



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TO PARTICIPATE IN FCC RURAL WIRELESS ISP SHOWCASE**
Event rescheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2003

Washington D.C. - The FCC today announced that the Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will participate in the FCC Rural Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) Showcase and Workshop in September and will provide information on how rural WISPs can apply for a grant program for start-up assistance.

The FCC also said that the event will be held Thursday, September 18, 2003, instead of September 17, 2003, as previously scheduled. The forum will begin at 9:30 AM and will be held in the meeting room at the FCC, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, D.C.

Wireless ISPs have been sprouting up across rural America providing high-speed Internet access using both licensed and unlicensed spectrum. Making use of grain silos, water towers, and pumping stations for tower sites, WISPs are beginning to bring broadband service to previously unserved areas and to provide new competition in rural areas that already have broadband access.

The Rural WISP Showcase will feature virtual tours of several WISPs, discussions of technology, business plans, best practices, and lessons learned. In addition, it will provide an opportunity for the Commission to learn what, if any, regulatory barriers stand in the way of rural WISP deployment. Presenters will be service providers who are providing high-speed Internet service to their rural customers and the emphasis will be on real world, practical questions and solutions with the goal of encouraging and enabling new, innovative, and economic approaches to providing rural broadband.

For further information please contact Robert Pepper, Chief, Policy Development; email: Robert.Pepper@fcc.gov; voice: 202-418-2030.

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