



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces Enhancements to the Universal Licensing System to Help Winning Bidders of FCC Auctions File for Tribal Land Bidding Credits

The Commission's Universal Licensing System (ULS) has been enhanced to help winning bidders in FCC auctions file license applications when seeking a tribal land bidding credit. The enhancements include: indicating intent to seek a tribal land bidding credit when filing the long-form application, selecting the tribal lands to be served within each market, calculating the tribal land bidding credit per market area, and submitting the required Tribal Government Certification(s).

Background. In its *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, adopted June 8, 2000, the Commission established a tribal land bidding credit program for future auctions to provide incentives to wireless telecommunications carriers to serve tribal lands.¹ Under this program, a winning bidder who commits to use its license(s) to deploy facilities and provide services to federally-recognized tribal lands that either are unserved by any telecommunications carrier or have a wireline telephone subscription rate equal to or below 70 percent is eligible to receive a tribal land bidding credit. The rules took effect on October 2, 2000.

On September 28, 2000, the Wireless Telecommunication Bureau released a Public Notice providing basic information for future applicants on requesting and qualifying for a tribal land bidding credit, as well as the performance requirements applicable to the winning bidder when a tribal land bidding credit is awarded.² On December 14, 2000, a Public Notice was released providing further information on the procedures for obtaining a tribal land bidding credit and the procedures that the Bureau will employ in processing applications for tribal land bidding credits.³

¹ Extending Wireless Telecommunications Services to Tribal lands, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, WT Docket No. 99-266, 15 FCC Rcd. 11,794 (rel. June 30, 2000).

² Public Notice, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces Availability of Bidding Credits for Providing Wireless Services to Qualifying Tribal lands, DA 00-2219 (rel. Sept. 28, 2000).

³ Public Notice, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Releases Additional Information Regarding the Procedures for Obtaining a Tribal Lands Bidding Credit and List of Tribal Lands, DA 00-2836 (rel Dec 14,2000).

Once the tribal lands for all markets seeking a bidding credit have been selected and the Tribal Government Certification(s) filed, the application can be submitted to the FCC.

Change of Intent. Once the filing window for long-form applications is closed, applicants are not allowed to change their intent to seek a tribal land bidding credit from “NO” to “YES”. However, if an applicant subsequently decides not to seek the credit, it should amend their long-form application to delete the request for the tribal land bidding credit.

For further information on completing the Schedule B for the Tribal Land Bidding Credit Program, please contact Denise Walter, Commercial Wireless Division at 202-418-0359 or e-mail dwalter@fcc.gov.