

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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January 20, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Wireline Competition Bureau [announced](#) those carriers receiving CAF-BLS that did not have HUBB portal reporting obligations prior to the 2018 RoR Reform [Order](#) will have until March 1, 2021 to submit geo-located broadband deployment information in the HUBB for all locations to which broadband service of 25/3 Mbps or greater was deployed between May 25, 2016 and December 31, 2018. Information for locations deployed in 2019 is still due by March 2, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [seeks](#) to assess parties' continuing interests in [petitions for reconsideration](#) of various aspects of the intercarrier compensation provisions of the USF/ICC Transformation Order. Responses are due 45 days after publication of this public notice in the Federal Register.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [granted](#) Frontier's [petition](#) for waiver of the rules requiring carriers accepting CAF Phase II model-based support to complete deployment to 80% of supported locations by December 31, 2019.
- NTCA, USTelecom, et al. [suggested](#) the FCC reduce the burdens of the RDOF letter of credit requirements. CenturyLink, Consolidated, et al. also expressed [concerns](#) with the RDOF letter of credit requirements.
- The FCC [said](#) about six million rural homes and businesses could be eligible for bidding in the RDOF auction. The FCC news release provided a state-by-state list for Phase I funding.
- WTA, Cambridge Telephone, et al. [discussed](#) performance testing issues.
- The USDA [announced](#) it invested \$11 million in three high-speed broadband infrastructure projects in Minnesota and Iowa, and [invested](#) \$5.7 million in Nebraska. The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect Pilot Program](#).
- The FCC [announced](#) petitions for reconsideration of the Digital Opportunity Data Collection [order](#) have been filed by [Microsoft](#) and [INCOMPAS](#). The pleading cycle has not been set.
- NTCA [offered suggestions](#) on how the FCC can address IP interconnection issues and facilitate full industry participation in the SHAKEN/STIR caller-ID spoofing mitigation framework.
- Aureon [responded](#) to [oppositions](#) to its [petition for reconsideration](#) of the access arbitrage [order](#). Free Conferencing [responded](#) to AT&T's [opposition](#) to its [petition](#) for waiver of the 45-day implementation date of the access arbitrage [order](#).
- The FCC placed an [item on circulation](#) entitled Connect America Fund – Alaska Plan.

