

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
Installment Payments for)
PCS Licenses)
)

ORDER

Adopted: March 31, 1997

Released: March 31, 1997

By The Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

1. In order to implement the requirement of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act that the Federal Communications Commission promote the dissemination of licenses among a wide variety of auction applicants,¹ the Commission has adopted a program to allow small businesses to pay for their licenses in installment payments.² The auction of 986 broadband Personal Communications Service (PCS) licenses for the C and F blocks, in particular, has resulted in the Commission amassing a significant installment payment loan portfolio. Commission staff has actively been working with other federal agencies regarding the transfer of responsibilities for certain debt functions related to this program. These discussions may result in a change in the procedures for making and collecting installment payments in the near term. Additionally, on March 13, 1997, several C block licensees filed a joint request with the Commission, seeking to modify their existing installment payment obligations by moving from a quarterly to an annual payment schedule.³

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 309(j)(3)(b).

² See Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act - Competitive Bidding, *Second Report and Order*, PP Docket No. 93-253, 9 FCC Rcd 2348 (1994).

³ Petitioners include Alpine PCS, Inc., DCR PCS, Inc., Eldorado Communications, L.L.C., Indus, Inc., KMTel L.L.C., Mercury PCS, L.L.C., Microcom Associates, NextWave Communications, Inc., and R&S PCS, Inc. See Letter from Thomas Gutierrez et al., to Michele C. Farquhar, Esq., Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (March 13, 1997).

2. Pending resolution of these matters, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will today suspend the March 31, 1997 deadline for all installment payments for the C block broadband PCS licensees until further notice. This action today applies to broadband PCS licenses that have already been issued. Broadband PCS licensees that have not yet been issued their F block licenses, and that are eligible for installments, will be treated similarly by Public Notice. This Order, however, has no effect on the down payments required for such licenses.

ORDERING CLAUSE

3. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the installment payment deadline for all broadband PCS installment payments is suspended pending further action that will reinstate such deadlines. Interest will continue to accrue on all unpaid installment payments until such action is taken and this Order is lifted. This action is taken pursuant to delegated authority, 47 C.F.R. § 0.331.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Michele C. Farquhar
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau