

FCC Regulatory Fees Likely Due in August

August 1, 2010

In July, we reported that the FCC had [adopted its FY 2010 regulatory fee schedule](#). In past years, regulatory fees were due in September, usually in the third week of the month. However, it looks like this year's fee will be due significantly earlier -- **by August 31, 2010**.

The first hint of an earlier due date appears in the FCC Regulatory Fee Order released on July 9. The order did not establish a due date for regulatory fees, but the Commission stated that it intended to collect fees "during an August 2010 filing window." (see [paragraph 1](#)). That made us curious, but not convinced. Last week, however, the FCC released a [public notice](#) concerning fees for its radio and TV licensees. That public notice states that the media services fee is "due no later than 11:59 PM, ET, on August 31, 2010." This seems a pretty good indication that fees for all filers will be due earlier than in years past.

Given that late-paid regulatory fees are subject to a mandatory, non-waivable **25% late payment penalty**, carriers should plan accordingly.