

[USF Reform](#) [Open Internet](#) [Broadband](#) [IP Transition](#) [USF](#) [Call Completion](#) [Misc.](#) [Upcoming Events](#)

### February 4, 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) for its February Open Meeting, which has been rescheduled to February 14, 2019. The FCC will consider five items that were originally circulated for the January meeting, including a [Report and Order](#) establishing a schedule to end CAF Phase I support in price cap areas where CAF Phase II auction winning bidders will begin receiving Phase II support and in areas that were not eligible for the auction, while providing interim support in areas that did not receive any bids, and an [NPRM](#) proposing to amend its Truth in Caller ID rules to implement the anti-spoofing provisions of the RAY BAUM's Act.
- Chairman Pai [responded](#) to a [letter](#) from members of Congress on the local service rate floor rule, indicating he plans to take action to protect rural Americans from rate increases in the coming months.
- WTA [discussed](#) the current status of the local service rate floor and the performance testing requirements for RLECs and other small carriers. WTA said it would prefer elimination of the rate floor, but said it is critical the Commission rule on the issue much earlier than July 1. WTA also discussed its [Application for Review](#) of the Network Performance Testing Order.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) announcing that the filing deadline for FCC Form 477 data as of December 31, 2018, has been extended to March 8, 2019.
- Comments were filed by [Alaska Communications](#) and the [American Petroleum Institute](#) on the FNPRMs attached to the [Report and Order](#) that allowed certain RLECs that receive fixed high-cost support to transition from RoR regulation to incentive regulation for their business data services. Comments [are due](#) February 8, 2019.
- Commissioner Starks issued a [statement](#) on the February 1, 2019 oral argument in the Restoring Internet Freedom appeal. Starks supported the Open Internet [framework](#) established in 2015.
- Chairman Pai [responded](#) to a letter from Reps. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and Rohit Khanna (D-Pa.) et al., that alleged Verizon throttled certain video services and asked the FCC to investigate. Pai said he forwarded their letter to the Enforcement Bureau and shared the letter with the FTC as they have jurisdiction to police these issues.
- Companies [responded](#) to Commissioner Rosenworcel's [request](#) to provide a description of any tools they offer to combat robocalls, including a description of the costs charged, if any, to consumers.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) further revising deadlines for submitting FCC filings as a result of the government shutdown.
- USAC filed [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections](#) for the second quarter of 2019; the total high-cost support mechanism funding requirements are projected to be \$1.108 billion. (Appendices are available on [USAC's website](#).)

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### Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 8 - Comments [due](#) on the FNPRMs attached to the [Report and Order](#) that allowed certain RLECs that receive fixed high-cost support to transition from RoR regulation to incentive regulation for their BDS. Replies are due March 11, 2019. [FR](#)
- Feb. 8 - Comments [due](#) on the 2018 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations. Replies are due March 11, 2019. [Public Notice](#)