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

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 13, 2020, providing guidance to certain rate-of-return CAF recipients regarding their obligation to report geo-located broadband information and make deployment certifications to USAC. The Bureau said those carriers receiving CAF-BLS that did not have High Cost Universal Service Broadband portal reporting obligations prior to the 2018 RoR reform [order](#) will be required to submit geo-located broadband deployment information in the HUBB by March 1, 2021 for all pre-existing locations to which broadband service of 25/3 Mbps or greater was deployed to from May 25, 2016 through December 31, 2018. The Bureau said allowing these carriers until March 1, 2021 to complete their HUBB submissions provides sufficient time to ensure all pre-existing deployment is properly geolocated. Information for locations to which broadband was deployed in 2019 must still be submitted in the HUBB by March 2, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 14, 2020, seeking to assess parties' continuing interests in [petitions for reconsideration](#) of various aspects of the intercarrier compensation provisions of the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order. The Bureau said it plans to dismiss each petition with prejudice unless a petitioner files a notice specifying that it objects to the dismissal. The Bureau said these petitions were filed in 2011 and no entities have filed comments or *ex parte* submissions regarding these petitions for several years and said the requests for relief in the petitions appear to be moot or are otherwise no longer relevant in light of regulatory changes that have occurred since these filings were made. The deadline for responses is 45 days after publication of this public notice in the Federal Register.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on January 14, 2020, granting a [petition](#) filed by Frontier Communications for waiver of the Commission's rules requiring carriers accepting CAF Phase II model-based support to complete deployment to 80% of supported locations by December 31, 2019. The Bureau also granted its request that the Commission waive any support reductions associated with this missed deadline. The Bureau said it expects Frontier to complete deployment to the remaining supported locations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah by the end of 2020, concurrently with its deadline to deploy to 100% of its supported locations.
- The FCC issued a [news release](#) on January 14, 2020, on Chairman Pai's announcement of initial estimates of how many homes and businesses in each state could benefit from Phase I of the \$20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. The FCC said about six million rural homes and businesses could be eligible for bidding in this auction to receive funding for high-speed broadband. The FCC provides a state-by-state list for Phase I funding, which would target a total of \$16 billion to census blocks with no broadband service at all meeting the Commission's minimum speed standards. The remainder of the funding would be disbursed during Phase II.
- The FCC placed an [item on circulation](#) on January 15, 2020, entitled Connect America Fund – Alaska Plan.
- WTA, Cambridge Telephone, Direct Communications, and Oregon Telephone [met with](#) Chairman Pai's rural broadband advisor and [Wireline Competition Bureau staff](#) on January 14, 2020, to discuss performance testing. Cambridge Telephone discussed problems it had during its pre-testing of the pre-tests, and said it was surprised at the substantial costs of the licenses required to conduct performance tests. WTA said other members have been reporting they have not yet been able to obtain performance testing equipment from their vendors. WTA also suggested the need for further clarification regarding the procedures for calculating latency and speed testing compliance percentages for performance milestone, penalty and end-of-term recovery purposes.
- NTCA, USTelecom, INCOMPAS, et al. filed a [letter](#) on January 16, 2020, on the draft Rural Digital Opportunity Fund [order](#), which will be considered at the FCC's January 30, 2020 Open Meeting. They suggested the FCC significantly reduce the burdens of the letter of credit requirements and asserted as drafted the LOC requirements will be a gating factor to participation for many companies, large and

small. They said if modifications to the LOC requirements are not made, many companies could be effectively barred from participation in the auction and those that do will not be able to bid on the full amount of locations they might otherwise be able to serve because of the difficulties in obtaining and the cost of the required credit. They asserted the LOC requirements will result in over \$1 billion in RDOF support going to banks and other financial intermediaries rather than to building broadband in rural communities.

- CenturyLink, Consolidated Communications, Frontier, Windstream, and USTelecom met with [Chairman Pai and his rural broadband advisor](#), [Commissioner Starks and his legal advisor](#), and [staff](#) from the Wireline Competition Bureau, Office of Economics and Analytics and Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force on January 13, 2020, to discuss the draft RDOF [order](#). Big Bend Telephone also participated in two of the meetings via phone. They supported many of the proposals in the draft order, including the new 50/5 Mbps tier, but said letter of credit requirements in the draft order will prevent USTelecom members from participating meaningfully in the RDOF auction. They attached a chart they said describes how under the draft's current construct the LOC obligations scale dramatically and unsustainably. They said the compounding nature of the requirements would force participants to access more credit than they are capable of accessing.
- CenturyLink [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's legal advisor on January 14, 2020, regarding the need for revisions to the letter of credit requirements contained in the draft Rural Digital Opportunity Fund [order](#).
- Consolidated Communications [met with](#) Chairman Pai's rural broadband advisor and Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on January 13, 2020, to discuss the draft RDOF [order](#). It asserted the letter of credit requirement in the draft order would be significant disincentives for price cap ILECs to bid in the auction for support for their current service areas. Consolidated said the LOC should be eliminated for all qualified auction participants, or should be waived where an auction demonstrates that its total annual RDOF support will be less than 15 percent of its gross annual revenues. It also asserted the transition mechanism in the draft order would undermine continuing voice and broadband service in price cap ILEC service areas, and urged the FCC to seek further comment on the difficulties posed by the transition from CAF II to RDOF in areas currently served by price cap ILECs.
- The California PUC spoke with advisors to Commissioners [Rosenworcel](#) and [Starks](#) on January 9 and 10, 2020, to discuss the draft Rural Digital Opportunity Fund order. CPUC suggested the FCC not proceed with the RDOF Phase I auction without improved procedures for greater broadband availability data collection, verification, and mapping. CPUC also discussed the need to understand the specific role that state broadband funding programs may have within the RDOF reverse auction framework, and how state expenditure of funds may be credited or otherwise recognized in the auction phases. CPUC asserted the order's stated goal of launching the Phase I auction round in calendar year 2020 will deny many states the opportunity to align state programs with RDOF. CPUC also said working with tribal reservations to take advantage of RDOF grants will require substantial time and urged the FCC not to begin the RDOF Phase I auction this year.
- The Utilities Technology Council, et al. [met with](#) Chairman Pai's advisor and Wireline Competition Bureau staff, [Commissioner O'Rielly and his legal advisor](#) and legal advisors to [Commissioners Carr](#), [Rosenworcel](#), and [Starks](#) on January 9, 2020, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. They supported assigning RDOF support in the auction's clearing round to the bidder with the lowest weight, as described in the draft order. They urged the Commission to provide safeguards to protect against fraud, particularly involving projects that use technologies that are incapable of providing the quality of broadband these projects propose to offer. They also recommended that the Commission improve the challenge process so that areas that are unserved are made eligible to receive broadband funding.
- NRECA [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on January 14, 2020, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. NRECA expressed support for the decision in the draft order modifying the bid assignment procedures and asserted this decision likely will result in more support being extended to more locations. NRECA expressed concern with the aspect of the draft order adding a 50/5 Mbps

