



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 13-1398

Released: June 18, 2013

**MEDIA BUREAU ANNOUNCES COMMENT AND REPLY COMMENT DEADLINES
FOR THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING REGARDING ACCESSIBILITY
OF USER INTERFACES AND VIDEO PROGRAMMING GUIDES/MENUS AND
ESTABLISHES SCHEDULE FOR *EX PARTE* MEETINGS**

MB DOCKET NO. 12-108

NPRM Comment Deadline: July 15, 2013
Dates Set Aside for *Ex Parte* Meetings with Bureaus: July 22-24, 2013
NPRM Reply Comment Deadline: August 7, 2013

On May 30, 2013, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Matter of *Accessibility of User Interfaces, and Video Programming Guides and Menus* (the “NPRM”).¹ The Commission seeks comment in the *NPRM* on proposals to implement Sections 204 and 205 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (“CVAA”), which generally require that user interfaces on digital apparatus and navigation devices used to view video programming be accessible to and usable by individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and that such devices provide a mechanism that is “reasonably comparable to a button, key, or icon designated for activating” certain accessibility features. The Commission set deadlines for filing comments and reply comments at 25 and 50 days, respectively, after publication of the *NPRM* in the *Federal Register*.²

By this *Public Notice*, the Media Bureau announces that the *NPRM* was published in the *Federal Register* today, June 18, 2013.³ Comments must be submitted no later than July 15, 2013. Reply Comments must be submitted no later than August 7, 2013. Commenters should follow the filing instructions provided in paragraph 65 of the *NPRM*.⁴ The *NPRM* is also available on the Commission’s website.⁵

¹ See *Accessibility of User Interfaces, and Video Programming Guides and Menus*, MB Docket No. 12-108, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 13-77 (rel. May 30, 2013).

² See *NPRM* at 1.

³ See *Accessibility of User Interfaces, and Video Programming Guides and Menus*, 78 Fed. Reg. 36478 (June 18, 2013).

⁴ See *NPRM* at 27, ¶ 65.

⁵ See http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-13-77A1.docx (Word), http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-13-77A1.pdf (Acrobat).

As described in the *NPRM*, this matter shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s *ex parte* rules.⁶ Given the October 9, 2013 statutory deadline for completing the accessible user interfaces and programming guides proceeding, we have determined it would be more efficient for Commission staff to set aside a few days for *ex parte* meetings.⁷ Staff from the Media Bureau’s Policy Division, as well as staff from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, will be available for meetings with interested parties to discuss issues raised in comments on July 22, 23, and 24, 2013. To the extent interested parties have an unavoidable conflict such that they cannot meet on any of these dates, they may contact Media Bureau staff to discuss alternate arrangements. Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. To schedule meetings pursuant to this Notice, please contact Adam Copeland, Adam.Copeland@fcc.gov, or Maria Mullarkey, Maria.Mullarkey@fcc.gov, of the Media Bureau, Policy Division, (202) 418-2120. Press inquiries should be directed to Janice Wise, (202) 418-8165. TTY: (202) 418-7172 or (888) 835-5322.

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⁶ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1200 *et seq.*; *NPRM* at 26, ¶ 61.

⁷ The Bureau previously set aside specific dates for *ex parte* meetings in another CVAA rulemaking subject to a statutory deadline and found the process to be useful. See Public Notice, *Media Bureau Establishes Schedule for Ex Parte Meetings Regarding Accessible Emergency Information and Apparatus Requirements for Emergency Information and Video Description*, 27 FCC Rcd 15793 (2012).