international common carriers to file such reports. Since the annual circuit status reports will now serve as the database for the regulatory fees mandated by Congress, the Commission modified the types of circuits that are commonly reported in the monthly circuit status reports. Circuits for Canada and Mexico are international circuits included in the regulatory fees. Thus, they now will have to be included in the annual circuit status reports. The Commission denied Commenters requests that nondominant carriers be exempt from all reporting requirements or, in the alternative, be required to file only the circuit addition reports. The Commission determined that there are numerous nondominant international facilities-based common carriers and these carriers account for a substantial use of international facilities. Therefore, the Commission's ability to monitor circuit status reports filed by nondominant facilities-based international common carriers will be useful to assure proper payment of the Budget Act's fees on active 64 Kilobits per second (Kb/s) equivalent circuits. The Commission also modified its rules to remove the requirement that circuit status information be filed on a transmission facility-by-facility basis. Instead, the Commission required that international facilities based carriers include the total number of activated and the total number of idle circuits by the following categories: submarine cable, satellite, and terrestrial facilities.

The Commission also adopted the suggestion of several of the Commenters and exempted nondominant facilitiesbased carriers from filing semi-annual circuits addition reports pursuant to Section 63.15(b) of the Commission's Rules, because information contained in the semi-annual circuit addition reports will be derivable from the annual circuit status reports.

Since the Commission did not require international private line resellers to file annual status reports, it will continue to require that private line resellers file circuit addition reports. The Commission, however, reduced the frequency of filing of the circuit addition reports from semiannually to annually and required that the reports be filed not later than March 31 of each year and show the circuit additions for the preceding year.

The Commission directed the Chief, International Bureau, to prepare a filing manual specifying reporting requirements for the annual circuit status reports. The Commission also agreed with Commenters that the International Bureau seek industry input on the filing manual. The

Commission stated that, to the extent possible, every effort should be made to collect the necessary information consistent with the ways the carriers maintain such information for their own purposes. The Commission determined that a common format for the reports will permit a more efficient use of the information. Thus, the Commission directed the Chief, International Bureau, to specify a format for the reports. The Commission required that the reports be filed on a common type and format of computer diskettes to enable it to combine data from the various carriers' reports.

Commenters in this proceeding strongly favored the actions taken because of the significant reduction in the previous filing requirements.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

Pursuant to Section 603 of Title 5, United States Code, 5 U.S.C. § 603, an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis was incorporated in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making in CC Docket No. 93–157. Written comments on the proposals in the Notice, including the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, were requested.

A. Need and Purpose of Rules

This rulemaking proceeding was initiated in order to reduce the burden on those international facilities-based common carriers filing monthly circuit status reports by reducing the frequency of filing such reports from monthly to annually. The rulemaking also sought to make the information derived from the annual circuit reports more complete and, therefore, more useful to the Commission by requiring all international facilities-based common carriers to file them. In addition, the rulemaking sought to make handling of the information provided by the annual circuit reports easier by requiring the development of a filing manual setting forth the requirements for such reports, establishing a common format for the reports, and requiring the filing of the reports on computer diskettes.

B. Issues Raised By the Public in Response to the Initial Analysis

A number of the Commenters proposed that nondominant international facilities-based common carriers that will be required to file annual circuit status reports be exempted from filing semi-annual circuit addition reports required by Section 63.15(b) of the Commission's Rules. The Commission adopted this proposal. One Commenter suggested that nondominant international carriers be exempted from all reporting requirements. The Commission did not adopt that proposal because to do so would prevent it from developing a database of active 64 kb/s circuits that it needed for monitoring regulatory fees. A number of Commenters also proposed that the carriers be permitted input to the formulation of the filing manual and format for the annual circuit status reports. The Commission adopted that proposal.

C. Significant Alternatives Considered

The Commission considered and adopted the Commenters' proposal that nondominant international facilitiesbased carriers that are required to file annual circuit status reports not be required to file semi-annual circuit addition reports. The Commission also reduced the frequency of filing circuit addition reports from semi-annually to annually for those international carriers that must still file such reports. The Commission also considered and adopted the Commenters' proposal that facilities-based international carriers be given an opportunity to provide input to the formulation of the filing manual and format for the annual circuit status reports.

Ordering Clauses

Accordingly, it is ordered that the rule changes as specified below are adopted.

It is further ordered that the rule changes made herein will become effective ninety (90) days after publication in the Federal Register. This action is taken pursuant to Sections 4, 214, 219, 303(r) and 403 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154, 214, 219, 303(r) and 403 (1995).

It is further ordered that the Chief, International Bureau, shall develop a filing manual for the submission of international circuit status reports.

It is further ordered that the Chief, International Bureau, shall direct the International Bureau Staff to meet with the facilities-based international common carriers on the development of the filing manual.

It is further ordered that this Report and Order does not alter the requirement that MCI Communications Corporation file monthly circuit status reports for U.S.–U.K. circuits as required by paragraph 65 of our Declaratory Ruling and Order, *MCI Communications Corporation*, 9 FCC Rcd 3960 (1994).

It is further ordered that the Request to Submit Late-Filed Comments filed by GE Americom IS GRANTED.

It is further ordered that this proceeding is hereby terminated.