tier, stating that performance tier is already less than the median national download speed. NRECA said failure to properly prioritize highspeed networks well above the minimum performance tier (25/3) will result in antiquated networks at the end of the ten-year RDOF funding period.

- Hughes Network Systems [met with](#) Commissioner Carr's legal advisor on January 13, 2020, to discuss the RDOF and the next section 706 report. Hughes suggested the FCC adopt rule changes that will allow providers using hybrid networks to bid in the correct latency tier. Hughes expressed support for proposals to add a bidding tier to the RDOF auction structure at 50/5 Mbps, and to add an evolutionary tier that would provide 25/3 service during the first half of the support term and 50/5 service during the second half of the support term. Hughes also [met with](#) Office of Economics and Analytics and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on January 13, 2020, to discuss hybrid networks.
- Hughes Network Systems [met with](#) Chairman Pai and his legal advisor on January 16, 2020, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Hughes asserted there is no reason to await further deployment of hybrid networks before including them in RDOF, and claimed they have a proven track record and will deliver to RDOF recipients low-latency, advanced broadband services.
- WISPA [met with](#) Chairman Pai and his rural broadband advisor and legal advisors to Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr on January 13 and 14, 2020, to discuss the draft RDOF [order](#). WISPA suggested the Commission remove the clearing round bid processing proposal to ensure that market forces, in combination with the performance tiers, would determine RDOF Phase I auction outcomes. WISPA suggested the Commission mitigate the financial impact of the letters of credit and claimed this can be done by limiting the value to one year of support and allowing the value to be reduced at a greater rate as buildout milestones are met.
- The Satellite Industry Association, Echostar, Telesat, and Mehlman Capitol Strategies, representing Viasat, [met with](#) staff from the International Bureau and Chairman Pai's rural broadband advisor on January 15, 2020, to discuss the RDOF. They asserted there is no reason to await further deployment of hybrid networks before including them in RDOF, claiming they have a proven track record and will deliver to RDOF recipients low-latency, advanced broadband services.
- SES [met with](#) Chairman Pai's rural broadband advisor and legal advisors to Commissioners Rosenworcel and Carr on January 14, 2020, to discuss the RDOF. SES asserted the 100 ms latency metric proposed for RDOF is unnecessarily restrictive because it fails to reflect actual network requirements for broadband services and real-time applications. SES urged the Commission to revise its latency threshold to reflect the technical requirements for the provision of low-latency services.
- The Buckeye Hills Regional Commission filed a [letter](#) on January 14, 2020, proposing the FCC expand the reach of Phase I of the RDOF by using HUBB data to identify census blocks for which the applicable Form 477 overstates available speeds. It said its eight-county ARC-funded study area provides a strong case in point. It also suggested applying the priority threshold of \$30 in census blocks with de minimis CAF II deployments, and said reducing the threshold to \$30 in Appalachia in addition to in tribal areas would advance the FCC's goals to attract bidders to these poverty-stricken areas in the RDOF Phase I auction.
- Hughes Network Systems [met with](#) legal advisors to Commissioners O'Rielly, Rosenworcel, and [Starks](#) on January 7, 2020, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and the next section 706 report. Hughes suggested the FCC adopt rule changes that will allow providers using hybrid networks to bid in the correct latency tier for the RDOF auction. Hughes also supported the proposal to add a bidding tier to the RDOF auction structure at 50 Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload and the proposal to add an evolutionary tier that would provide 25/3 service during the first half of the support term and 50/5 service during the second half of the support term.
- SES [met with](#) legal advisors to Commissioners O'Rielly and Starks and staff from the Office of Economics and Analytics, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau on January 8 and 10, 2020, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. SES asserted the 100 ms latency metric proposed for RDOF is unnecessarily restrictive because it fails to reflect actual network

