

# OPASTCO 411

VITAL INFORMATION FOR OPASTCO MEMBERS ABOUT  
THEIR INDUSTRY AND THEIR ORGANIZATION



OPASTCO

ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND ADVANCEMENT OF SMALL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

JUNE 10, 2008

## Comments on Petition on Distributing Pre-Release Movies To Set-Top Boxes Due June 25

The FCC is currently seeking comments on a petition filed by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) to waive the prohibition on multichannel video programming distributors' (MVPDs) use of selectable output controls to enable them to offer copy-protected, high definition films directly to subscribers before their release dates. MPAA explains that allowing such offerings would give consumers more choices, and help discourage unlawful copying and distribution.

Comments are due June 25. Reply comments are due July 7.

For more information, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1081A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1081A1.pdf).

## House Agriculture Appropriations Markups Set

On June 19, the House Appropriations Committee's Agriculture Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the Rural Utilities Services' (RUS) loan programs, will mark up the agriculture appropriations bill. The full House Appropriations Committee will mark up the bill on June 25. For more information, please visit <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendar.aspx>.

On March 17, OPASTCO filed testimony before the subcommittee in support of sufficient loan levels for the (RUS) telecom loan programs (411, Mar. 20). For FY 2009, OPASTCO requested loan levels of \$145 million for the Five Percent Hardship program, \$250 million for the Treasury Rate program (a.k.a. the Cost of Money program), and \$300 million for Federal Financing Bank (FFB) program guaranteed loans. OPASTCO also requested that RUS distance learning, telemedicine and broadband programs be funded at sufficient levels.

To view the testimony, visit <http://www.opastco.org/doclibrary/1490/031708-RUS-HouseTestimony.pdf>.

## FCC Seeks Comments on AT&T Cost Assignment Rule Forbearance

The FCC recently requested comments on Verizon and Qwest's petition for forbearance from certain Commission cost assignment rules, including those guiding transactions with affiliates, allocation of costs, jurisdictional separations procedures, and cost apportionment. The FCC granted such forbearance to AT&T on April 24.

Comments are due 14 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Reply comments are due 10 days thereafter.

For more information, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1361A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1361A1.pdf).

## FCC Extends Deadline on AT&T ARMIS Forbearance Request

The FCC recently extended its deadline to make a decision on AT&T's request for forbearance from rules that require the carrier to file automated reporting

## OPASTCO NEWS

### REMINDER: QUEBEC OPTIONAL TOURS REGISTRATION DUE FRIDAY

OPASTCO's 45th Annual Summer Convention and Tradeshow, which will be held from July 12-16 in Quebec City, will feature optional tours that showcase the province's unique culture and natural beauty as it celebrates its 400th anniversary: The available tours include:

#### Monday, July 14

- Discover Quebec Historical Tour
- Antique and Art Walking Tour
- Traditional Quebecois Dinner at the Sugar Shack

#### Tuesday, July 15

- Quebec's Countryside Charms Tour
- Island of Orleans Tour

#### Wednesday, July 16

- Amerindians Tradition Tour
- Shopping in Quartier Petit-Champplain

#### Thursday, July 17

- Whale Watching Excursion

To view the optional tours registration brochure, visit [www.opastco.org/doclibrary/1461/QCToursForm.pdf](http://www.opastco.org/doclibrary/1461/QCToursForm.pdf).

### OPASTCO CONVENTION ITEM SPONSORSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Item sponsorships currently available for OPASTCO's Quebec Convention include registration bag inserts, welcome gifts, the tradeshow lunch, roundtable luncheons, the chairman's reception, banquet menu cards, banquet centerpieces, the banquet entertainment, 19th hole beverages, refreshment carts, the golf lunch, tournament prizes, and golf holes.

For more information, visit [www.opastco.org/site/meetings/summer/sponsopps](http://www.opastco.org/site/meetings/summer/sponsopps).

management information system (ARMIS) reports on service quality, customer satisfaction, infrastructure and operating data.

The previous deadline was June 8. The new deadline is Sept. 6.

For more information, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1347A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1347A1.pdf).

## **FCC Publishes Statistical Report on ILECs**

The FCC recently published a statistical report containing data on more than 1,300 incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs). The report tracks trends in areas such as switched access lines, billed access minutes, outside plant, jurisdictional statistics, revenues, operating expenses and taxes. To view the report, visit [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-282813A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-282813A1.pdf).

## **Rose to Address Oklahoma State Association**

This week, OPASTCO President John Rose will address the Oklahoma Telephone Association's 2008 Summer Convention in Branson, Mo. Rose will discuss the universal service reform and intercarrier compensation debates in Washington, D.C.

## **FRED BOARD MEMBERS WANTED**

OPASTCO telcos are invited to submit a nomination for the FRED Board of Directors. One position is currently available and another will open up in January 2009. Candidates must be willing to participate in six board meetings each year, four via conference call and two during the OPASTCO conventions. No experience needed.

If you are interested, please call Melissa Korzuch, FRED Director, at 703/680-7528.

## **FRED COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS REPORT PRE-ORDERS NOW AVAILABLE**

FRED is now accepting advanced orders for its 2008 Compensation and Benefits Survey. This publication will include information on more than 65 jobs and a number of benefits areas.

To pre-order yours today, visit [http://www.fred.org/pdfs/2008\\_SalarySurvey\\_orderform.pdf](http://www.fred.org/pdfs/2008_SalarySurvey_orderform.pdf).

## **FRED ETHYL GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE**

The Ethyl Grant program offers matching grants to OPASTCO member carriers who conduct projects to improve their communities. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,500. An estimated \$10,000 in funding is available in 2008. Applications are being accepted year-round and are reviewed every few months. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in your town!

To view the application, visit [http://www.fred.org/pdfs/ethyl\\_rb\\_web.pdf](http://www.fred.org/pdfs/ethyl_rb_web.pdf).