



This Week's Headlines

MTA Bill Signed Into Law

MTA Ask PUC to Dismiss Verizon's Complaint

Share A Piece of Your Company's History

Members Invited to Join MTA Centennial Club

Registration Open for Next MTA-U Course

Emergency Alerts Approved for Cell Phone

Halstad Telephone Company Adds Hillsboro

Embarq Debuts DSL-powered Landline Phone

Motorola Picks Former AT&T Executive

FTTH Workshop For Telcos Planned

FCC & Regulatory Filings

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

April 11, 2008

MTA Bill Signed Into Law

Governor Tim Pawlenty has signed into law the bill (HF 2414 – SF 2262) drafted by the MTA Legislative Committee repealing a number of obsolete Chapter 7810 telecom rules. The rules that are being repealed include:

- Telcos will no longer be required to keep records of their inspections of billing equipment;
- An archaic rule related to discontinuing service when a matter is pending before the Public Utilities Commission;
- A rule requiring telcos to furnish contractors information on underground facilities. These type of requirements have since been incorporated into the state's one-call law;
- Telcos will no longer have to provide a coin operated telephone lighted at night available to the public on a 24-hour a day basis;
- The requirement for different accounting rules based on the size of telephone company (class). This is no longer necessary as the PUC will accept FCC filings instead;
- A rule determining how size or class of telephone company is established. This is no longer necessary as the PUC will accept FCC filings;
- Elimination of language requiring certain annual report information and stockholder information to be filed with the Commission. The MTA sponsored language that passed in a previous legislative session limiting and describing the annual report filing has superseded this rule; and
- Elimination of requirements for telcos to submit information annually on the number of resolved and unresolved complaints, number of lines in each class of service and the duty to notify the Commission of changes.

MTA UPDATE

MTA Ask PUC to Dismiss Verizon's Complaint

The MTA this week filed comments with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on Verizon's complaint against Embarq's intrastate access charge rates. In its comments, the MTA said "the action requested by Verizon in this docket is contrary to the best interests of Minnesota's ratepayers since they would be likely to see only increases to local rates and would be unlikely to see any corresponding benefit.

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

Save The Date

MTA Golf Day
July 7, 2008

Stat of the Week

Overall revenue from data services on cellphones, including text messages, surged 53 percent last year to \$23 billion, according to CTIA, the wireless-industry trade group.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would like to add to the distribution list? Send their name, company, and e-mail address to info@mnta.org and we'll add them to the list.

WEEKLY BULLETIN is intended for MTA members. Redistribution is limited to internal audiences only.

If you wish to be removed from the MTA e-List, click

In addition, MTA continued, "Verizon has offered no arguments or information to show that its request is supported by state stature or to show that the Commission's prior access rate-setting for Embarq should be overturned. Therefore, the MTA recommends that the Verizon complaint against Embarq be dismissed."

Addressing the potential impact on consumers, the MTA pointed out that access revenues contribute to recovery of the cost of providing service, which is the premise of Minn. Stat. § 237.12. As a result, the alliance said, reducing access rates will lead to higher local rates. Thus, it is appropriate for the Commission to consider whether there is a corresponding benefit.

MTA argued that the Verizon complaint provides no basis to conclude that Minnesota ratepayers will benefit from a reduction in the Embarq access rates. In fact, there is no basis to conclude that Minnesota customers will experience any related benefit from lower long distance rates, much less any assurance that there will be a corresponding reduction in long distance rates or other benefits to the Embarq ratepayers. MTA members may view the comments in the members only section of the MTA Web site under regulatory.

MTA Centennial Celebration

Share A Piece of Your Company's History

Over the years, many companies have maintained a piece of history that represents their lustrous past. The MTA Centennial Committee is inviting all member companies to share their companies' pasts by exhibiting items in the historical display that will be part of the MTA 100th Annual Convention. The committee is looking for telephone equipment, outside plant equipment, business office materials, directories, and marketing and promotional materials that have been used over the last 100 years.

At this time the committee is attempting to determine what is available to be shown. An information letter and form that contains a list of items for members to consider was distributed electronically to you to this week. Feel free to add your own items. Please complete the item description form, include a photograph and return it to the MTA office by **April 15** for consideration to be in the historical display.

If your items are chosen to be in the historical display, you will be asked to bring them to the convention at your expense and to show them for the duration of the convention. Since many items will be valuable, security will be provided for the duration of the convention.

Members Invited to Join MTA Centennial Club

The MTA Centennial Committee invites all member companies to join the 'Centennial Club' to help the MTA properly observe its 100th Anniversary. The MTA will mark this milestone with a commemorative picture book, a special centennial convention and celebration and publicity across the state and nation.

here to [unsubscribe](#).

