Please note: Due to the partial lapse of federal government funding, this week’s REGScan has limited items.

• The D.C. Circuit Court issued an Order on January 17, 2019, denying the FCC’s motion asking that oral argument, scheduled for February 1, 2019, in the appeal of the Restoring Internet Freedom Order be postponed due to the recent lapse in government funding. INCOMPAS filed an Opposition to the FCC’s motion on January 16, 2019. The FCC had indicated Petitioners opposed the motion, the petitioner-intervenors Internet Association, Entertainment Software Association, CCIA, and Writers Guild of America, West, took no position on the motion, and the United States, intervenor Digital Justice Foundation, and respondent-intervenors USTelecom, CTIA, NCTA, ACA, and WISPA did not oppose the motion.

• Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) reintroduced the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act (S. 151) on January 17, 2019. The TRACED Act would: give the FCC authority to levy civil penalties of up to $10,000 per call on people who intentionally flout telemarketing restrictions; extend the window for the FCC to catch and take civil enforcement action against intentional violations to three years after a robocall is placed; bring relevant federal agencies and state attorneys general together to address impediments to criminal prosecution of robocallers; require voice service providers to adopt call authentication technologies; and direct the FCC to initiate a rulemaking to help protect subscribers from receiving unwanted calls or texts.

• Next Century Cities announced on January 16, 2019, that it launched Becoming Broadband Ready: A Toolkit for Communities. It said this toolkit is a one-stop resource for community leaders seeking to connect residents to broadband and provides information on establishing leadership, building a community movement, identifying goals, identifying legislative and regulatory barriers, and exploring connectivity options, among other things.
Upcoming Filing Dates

*Note: Per the FCC’s January 2, 2019 Public Notice, all filings that would be due during a suspension of operations, will be due on the second day of normal operations.

- Replies due once FCC reopens on USTelecom, CTIA, and ITTA’s Petition for a one-time waiver of section 54.420, which requires completion of a biennial audit. Public Notice *

- Replies due once FCC reopens on the NPRM on amending tariff filing rules to allow a carrier to cross-reference its own tariffs and eliminating the requirement that price cap ILECs file short form tariff review plans 90 days before access tariffs are due.*

- Comments due once FCC reopens on issues raised in the NPRM on promoting telehealth in rural areas related to determining the urban and rural rates used to calculate support in the Telecommunications Program within the Rural Health Care Program. Replies are due January 21, 2019. Public Notice *

- Comments due once FCC reopens on the Second FNPRM and FNPRM that accompanied the Report and Order that allows certain RLECs that receive fixed high-cost support to transition from RoR regulation to incentive regulation for their business data services. Reply comments are due February 12, 2019. FR *

- Comments due once FCC reopens on the 2018 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations, which seeks comments on amending rules in Parts 1, 8, 32, 36, 42, 43, 51, 52, 53, 54, 59, 61, 63, 64, 68 and 69. Replies are due February 19, 2019. Public Notice *

- Jan. 21 - Replies due on issues raised in the NPRM on promoting telehealth in rural areas related to determining the urban and rural rates used to calculate support in the Telecommunications Program within the Rural Health Care Program. Public Notice

- Jan. 25 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with certain Part 64 rules on billing disclosure requirements for pay-per-call services. Notice

- Feb. 4 - Comments due on GCI’s Application for Review of a Bureau decision approving cost-based rural rates for certain Funding Year 2017 funding requests for services provided by GCI to health care providers in the Telecom Program of the Rural Health Care Mechanism. Replies are due February 19, 2019. Public Notice

- Feb. 12 - Replies due on the Second FNPRM and FNPRM that accompanied the Report and Order that allows certain RLECs that receive fixed high-cost support to transition from RoR regulation to incentive regulation for their business data services. FR

- Feb. 19 - Replies due on the 2018 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations, which seeks comments on amending rules in Parts 1, 8, 32, 36, 42, 43, 51, 52, 53, 54, 59, 61, 63, 64, 68 and 69. Public Notice

- Feb. 19 - Replies due on GCI’s Application for Review of a Bureau decision approving cost-based rural rates for certain Funding Year 2017 funding requests for services provided by GCI to health care providers in the Telecom Program of the Rural Health Care Mechanism. Public Notice

- Feb. 25 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with certain Part 64 rules on cost allocation. Notice