requirements for broadband services and real-time applications. SES urged the Commission to revise its latency threshold to reflect the technical requirements for the provision of low-latency services.

- The Rural and Agriculture Council of America and the United States Cattlemen's Association filed a [letter](#) on January 14, 2020, on the RDOF. They support the FCC's decision to add a fourth service tier at 50/5 Mbps to the RDOF auction and said it would help enlist more providers in the national effort to close the digital divide by offering them greater flexibility to deploy their resources further into costly and hard to reach areas. The [National Grange](#) also filed a letter supporting the addition of a 50/5 Mbps service tier.
- CenturyLink filed a [letter](#) on January 15, 2020, providing notice that its current year-end data shows it met or exceeded the CAF Phase II program's interim broadband deployment milestone in ten states. It also said based on preliminary year-end data, it may not have met the CAF Phase II 80 percent interim deployment milestone in 23 states. It said by March 1, 2020 it will provide the requisite information to the HUBB portal.
- Frontier filed a [letter](#) on January 15, 2020, providing notice that, based on its current year-end data, it met or exceeded the CAF Phase II program's December 31, 2019 interim broadband deployment milestone in 16 states. It also said based on preliminary year-end data, it may not have reached the CAF Phase II 80 percent interim deployment milestone in 13 states. It said by March 1, 2020 it will provide the requisite information to the HUBB portal.

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ICC

- Aureon filed a [reply](#) on January 17, 2020, to [oppositions](#) to its [petition for reconsideration](#) of the September 2019 access arbitration [report and order](#). Aureon asserted as a result of the FCC's decision to change the intercarrier compensation regime so access stimulating LECs are now responsible for paying for terminating long distance calls, AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, and other IXCs now have no incentive to stop arbitrage traffic because the IXCs will be paid by their customers.
- AT&T filed an [opposition](#) on January 15, 2020, to Free Conferencing Corporation's [petition](#) for waiver of the 45-day implementation date of the access arbitration [order](#). AT&T asserted Free Conferencing's request lacks merit, misstates facts, and claimed it ignores the role Free Conferencing played in causing the call congestion it complains about. AT&T said Free Conferencing has had ample time to come into compliance with the new rules.
- Free Conferencing Corporation filed a [reply](#) on January 17, 2020, to AT&T's [opposition](#) to its [petition](#) for waiver of the 45-day implementation date of the access arbitration order. Free Conferencing said AT&T's opposition contains misstatements, and incorrect characterizations of the law. Free Conferencing also said some of the information provided by AT&T in its opposition was for a different company with a similar name.
- [T-Mobile](#) and [Intelliquest](#) filed motions with the Illinois district court on January 15, 2020, to dismiss Craigville Telephone and Consolidated Telephone's [complaint](#) against them that alleged, among other things, T-Mobile's provision of false ring tones resulted in lost opportunities to seek intercarrier compensation and lost profits and revenue. T-Mobile asserted plaintiffs failed to plead a plausible theory of injury. Intelliquest asserted each of the counts against it fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Intelliquest also filed a [motion](#) to refer the claims against it to the FCC under the doctrine of primary jurisdiction.
- AT&T [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on January 9, 2020, to discuss intercarrier compensation and 8YY access charges. AT&T asserted that originating access charges for 8YY calls involve a mismatch in pricing signals that inherently invites fraud and abuse. AT&T also said these fraudulent schemes can inundate 8YY customers with unwanted calls that increase their expense, and can affect the ability of legitimate calls to be completed. AT&T also