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## USF Reform

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Senators Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Reps. Rick Crawford (R-Ark.), French Hill (R-Ark.), Steve Womack (R-Ark.), and Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) on December 28, 2018, in response to their [letter](#) on the local service rate floor rule. Pai said after several years of experience, the rule appears to impose high costs on rural consumers without any corresponding federal benefit. He noted the FCC froze in May 2017 the rate floor at the 2016 minimum rate of \$18 per month until July 2019 and adopted an NPRM seeking comment on whether the Commission should eliminate the rate floor entirely. Pai indicated Commission staff are now carefully reviewing the record, and said he plans for the Commission to take action to protect rural Americans from unjustified, government-mandated rate increases in the coming months.
- WTA [met with](#) Acting Special Counsel to Chairman Pai and Advisors to Commissioners [O’Rielly](#) and [Carr](#) on January 29, 2019, to discuss the current status of the local voice service rate floor and the performance testing requirements for RLECs and other small carriers. WTA said it would prefer elimination of the rate floor, but emphasized the critical need at present is for a Commission ruling on the issue much earlier than July 1 in order to avoid the commencement of state ratemaking proceedings and the provision of advance notices of rate increases to remaining voice service customers. WTA discussed its [Application for Review](#) of the Network Performance Testing Order, noting it has requested, among other things, that the commencement of performance testing by RLECs be deferred for a reasonable time and the Bureaus work with RLEC representatives during the deferral period to develop more reasonable and practicable testing procedures for RLECs and other small high-cost support recipients.
- Chairman Pai sent [a letter](#) to Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL) on December 31, 2018, to respond to his [letter](#) regarding Hamilton County Telephone’s Petition for Reconsideration of the 2018 Rate-of-Return USF Reform Order. Pai noted on December 12, 2018, the Commission adopted an Order on Reconsideration denying Hamilton’s Petition, finding that the Petition effectively came two years too late. Pai said although the Commission could not grant relief in this case, the Commission’s consideration involved a fair and comprehensive examination of the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders.
- Chairman Pai sent [a letter](#) to Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) on December 31, 2018, in response to his letter on Grand River Mutual Telephone’s Petition for Review of the 2018 RoR USF Reform Order. Pai said although the Commission could not grant relief in this case, he said its consideration involved a fair and comprehensive examination of the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Congressmen Raul Ruiz (D-Calif) and Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) on January 2, 2019, in response to their letter on the GAO’s report on broadband access on Tribal lands. Pai said the Commission aims to ensure that it collects the best possible data on broadband access on Tribal lands and is working to address each of the three recommendations advanced by the GAO. He indicated he has asked FCC staff to expand their ongoing engagement with Tribal stakeholders so their views and insights more fully inform the FCC’s efforts to identify and develop measures to address unserved Tribal areas.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Reps. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) and Tom O’Halloran (D-AZ) on December 31, 2018, in response to their letter on the GAO’s September 2018 report regarding broadband access on Tribal lands. Pai said the Commission aims to ensure that it collects the best possible data on broadband access on Tribal lands and is working to address each of the three recommendations advanced by the GAO. Pai indicated he has asked FCC staff to expand their ongoing engagement with Tribal stakeholders so that their views and insights more fully inform the FCC’s efforts to identify and develop measures to address unserved Tribal areas.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued [an Erratum](#) on January 30, 2019, to the 2018 RoR USF Reform Order, which deletes in paragraph 59, in the third sentence, “(or do not receive a revised offer because they are already authorized to receive A-CAM funding up to \$200 per location).” It also

amends Appendix A as follows: in paragraph 4, replace “tile” with “title;” and in Paragraph 18, change (a)(2)(i) to (b)(2)(i), change (a)(2)(ii) to (b)(2)(ii), and change (a) \* \* \* to (b) \* \* \*.

- CenturyLink filed a [letter](#) on January 15, 2019, to provide notice that, based on preliminary year-end data, it may not have met the CAF Phase II sixty-percent interim deployment milestone in eleven states; Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. It indicated it continues to review, validate, and confirm the data, and by March 1, it will provide the vetted requisite information to the HUBB portal in accord with § 54.316. CenturyLink said it continues to deploy broadband to CAF II locations under the program, anticipates reaching the sixty-percent milestone in all thirty-three states soon, and remains committed to meeting its CAF II obligations.
- Frontier filed a [letter](#) on January 16, 2019, to provide notice that, based on preliminary year-end data, it may not have met the CAF Phase II 60 percent interim deployment milestone in Nebraska and New Mexico. Frontier said it has deployed to 57 percent or more of the total CAF II locations in each of these states. It said it will provide the vetted requisite information to the HUBB portal by March 1, 2019.
- Casey Mutual Telephone filed a [Petition](#) on January 4, 2019, seeking a waiver of the deadline for winning bidders in the CAF Phase II auction to submit a letter of credit commitment letter as an attachment to Form 683 (Application for CAF Phase II Auction Support).
- T-Mobile filed a [letter](#) on January 30, 2019, to respond to the Rural Wireless Association's December 26, 2018 Informal Request for Commission Action, which asked the Commission to investigate T-Mobile's Mobility Fund II 4G LTE coverage maps. T-Mobile asserted the request is untimely and procedurally defective and should be rejected. T-Mobile further asserted the filing contains information obtained through violations of the Commission's CPNI rules and repeats arguments motivated by self-interest in delaying the MF II auction process.

