

OPASTCO 411

VITAL INFORMATION FOR OPASTCO MEMBERS ABOUT
THEIR INDUSTRY AND THEIR ORGANIZATION



OPASTCO

ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION
AND ADVANCEMENT OF SMALL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES

MAY 1, 2008

House Net Neutrality Hearing Set for May 6

On May 6, the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet will hold a hearing on H.R. 5353, the Internet Freedom Preservation Act (411, Feb. 14). Sponsored by Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), the legislation would instruct the FCC to conduct a proceeding on whether or not broadband service providers are complying with the FCC's Internet Policy Statement (411, Sept. 27, 2005). The proceeding would assess whether or not broadband service providers charge customers fees to access particular applications and services; how traffic is managed and prioritized; the benefits of open access; whether or not greater bandwidth reduces the need for regulation; and the potential benefits of promoting openness in spectrum allocation, universal service and video franchising.

For more information, visit <http://energycommerce.house.gov/membios/schedule.shtml>.

Comments on FCC Form 477 Paperwork Requirements Due June 2

The FCC is seeking comments on the paperwork necessary to complete and submit FCC Form 477. Comments should address the accuracy of the Commission's burden assessment and methods to minimize burdens for carriers.

Comments are due June 2.

To view the *Federal Register* notice, visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-9604.pdf>.

MVPD Reporting Requirement Deadline for Leased Access Extended to July 15

The FCC recently extended the reporting deadline for multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) to submit statistics on their leased access rates, use, channel placements and complaints to July 15 (411, Feb. 8). The deadline had been May 15.

For more information, visit http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1021A1.pdf.

FCC Releases Procedures for Cellular Unserved Areas Auction

The FCC recently published procedures including filing requirements, minimum opening bids and upfront payments for its upcoming auction of cellular unserved area licenses, which is scheduled to begin June 17. The procedures include anti-collusion rule compliance requirements; the bidding methodology; eligibility requirements for the Commission's Designated Entity (DE) small carrier bidding credit program; upfront payments; bidding eligibility; bidding instructions; and payment instructions. The Commission will hold a single-round sealed bid auction for these licenses. The reserve price would be set at \$500. The short form application filing deadline is May 16. The upfront payment deadline is June 2.

For more information, visit http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-926A1.pdf.

OPASTCO NEWS

OPASTCO CHAIRMAN KEITH OLIVER LAUNCHES "RECOMMENDED READS"

To assist OPASTCO members with their future strategic plans and thinking, Chairman Keith Oliver has launched a new resource for association members called "Recommended Reads." These recommendations, which will be released on an occasional basis as they are found by Oliver, are offered as a way for OPASTCO members to further their self-education of the new business models and environment our evolving industry is facing.

Oliver's first recommendation is from the March 2008 *OPASTCO Advocate*, "Next Generation Networks, Convergence, the Long Tail, and the Universal Service Fund: Are We There Yet?," OPASTCO President John Rose's article on the convergence of broadband and video services, and the advent of next generation networks, and how these facts will influence universal service and intercarrier compensation reform debates in Washington, D.C. "This is an important article that addresses increased broadband use and our future revenue streams. We need to understand how this will affect us," Oliver explained.

To view the edition of *Advocate* containing the article, visit <http://www.opastco.org/doc/library/1520/AdvMar2008.pdf>.