provided an overview of toll-free traffic pumping and the impact to toll free customers. AT&T suggested the Commission adopt bill-and-keep reforms of access charges for 8YY.

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Broadband

- The USDA [announced](#) on January 17, 2020, it has invested \$11 million in three high-speed broadband infrastructure projects that will create or improve rural e-connectivity for more than 1,395 rural households and nearly 120 businesses throughout Minnesota and Iowa. The USDA said Harmony Telephone will use a \$2.7 million loan and a \$2.7 million grant to construct a FTTP network in several counties bordering southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. Osage Municipal Utilities will use a \$397,749 grant to provide broadband service to underserved households, farms and businesses in Iowa, and Consolidated Telephone Company will use a \$5.2 million grant to construct a FTTP network in Minnesota. The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect Pilot Program](#).
- The USDA [announced](#) on January 17, 2020, it has invested \$5.7 million in a high-speed broadband infrastructure project that will create or improve rural e-connectivity in parts of three Nebraska counties. The USDA said Eastern Nebraska Telephone will use the investment to construct 221 miles of FTTP broadband infrastructure and is expected to connect 489 rural households, 24 farms and eight businesses to high-speed broadband. The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect Pilot Program](#).
- The FCC released a [public notice](#) on January 13, 2020, announcing petitions for reconsideration of the [report and order](#) establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection have been filed by [Microsoft](#) and [INCOMPAS](#). Oppositions to the petitions will be due 15 days after this public notice is published in the Federal Register; replies to oppositions will be due 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.
- Chairman Pai [spoke](#) at the Hawaii International Conference on Science Systems on January 10, 2020, regarding broadband deployment efforts. He said the FCC has been working to modernize its regulations and clear unnecessary roadblocks to network investment and have made it easier and cheaper for broadband providers to access utility poles and made it easier for companies to transition away from copper lines toward fiber networks. Pai also said broadband investment in the United States increased in 2017 and 2018, broadband networks have been expanding and improving and have seen significant increases in broadband speeds. He also discussed the CAF Phase II auction and the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.
- Commissioners Rosenworcel and O'Rielly spoke at the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's hearing on January 15, 2020, entitled *Industries of the Future*, and discussed 5G, spectrum and other issues. [Rosenworcel](#) said there needs to be a plan to deploy 5G technology to everyone and everywhere in the United States. [O'Rielly](#) discussed the importance of addressing the need for more unlicensed spectrum and said the Commission must allocate additional bands for unlicensed use.
- Hughes Network Systems [met with](#) staff from the Wireline Competition Bureau, Office of Economics and Analytics, International Bureau, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau on January 16, 2020, to discuss the Digital Opportunity Data Collection. Hughes asserted requiring satellite broadband providers to report on beam location or capacity would not improve broadband data and reporting on latency should be informed by the relevance of the information and the burden of reporting.
- Duke Energy [met with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai on January 9, 2020, to discuss its efforts to facilitate 5G deployment through utilization of streetlights. It claimed regulating streetlight collocation would hinder industry and Commission objectives by suppressing the innovation and collaboration necessary to meet those objectives.

