



6712-01

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060-1252; FRS 16465]

Information Collection Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collections. Comments are requested concerning: 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; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; 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; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. If you anticipate that

you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email PRA@fcc.gov and to Nicole.ongele@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele, (202) 418-2991.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 3060-1252.

Title: Application to Participate in Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction, FCC Form 183.

Form Number: FCC Form 183.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities, Not-for-profit institutions, and State, Local or Tribal governments.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 500 respondents and 500 responses.

Estimated Time Per Response: 7 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. sections 154, 254 and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 3,500 hours.

Total Annual Costs: No cost.

Nature and Extent of Confidentiality: Although most information collected in FCC Form 183 will be made available for public inspection, the Commission will withhold certain information

collected in FCC Form 183 from routine public inspection. Specifically, the Commission will treat certain technical and financial information submitted in FCC Form 183 as confidential and as though the applicant has requested that this information be treated as confidential trade secrets and/or commercial information. In addition, an applicant may use the abbreviated process under 47 CFR § 0.459(a)(4) to request confidential treatment of certain financial information contained in its FCC Form 183 application. However, if a request for public inspection for this technical or financial information is made under 47 CFR § 0.461, and the applicant has any objections to disclosure, the applicant will be notified and will be required to justify continued confidential treatment of its request. To the extent that a respondent seeks to have other information collected in FCC Form 183 withheld from public inspection, the respondent may request confidential treatment pursuant to 47 CFR § 0.459.

Privacy Act Impact Assessment: No impact(s).

Needs and Uses: The Commission will use the information collected to determine whether applicants are eligible to participate in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. On January 30, 2020 the Commission adopted the *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order*, WC Docket Nos. 19-126, 10-90, FCC 20-5 which will commit up to \$20.4 billion over the next decade to support up to gigabit speed broadband networks in rural America. The funding will be allocated through a multi-round, reverse, descending clock auction that favors faster services with lower latency and encourages intermodal competition in order to ensure that the greatest possible number of Americans will be connected to the best possible networks, all at a competitive cost.

To implement the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction, the Commission adopted new rules for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction, including the adoption of a two-stage application process. For the Connect America Fund Phase II auction, applicants that wanted to qualify to bid in the auction were required to submit the FCC Form 183 short-form application. Because the Connect America Fund Phase II auction has ended, the Commission intends to repurpose the FCC

Form 183 for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. Any entity that wishes to participate in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction will be required to submit the FCC Form 183 short-form application to demonstrate its qualifications to bid. Accordingly, the Commission proposes to revise this collection to indicate that it now intends to collect this information pursuant to section 54.804(a) of the Commission's rules, replacing section 54.315(a) of the Commission's rules. 47 CFR 54.315(a), 54.804(a). The Commission also intends to make several revisions to FCC Form 183, including text changes to reflect the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. Based on the Commission's experience with auctions and consistent with the record, this two-stage collection of information balances the need to collect information essential to conduct a successful auction with administrative efficiency.

Under this information collection, the Commission will collect information that will be used to determine whether an applicant is legally qualified to participate in an auction for Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support. To aid in collecting this information, the Commission will use FCC Form 183, which the public will use to provide the necessary information and certifications. Commission staff will review the information collected on FCC Form 183 as part of the pre-auction process, prior to the start of the auction, and determine whether each applicant satisfies the Commission's requirements to participate in an auction for Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support. Without the information collected on FCC Form 183, the Commission will not be able

to determine if an applicant is legally qualified to participate in the auction and has complied with

the various applicable regulatory and statutory auction requirements for such participation. This approach is an appropriate assessment of providers for ensuring serious participation without being unduly burdensome.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary,

Office of the Secretary.

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