

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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January 6, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- President Trump [signed](#) the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence ([TRACED](#)) Act into law. The bill, among other things, gives the FCC the ability to step up enforcement actions against unlawful robocalls with a longer statute of limitations and increased fines in certain cases.
- USTelecom [responded](#) to certain proposals on increasing the spread of weights between tiers for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. USTelecom asserted these proposals risk leaving the bulk of RDOF-eligible locations without broadband.
- Comments [are due](#) February 5, 2020, on the [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules to reflect the marketplace realities of intermodal voice and broadband competition. Reply comments are due March 6, 2020.
- The November 26, 2019 [report and order and order](#) on supply chain [is effective](#) January 3, 2020. Comments on the [FNPRM](#) that accompanied the order [are due](#) February 3, 2020; reply comments are due March 3, 2020.
- Comments are due February 3, 2020, on the initial designation of [ZTE Corporation](#) and [Huawei Technologies](#), their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries as covered companies in the November 26, 2019 [supply chain order](#).

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 29 - Comments [due](#) on the FCC's first staff report on call blocking. Replies are due February 28, 2020.

USF Reform

- USTelecom filed a [letter](#) on January 3, 2020, in response to certain proposals on increasing the spread of weights between tiers for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. USTelecom asserted these proposals give FTTH services an even greater preference than the advantage already proposed by the Commission, and risk leaving the bulk of RDOF-eligible locations without broadband. USTelecom stated, unless the Commission is prepared to significantly increase its proposed budget for the RDOF, it should maintain a course in which all or nearly all Americans are able to receive broadband over a variety of terrestrial broadband technologies. USTelecom also claimed NTCA's proposed symmetrical bonus is not in the best interest of the program and said the RDOF should focus on ensuring a variety of technologies can compete for support so that more rural consumers get connected.
- WISPA filed a [letter](#) on December 31, 2019, to express support for proposals by parties suggesting the Commission modify its proposed above baseline tier from 100/20 Mbps to 100/10 Mbps for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. WISPA agreed with parties that said a 10:1 upload:download ratio would better match most consumer services on the market today and deploying at 100/20 Mbps will increase costs significantly, with only marginal benefit to consumers. WISPA asserted for many fixed wireless deployments, a 20 Mbps upstream path uses twice as much spectrum as a 10 Mbps path and a 10 Mbps upstream path would make available more equipment options for fixed wireless deployments. WISPA also agreed with [USTelecom](#) that the Commission should reject the proposal to adopt a symmetrical bonus.
- Replies are due January 6, 2020, on the effectiveness of the FCC's [2012 tribal engagement further guidance](#), steps the FCC can take to assist parties with their engagement efforts, and refreshing the record on pending petitions for reconsideration that were filed on the tribal engagement obligation reporting. [public notice](#)

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ICC

- [BTC](#), [Goldfield Access Network](#), and [Louisa Communications](#) filed letters on December 27, 2019, to notify the FCC they have terminated their participation in access stimulation as defined in the September 2019 [order](#), and that effective as of December 25, 2019, their end user relationships with high volume calling providers were terminated.

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Robocalls

- President Trump [signed](#) the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence ([TRACED](#)) Act into law on December 30, 2019. The bill requires carriers to offer call-authentication technology to everyone at no additional charge and gives the FCC the ability to step up enforcement actions against unlawful robocalls with a longer statute of limitations and increased fines in certain cases, among other things. Chairman Pai issued a [statement](#).
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on December 30, 2019, announcing comment due dates for the Commission's first staff report on call blocking. A summary of the [public notice](#) seeking comment on call blocking issues was published in the Federal Register on December 30 2019. Comments are due January 29, 2020; replies are due February 28, 2020.

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Universal Service

- The November 26, 2019 [report and order and order](#) on supply chain was published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 3, 2020. The FCC adopted a rule that prospectively prohibits the use of USF funds to purchase or obtain any equipment or services produced or provided by a covered company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. The order initially designated Huawei Technologies and ZTE as covered companies for purposes of the rule and established a process for designating additional covered companies in the future. The order also directed the Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics, in coordination with USAC, to conduct an information collection to determine the extent to which potentially prohibited equipment exists in current networks and the costs associated with removing such equipment and replacing it with equivalent equipment. The order is effective January 3, 2020.
- The [FNPRM](#) that accompanied the order on supply chain was published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 3, 2020. The FNPRM seeks comment on proposals to: require as a condition on the receipt of any USF support that ETCs not use or agree to not use within a designated period of time, communications equipment or services from covered companies; require ETCs receiving USF support to remove and replace covered equipment and services from their network operations; and establish a reimbursement program to offset reasonable transition costs, among other things. Comments are due February 3, 2020; reply comments are due March 3, 2020. The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 3, 2020, announcing comment due dates for the [FNPRM](#).
- The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 6, 2020, announcing the comment due date on the initial designation of ZTE Corporation, its parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries as a covered company in the November 26, 2019 [supply chain order](#). In the order, the FCC adopted a rule prohibiting the use of support from the USF to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by any company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. The Bureau said in doing so, the FCC initially designated ZTE as a covered company and directed the Bureau to implement the next steps in the final designation process. A similar [public notice](#) was issued on the FCC's initial designation of Huawei Technologies as a covered company. Comments are due February 3, 2020.
- To date, no oppositions were filed to petitions for reconsideration of the August 2019 rural health care [order](#). Replies are due January 13, 2020 [FR](#)
- The [public notice](#) announcing Viya filed a [petition for reconsideration](#) of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds [report and order](#) was published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 2, 2020. Oppositions to the petition are due January 17, 2020; replies to oppositions are due January 27, 2020.
- The FCC released a [public notice](#) on December 30, 2019, granting, denying, and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on E-Rate. Petitions for reconsideration or applications for review of the decisions must be filed within 30 days of the public notice.