[Back to Highlights](#)

## ICC

- BTC, d/b/a Western Iowa Networks, Goldfield Access Network, Great Lakes Communication, Northern Valley Communications, OmniTel Communications, and Louisa Communications (CLECs) filed a [letter](#) on January 30, 2019, to respond to AT&T's letters submitted between December 3, 2018, and December 21, 2018. They said they do not agree with AT&T's assertion that the Commission has the authority to adopt the “prong one” proposal in the Access Stimulation NPRM, *i.e.* the proposal that would require access-stimulating LECs to “bear the financial responsibility for the delivery of terminating traffic to their end office” in the event the LECs do not accept direct connections. They asserted any action implementing the “prong one” proposal: would violate the Tenth Circuit's holding in *In re FCC 11-161*; is unreasonably discriminatory; and is not consistent with the established definition of a bill-and-keep framework nor the FCC's justifications for implementing bill-and-keep.
- Wide Voice filed a [letter](#) on January 14, 2019, on the [NPRM](#) on access stimulation. Wide Voice asserted the NPRM proposals would create new rate disparities, punishing and discriminating against LECs classified as access stimulators, and further embolden incumbent operators' attacks on these LECs. Wide Voice suggested the Commission take the following actions to further the rate convergence goals of the USF/ICC Transformation Order, including: capping at 15 miles transport charges for access stimulators; finding that refusing to pay a properly filed tariffed rate is an unjust and unreasonable practice that violates section 201; and restating that the tandem switched transport rate transition relies on the carrier's regulatory classification and only applies to traffic that terminates to a price cap LEC end office.
- South Dakota Network filed a [letter](#) on January 30, 2019, to amend Exhibit 1 of its [Direct Case](#) and Exhibit B of its [ex parte letter](#) of January 3, 2019, in the case investigating SDN's 2018 Tariff No. 1. SDN said in amended Exhibit 1 to the Direct Case, it removes minutes of use that were incorrectly

included and adds minutes of use that were incorrectly excluded. SDN said amended Exhibit B of the January letter corrects a rate band allocation error.

- To date, no replies were filed 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.

[Back to Highlights](#)

## Broadband

- The Wireline Competition Bureau, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the Office of Economics and Analytics issued a [Public Notice](#) on January 31, 2019, announcing that the filing deadline for FCC Form 477 data as of December 31, 2018, has been extended to March 8, 2019. The Form 477 [filing interface](#) is now accepting data as of December 31, 2018. Information on how to file Form 477 is available [here](#).
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) and 10 other members of Congress on December 27, 2018, on the November 14, 2018 GAO [report](#) entitled *Tribal Broadband: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum*. The report examines Tribal entities' ability to obtain and access spectrum to provide broadband services, deployment barriers that may exist, and the extent to which the FCC promotes and supports Tribal efforts to obtain and access spectrum. Pai said he instructed the Chiefs of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to consider ways to collect data on the extent to which Tribal entities are obtaining and accessing spectrum, take a sample of spectrum licenses on Tribal lands and analyze that data, and to continue outreach and educational efforts.
- Chairman Pai sent letters to [Sens. Charles Schumer \(D- N.Y.\) and Kirsten Gillibrand \(D- N.Y.\)](#), [Reps. Jerry McNerney D- Calif., et al.](#), [Reps. Billy Long \(R- Mo.\) et al.](#), and [Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto \(D- Nev.\)](#) on December 27, 2018, in response to their letters ([Schumer and Gillibrand, McNerney, et al.](#), [Long, et al.](#), [Cortez Masto](#)) on FCC efforts to modernize wireless infrastructure regulations. Pai said in 2018 the FCC modernized its regulations and made the federal regulatory review process for wireless infrastructure less onerous. Pai said the FCC addressed local regulations that are inconsistent with federal law, including ensuring cities can recover their costs but not discriminate against new deployments and set reasonable shot clocks tailored to small wireless facilities while respecting the need for longer timelines when dealing with 200-foot towers.
- Chairman Pai sent letters to Reps. [Jack Bergman \(R Mich.\)](#), [Bill Johnson \(R-Ohio\)](#), et al., [Tom Marino \(R- Pa.\)](#), and [Tim Ryan \(D- Ohio\)](#), and Sens. [Steve Daines \(R- Mont.\) and Ron Johnson \(R- Wis.\)](#), and [Charles E. Grassley \(R-Iowa\)](#) on December 28, 2018, in response to their letters (Reps. [Bergman](#), [Johnson et al.](#), [Marino](#), [Ryan](#) and Sens. [Daines and Johnson](#), [Grassley](#)) on the issue of using TV White Spaces for providing high speed internet connections to residents who currently do not have access to broadband connectivity. Pai said in 2018, the FCC: streamlined rules to deploy 5G; encouraged carriers to replace aging copper with super-fast fiber on an expedited basis; launched the first auction for millimeter-wave spectrum; increased federal support for the Rural Healthcare Program and for small, rural carriers serving high-cost areas; and held the nation's first reverse auction for fixed broadband support. Pai agreed that unlicensed spectrum in the TV white spaces promises an opportunity for new wireless broadband deployments, and said he asked staff to continue working on the details left unfinished by the prior Administration.
- The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will hold a [hearing](#) entitled, "Winning the Race to 5G and the Next Era of Technology Innovation in the United States" on February 6, 2019. The hearing will focus on key steps to maintain U.S. global leadership in next-generation communications technology, spectrum needs to accelerate deployment, and new applications and services consumers can expect with 5G deployments. The hearing will also examine current efforts to modernize infrastructure siting policies and the security of 5G networks. Witnesses include: Meredith