Robocalls

- NTCA [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau staff on January 14, 2020, to discuss how the Commission can address IP interconnection issues and facilitate full industry participation in the SHAKEN/STIR caller-ID spoofing mitigation framework. NTCA recommended the Commission promote IP interconnection by adopting a simple default rule that would maintain existing interconnection points and transport responsibilities for voice calls between operatories, regardless of whether a call is exchanged in TDM or IP and that there is precedent for adoption of such a rule.

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Universal Service

- The [public notice](#) that provided guidance on the implementation schedule for reforms adopted in the August 2019 [report and order](#) on rural health care reforms was published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 17, 2020.
- Reply comments were filed on January 13, 2020, on petitions for reconsideration of the August 2019 rural health care [order](#). [USTelecom](#) said the record supports its argument that the Commission reconsider how it implements its new medium rural rate framework. [AT&T](#) agreed with GCI and petitioners that the FCC should let competitive market forces determine rural rates and that the Commission should direct USAC to create separate rural rates that factor in different term and volume discounts. [CenturyLink](#) said the Commission should pause implementation of the new median rural rate framework, reconsider the new service provider certification requirement to remove sales commission arrangements, and improve the efficiency and integrity of the procurement process by harmonizing service provider certifications between RHC programs. [Alaska Communications](#) agreed with GCI that the FCC should direct USAC to adjust any rural rates that reflect volume and term discounts to eliminate the effect of the discount before including the rate in any rate average or median to determine the applicable rural rate under the RHC Telecommunications Program.
- Sprint [met with](#) Chairman Pai's advisor on January 10, 2020, to discuss Lifeline issues, including the Commission's adoption of restrictions on payments of commissions to Lifeline enrollment representatives and the mechanics of implementation of these restrictions.
- The SHLB Coalition filed a [letter](#) on January 14, 2020, to respond to claims made by ILECs that are challenging the E-Rate competitive bidding process. SHLB asserted ILEC requests to reverse the competitive bidding process and prohibit E-Rate from supporting fiber facilities where the traditional company claims that it already has fiber that can serve the school or library would lead to higher prices for schools and libraries, and increase the burden on the E-rate fund.
- NTTA, Mescalero Apache Telecom, the Spokane Tribe Telecom Exchange, Alexicon Consulting and GRTyree Consulting [met with](#) the Office of Native Affairs and Policy and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on January 13, 2020, to discuss ongoing problems regarding the Lifeline third party verification process and possible solutions. They asked the Commission to reinstate the School Lunch Program as one of the programs for determining eligibility. They also inquired about the timing of licensure for the 2.5 GHz spectrum offering, the need for education for tribal entities on this issue, and the need for a new category of tribal broadband carriers for the provision of USF support.
- AARP filed [comments](#) on January 15, 2020, offering suggestions on the [NPRM](#) on promoting telehealth for low-income consumers. AARP suggested the pilot provide funding to cover certain equipment costs to create more efficient means of establishing connectivity, and allow for a longer start-up time than six months for the pilot.
- NCTA filed [comments](#) on January 17, 2020, in support of Viya's [petition for reconsideration](#) of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds [report and order](#). NCTA said the Commission should

clarify that applicants using buried coaxial cable will be entitled to the same treatment as buried fiber if they can demonstrate the resiliency of their proposed facilities. Replies to oppositions are due January 27, 2020. [FR](#)

- Cross Telephone [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on January 13, 2020, to respond to Commission inquiries on its [request for review](#) of a USAC audit decision that concluded that expenses for the Cross' purchase of DSI transport service from its affiliate, MBO Video, should have been excluded from the Cross' High Cost Program reports and instead reported as interexchange plant and related expenses. Cross provided information on its business operations and Cross' purchase of transport services from its commonly-owned affiliate MBO Video.