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Misc.

- The November 25, 2019 [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules to reflect the marketplace realities of intermodal voice and broadband competition was published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 6, 2020. Comments are due February 5, 2020; reply comments are due March 6, 2020.
- Comments are due January 6, 2020, on a section 214 application filed by Patricia Stewart, the Estates of William and Allen George, Ironton Telephone, Ironton Global Networks, Ironton Long Distance, and Service Electric Telephone Company, requesting consent to transfer control of ITC from Estates to Stewart. Reply comments are due January 13, 2020. [public notice](#)

- Replies are due January 6, 2020, on the [FNPRM](#) on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. [FR, order](#)
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on December 31, 2019, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the FCC rules that prevent the unauthorized change by telecommunications carriers of consumers' selections of telecommunications service providers. PRA comments are due March 2, 2020.
- No comments were filed on [Twilio's](#) and [Voice Application Network's](#) application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Jan. 7 - Oppositions due on Aureon Network Services' [petition for reconsideration](#) of the September 2019 access arbitration [report and order](#). Replies are due January 17, 2020. [FR](#)
- Jan. 10 - Comments due on Department of Commerce notice of proposed rulemaking seeking comment on implementation of the May 15, 2019 [executive order](#) which prohibited any transactions involving information and communications technology or services designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign adversary. [notice, notice](#)
- Jan. 13 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477, Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting. [notice](#)
- Jan. 13 - Replies due on a section 214 application filed by Patricia Stewart, the Estates of William and Allen George, Ironton Telephone, Ironton Global Networks, Ironton Long Distance, and Service Electric Telephone Company, requesting consent to transfer control of ITC from Estates to Stewart. [public notice](#)
- Jan. 13 - Replies to oppositions to petitions for reconsideration of the August 2019 rural health care [order](#). [FR](#)
- Jan. 17 - Replies due to oppositions to Aureon Network Services' [petition for reconsideration](#) of the September 2019 access arbitration [report and order](#). Replies are due January 17, 2020. [FR](#)
- Jan. 17 - Oppositions due to Viya's [petition for reconsideration](#) of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds [report and order](#). Replies to oppositions are due January 27, 2020. [FR](#)
- Jan. 20 - Replies due to oppositions to petitions for reconsideration of the July 2019 [report and order](#) on the rural tribal priority window for the 2.5 GHz band.
- Jan. 27 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on additional measures to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. Replies are due February 25, 2020. [FR](#)
- Jan. 27 - Comments due on proposed changes to the annual and quarterly telecommunications reporting worksheets (FCC Forms 499-A and 499-Q), and accompanying instructions, to be used in 2020 to report 2019 revenues. [public notice](#)
- Jan. 27 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with tariffing rules. The revisions to the information collection are necessitated by the access arbitration [order](#). [notice](#)

- Jan. 27 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with the survey of urban rates. [FCC notice](#)
- Jan. 27 - Replies due to oppositions to Viya's [petition for reconsideration](#) of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds [report and order](#). [FR](#)
- Jan. 29 - PRA comments due on a new information collection associated with the November 2019 [order](#) on supply chain. [FR](#)
- Jan. 29 - Comments due on the Commission's first staff report on call blocking. Replies are due February 28, 2020. [FR](#), [public notice](#)
- Feb. 3 - Comments due on the supply chain [FNPRM](#). Reply comments are due March 3, 2020.
- Feb. 3 - Comments due on the initial designation of [ZTE Corporation](#) and [Huawei Technologies](#), their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries as covered companies in the November 26, 2019 [supply chain order](#).
- Feb. 5 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules to reflect the marketplace realities of intermodal voice and broadband competition. Reply comments are due March 6, 2020. [FR](#)
- Feb. 25 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on additional measures to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. [FR](#)
- Feb. 28 - Replies due on the Commission's first staff report on call blocking. [FR](#), [public notice](#)
- Mar. 2 – PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the FCC rules that prevent the unauthorized change by telecommunications carriers of consumers' selections of telecommunications service providers. [notice](#)
- Mar. 3 - Replies due on the supply chain [FNPRM](#).
- Mar. 6 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules to reflect the marketplace realities of intermodal voice and broadband competition. [FR](#)

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