Atwell Baker, President and CEO, CTIA; Steve Berry, President and CEO, Competitive Carriers Association; Shailen Bhatt, President and CEO, Intelligent Transportation Society of America; Michael Wessel, Commissioner, U.S.-China Economic & Security Review Commission; and Kim Zentz, Chief Executive Officer, Urbanova.

[Back to Highlights](#)

## Open Internet

- Commissioner Starks issued a [statement](#) on February 1, 2019, on the oral argument in the Restoring Internet Freedom appeal. Starks expressed support for the Open Internet [framework](#) established in 2015.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Reps. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and Rohit Khanna (D-Pa.) et al. on December 31, 2018, to respond to their letter that alleged Verizon throttled certain video services, including Netflix and YouTube, and asked the Commission to investigate these reports. Pai said the Commission takes seriously any allegations of conduct that might compromise a free and open internet, and forwarded their letter to the Enforcement Bureau. Pai also said, pursuant to an MOU with the Federal Trade Commission, he shared the letter with them, as they have jurisdiction to police these issues.
- The House Communications and Technology Subcommittee will hold a [hearing](#) on February 7, 2019, entitled *Preserving an Open Internet for Consumers, Small Businesses, and Free Speech*.

## Universal Service

- The D.C. Circuit Court issued an [Opinion](#) on February 1, 2019, vacating the FCC's 2017 Tribal Lifeline [Order](#). Petitioners had challenged the limitation placed on the enhanced Tribal Lifeline subsidy to services provided by ETCs that utilize their own fixed or mobile wireless facilities, excluding carriers that resell services provided over other carriers' facilities, and the limitation placed on the subsidy to residents of "rural" areas on Tribal lands. The court found the FCC's adoption of these two limitations was arbitrary and capricious because it did not provide a reasoned explanation for its change of policy. The court also found the FCC failed to provide an adequate opportunity for comment on the proposed limitations. The court remanded this matter to the FCC for a new notice-and-comment rulemaking proceeding.
- The FCC released an [NPRM and Order](#) on January 31, 2019, proposing to eliminate the amortization requirement for non-recurring Category One funding requests over \$500,000, including for special construction, from the E-Rate program, and granting a waiver from the amortization requirement for the duration of this rulemaking. The Commission seeks comment on whether the amortization suspension has encouraged the deployment of high-speed, low-cost connections, and the effect of the amortization suspension on applicants and on USF expenditures, among other things. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 45 days after publication in the Federal Register.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) on January 31, 2019, granting, denying, and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on E-rate and USF contributions. Petitions for reconsideration or applications for review of these decisions must be filed within 30 days of the Public Notice.
- USAC filed [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections](#) for the second quarter of 2019 on February 1, 2019. USAC indicated the total high-cost support mechanism funding requirements are projected to be \$1.108 billion. (Appendices are available on [USAC's website](#).)
- USAC filed a [fourth update](#) to the Lifeline National Verifier Plan on February 1, 2019, which was created in response to the 2017 Lifeline Modernization Order. USAC stated this updated version

describes the systems and processes of the National Verifier, provides a status of the project, and details the work that remains to make it a success.