© copyright 2008,
Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Brent J. Christensen,
Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

In recognition of your contribution of \$500, your company will be listed as a 'Centennial Club' member in the commemorative picture book and at next year's convention. The book will be found at telephone companies, libraries and museums across the state for years to come. To be properly acknowledged, your contribution must be received at the MTA office by May 1, 2008. The invitation to join the **Centennial Club** was sent to all members this week. Questions about the Centennial Club may be directed to Mike Nowick at 651-291-7311.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Registration Open for Next MTA-U Course

Now in its fourth year, MTA-U for managers and supervisors is the annual source for developing leadership skills and learning important human resources responsibilities. Members have the option of taking the one-day course on June 5 or June 6 at the Radisson Suite Hotel in St. Cloud. The course will cover de-escalating emotionally charged people; industry update & technology trends; and finance for non-accounting professionals. The cost is \$175 for MTA Education Committee Program members, \$225 for other MTA members and \$225 for non-members. Online registration for the course is available at www.mnta.org

Retransmission Consent Workshop

Do you need more info on the retransmission consent process or clarification on the must carry rules. The MTA has partnered with Cinnamon Mueller law firm to conduct a retransmission consent workshop to help members with this requirement. The workshop is **April 29, 2008** in St. Cloud. It is sponsored by the MTA Video Committee and open to all members. The workshop will get under way with a noon luncheon at the Kelly Inn and conclude by 4:00 p.m. Chris Cinnamon will conduct the workshop. The program will review the retransmission/must carry rules, review the digital signaling transition and its effect on retransmission/must carry. Attendees will also find out what legal representation may be available from the law firm in upcoming negotiations. For fast, easy online registration, [click here](#).

INDUSTRY UPDATE

Emergency Alerts Approved for Cell Phone

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) this week adopted an emergency alert plan that gives the ability of the nation's wireless carriers to transmit timely and accurate alerts, warnings and critical information to the cell phones and other mobile devices of consumers during disasters or other emergencies. Carriers and consumers can opt out of the three-tier system. The emergency alert system includes presidential alerts; imminent threats from the weather or a local emergency; and child abductions, the so-called "Amber alerts."

The Commission said wireless carriers that choose to participate in the CMAS will transmit text-based alerts to their subscribers. As technology evolves, the CMAS may eventually include audio and video services to transmit emergency alerts to the public. To ensure that people with disabilities who subscribe to wireless services receive these emergency alerts, the FCC adopted rules that will require wireless carriers who participate in the CMAS to transmit messages with both vibration cadence and audio attention signals.

Halstad Telephone Company Adds Hillsboro

Halstad Telephone Company Board of Directors have voted to bring Hillsboro into the cooperative as of year end 2008. The company's business in Hillsboro is actually conducted under Halstad Telephone's wholly owned, non-cooperative subsidiary HTC Services, Inc. With the change, Halstad Telephone Company will replace HTC Services as the formal, official provider of services in Hillsboro.

Embarq Debuts DSL-powered Landline Phone

Embarq is introducing a DSL-based cordless phone that has such advanced features as visual voice mail, news and information, personal phone books and local phone directories.

As Its New Chairman

Motorola Picks Former AT&T Executive

Motorola, Inc. has chosen David Dorman to serve as non-executive Chairman of the Board. Dorman will succeed Ed Zander, the company's current chairman and former chief executive officer. Zander will retire as planned upon completion of his term at Motorola's 2008 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 5, 2008., according to a company news release.

FTTH Workshop For Telcos Planned

The Fiber-to-the-Home Council is inviting telco executives to a workshop on Tuesday, June 3rd at the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines, IA. The workshop will cover numerous topics including case studies and best practices, government and regulatory updates, FTTH updates, and overbuilding. Registration is \$50 for the day which includes two breaks, the luncheon and a cocktail reception at the end of the day. For more details and registration info go to www.ftthcouncil.org.

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

APRIL 1: FCC FORM 499-A: TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: This form must be filed by all contributors to the Universal Service Fund support mechanisms, the Telecommunications Relay Service Fund, the cost recovery mechanism for the North American Numbering Plan Administration and the shared costs of local number portability.

APRIL 21: LOW INCOME QUARTERLY REPORT: FCC FORM 497, this form, the Lifeline and Link-Up Worksheet must be submitted to USAC

by all ETCs that request reimbursement for participating in the low income program

MAY 1: TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING WORKSHEET: FCC FORM 499-Q, all telecommunications carriers that expect to contribute more than \$10,000 to federal USF support mechanisms must file this quarterly form

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

April 9: MTA Legislative Committee

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

April 17: MTA Video Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

April 22: MTA Regulatory, Tariffs & Services Committee, MTA office, 9:30 a.m.

April 23-25: MTA Office Managers Spring Conference, The Lodge at Brainerd Lakes, Baxter

April 24: MTA CLEC Committee, 702 Communications, Moorhead, 9:30 a.m.

April 29: MTA Golf Committee, Crow River, Hutchinson, 9:00 a.m.

April 29: Retransmission Consent Agreement Workshop, St. Cloud, noon

For a look at 12 months and more of industry events, [click here](#)

PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA

