuant to § 54.719(c), shall file such a request within sixty (60) days of the issuance of the decision by a division or Committee of the Board of the Administrator.

(b) An affected party requesting review of a division decision by a Committee of the Board pursuant to § 54.719(a), shall file such request within sixty (60) days of issuance of the decision by the division.

(c) An affected party requesting review by the Board of Directors pursuant to § 54.719(b) regarding a billing, collection, or disbursement matter that falls outside the jurisdiction of the Committees of the Board shall file such request within sixty (60) days of issuance of the Administrator's decision.

(d) The filing of a request for review with a Committee of the Board under § 54.719(a) or with the full Board under § 54.719(b), shall toll the time period for

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seeking review from the Federal Communications Commission. Where the time for filing an appeal has been tolled, the party that filed the request for review from a Committee of the Board or the full Board shall have sixty (60) days from the date the Committee or the Board issues a decision to file an appeal with the Commission.

(e) In all cases of requests for review filed under §54.719, the request for review shall be deemed filed on the postmark date. If the postmark date cannot be determined, the applicant must file a sworn affidavit stating the date that the request for review was mailed.

(f) Parties shall adhere to the time periods for filing oppositions and replies set forth in 47 CFR 1.45.

[63 FR 70577, Dec. 21, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 36943, June 20, 2003]

§ 54.721 General filing requirements.

(a) Except as otherwise provided herein, a request for review of an Administrator decision by the Federal Communications Commission shall be filed with the Federal Communications Commission's Office of the Secretary in accordance with the general requirements set forth in part 1 of this chapter. The request for review shall be captioned "In the matter of Request for Review by (name of party seeking review) of Decision of Universal Service Administrator" and shall reference the applicable docket numbers.

(b) A request for review pursuant to §54.719(a) through (c) shall contain:

(1) A statement setting forth the party's interest in the matter presented for review;

(2) A full statement of relevant, material facts with supporting affidavits and documentation;

(3) The question presented for review, with reference, where appropriate, to the relevant Federal Communications Commission rule, Commission order, or statutory provision;

(4) A statement of the relief sought and the relevant statutory or regulatory provision pursuant to which such relief is sought.

(c) A copy of a request for review that is submitted to the Federal Communications Commission shall be served on the Administrator consistent with the requirement for service of

documents set forth in §1.47 of this chapter.

(d) If a request for review filed pursuant to §54.720(a) through (c) alleges prohibitive conduct on the part of a third party, such request for review shall be served on the third party consistent with the requirement for service of documents set forth in §1.47 of this chapter. The third party may file a response to the request for review. Any response filed by the third party shall adhere to the time period for filing replies set forth in §1.45 of this chapter and the requirement for service of documents set forth in §1.47 of this chapter.

[63 FR 70578, Dec. 21, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 36944, June 20, 2003]

§ 54.722 Review by the Wireline Competition Bureau or the Commission.

(a) Requests for review of Administrator decisions that are submitted to the Federal Communications Commission shall be considered and acted upon by the Wireline Competition Bureau; provided, however, that requests for review that raise novel questions of fact, law or policy shall be considered by the full Commission.

(b) An affected party may seek review of a decision issued under delegated authority by the Common Carrier Bureau pursuant to the rules set forth in part 1 of this chapter.

[63 FR 70578, Dec. 21, 1998, as amended at 67 FR 13228, Mar. 21, 2002]

§ 54.723 Standard of review.

(a) The Wireline Competition Bureau shall conduct *de novo* review of request for review of decisions issue by the Administrator.

(b) The Federal Communications Commission shall conduct *de novo* review of requests for review of decisions by the Administrator that involve novel questions of fact, law, or policy; provided, however, that the Commission shall not conduct *de novo* review of decisions issued by the Wireline Competition Bureau under delegated authority.

[67 FR 13228, Mar. 21, 2002]