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Misc.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 16, 2020, seeking comment on a 214 application filed by Spencer Municipal Utilities and Premier Communications requesting consent to transfer control of the Fostoria, Iowa telecommunications assets and customer base of SMU to Premier. Comments are due January 30, 2020; replies are due February 6, 2020.
- No replies were filed 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](#)
- Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) [announced](#) on January 14, 2020, the introduction of a bipartisan bill, the [Utilizing Strategic Allied \(USA\) Telecommunications Act](#), to encourage and support U.S. innovation in the race for 5G, which provides over \$1 billion to invest in Western-based alternatives to Chinese equipment providers Huawei and ZTE.
- The FCC issued three orders on January 17, 2020, granting applications filed by [Twilio International](#), the [Voice Application Network](#), and [Stratus Networks](#) for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for their iVoIP service.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 13, 2020, seeking comments on Assurance Telecom's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. Comments are due January 28, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 14, 2020, seeking comments on Ton80 Communications' application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. Comments are due January 29, 2020.
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on January 14, 2020, announcing comment due dates for the [public notice](#) on refreshing the record on truth-in-billing rules. A summary of the public notice was published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 13, 2020. Comments are due February 12, 2020; replies are due March 13, 2020.
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued two orders on January 14, 2020, addressing slamming complaints against [Frontier](#) and [City Communications](#). The Bureau found Frontier responded fully to and acted to resolve the complaint, and City Communications changed complainant's telecommunications service providers without obtaining authorization and verification from the complainant.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on January 13, 2020, his intent to appoint Paul A. Jackson as director of the FCC's Office of Legislative Affairs. Jackson will replace Tim Strachan, who will continue his work at the FCC in the Office of General Counsel.

- The [NPRM](#) on updating the Commission's suspension and debarment rules to make them consistent with OMB guidelines to better prevent bad actors from participating in USF programs, TRS programs and the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program [was published](#) in the Federal Register on January 14, 2020. Comments are due February 13, 2020; replies are due March 16, 2020. The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau also issued a [public notice](#) on January 15, 2020, announcing comment due dates for the [NPRM](#).

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Jan. 23 - Comments due on a section 214 [application](#) that requested consent for the unauthorized transfer of control that occurred on July 1, 2016, when applicants transferred Vantage to Pinnacle without prior Commission approval. Reply comments are due January 30, 2020. [public notice](#)
- 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 arbitrage [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. 28 - Comments due on Assurance Telecom's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. [public notice](#)
- 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](#)
- Jan. 29 - Comments due on Ton80 Communications' application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. [public notice](#)
- Jan. 30 - Replies due on a section 214 [application](#) that requested consent for the unauthorized transfer of control that occurred on July 1, 2016, when applicants transferred Vantage to Pinnacle without prior Commission approval. [public notice](#)
- Jan. 30 - Comments due on a 214 application filed by Spencer Municipal Utilities and Premier Communications requesting consent to transfer control of the Fostoria, Iowa telecommunications assets and customer base of SMU to Premier. Replies are due February 6, 2020. [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. 6 - Replies due on a 214 application filed by Spencer Municipal Utilities and Premier Communications requesting consent to transfer control of the Fostoria, Iowa telecommunications assets and customer base of SMU to Premier. [public notice](#)
- Feb. 12 - Comments due on seeking to refresh the record on ways to modernize and strengthen the truth-in-billing rules. Replies are due March 13, 2020. [public notice](#), [Federal Register](#)
- Feb. 13 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on updating the Commission's suspension and debarment rules to make them consistent with OMB guidelines to better prevent bad actors from participating in USF programs, TRS programs and the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program. Replies are due March 16, 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](#)
- Mar. 13 - Replies due on seeking to refresh the record on ways to modernize and strengthen the truth-in-billing rules. [public notice](#), [Federal Register](#)
- Mar 16 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on updating the Commission's suspension and debarment rules to make them consistent with OMB guidelines to better prevent bad actors from participating in USF programs, TRS programs and the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program. [FR](#).

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