- USAC filed its [National Verifier Annual Report and Data](#) on January 31, 2019. The report provides a summary of the 2018 launch of the Lifeline National Verifier, its functionality, and outlines how the National Verifier meets the FCC's key objectives to: protect against waste, fraud, and abuse; lower costs to the Universal Service Fund and ETCs through administrative efficiencies; and better serve eligible beneficiaries by facilitating choice and improving the enrollment experience.
- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Sen. John Hoeven (D-N.D.) on January 3, 2019, to respond to his letter asking for expedited review of a waiver for the Northland Healthcare Alliance relating to rural health care, and requesting information on reasons for the delay in the FCC responding to Northland. Pai said significant enforcement actions against two carriers increased awareness of potential problems in the Rural Health Care Program, which demonstrated the need for additional scrutiny of funding requests, and FCC staff should be able to act on Northland's waiver request in the near future.
- Comments were filed on January 30, 2019, 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. [GCI](#) said with respect to specific services in a particular market, there should be only one set of pricing rules. GCI also said relying on competitive bidding will simplify administration of the program. [ACS](#) said the FCC should eliminate the use of cost-based rate justification for the rural rate, and permit reimbursement under the Telecom Program when reasonably accessible data demonstrates the reasonableness of a rural rate. ACS also said administrative reforms should be put in place to provide better guidance to USAC and better transparency to the public. [TeleQuality](#) said compliance with the FCC's proposed rules will be impossible, and promoting competitive bidding is better than increasing rate regulation. TeleQuality also asserted transparency would improve the procurement process. The [Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition](#) said urban rates should be established by the Commission in a transparent process and rural rates should be determined primarily by the market. It also asserted the Commission should address certain open issues, including application process deadlines and backlog of applications. [AT&T](#) said the Commission should phase out the RHC Telecom program outside of Alaska, eliminate discounts for voice service, and move quickly to adopt commenter's recommendations to apply the E-rate program's best practices to its RHC programs. [All comments available to date. Public Notice](#)
- GCI filed a [Supplement](#) on January 29, 2019, to its November 2018 [Application for Review](#) of a Wireline Competition Bureau decision that retroactively prescribed interstate interexchange rates for Funding Year 2017 services to rural Health Care Providers at levels \$28 million below the rates established through competitive bidding. GCI said the Commission's rules required GCI to file its AFR and any supplement by November 9, 2018, but USAC did not inform GCI until November 30, 2018, that it had denied 17 funding requests submitted by GCI's HCP customers that had been included in the Bureau decision's rate-of-return calculations. GCI also said the Bureau failed to provide GCI the figures underlying the Bureau's cost analysis of GCI's TERRA network until December 14, 2018.
- To date, no replies were filed 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](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on January 28, 2019, seeking comments on Bloosurf's [Petition for Designation](#) as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Delaware and Maryland. Bloosurf is a winning bidder of CAF Phase II auction support for census blocks in those States. Comments are due February 11, 2019; replies are due February 19, 2019.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on January 29, 2019, seeking comments on [Meriweather Lewis Connect](#) and [HolstonConnect](#)'s separate petitions for designation as an ETC. The Bureau indicated each of the petitioners is a winning bidder of CAF Phase II auction support (Auction 903). It said to the extent these petitions specifically include areas outside of CAF-eligible census blocks for which the petitioners' won support, the Bureau will treat the petition as a request for Lifeline-only designation in those areas (although the petitioner will be obligated to provide Lifeline services

throughout its designation area). Comments are due February 12, 2019; replies are due February 19, 2019.

- Sprint filed [comments](#) on January 29, 2019, on the [Public Notice](#) proposing changes to the annual and quarterly Telecommunications Reporting Worksheets, FCC Form 499-A and 499-Q, and the related filing instructions. Sprint said most, if not all, of the changes proposed by the Commission are ministerial in nature, which Sprint agrees are appropriate. Sprint proposed two clarifications; one to the instructions relating to Lines 503-509 of Form 499, and one to the proper reporting of SMS revenues.
- Huawei Technologies filed an [ex parte presentation](#) on January 29, 2019, to supplement the record in the National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs proceeding and to respond to TIA's December 7, 2018 reply comments in that proceeding. Huawei asserted: TIA's interpretation of section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 is strained and unreasonable; USAC is not a federal agency; subsidies are not a form of grant; and TIA's *Chevron* deference argument is misplaced. It claimed the Commission has no independent authority to restrict USF recipients' choice of equipment. Huawei said the Commission should terminate this rulemaking proceeding in favor of a more comprehensive, holistic approach to supply chain security.

[Back to Highlights](#)

## Misc.

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on January 29, 2019, for its February Open Meeting, which has been rescheduled from February 21, 2019 to February 14, 2019. The FCC will consider the items that were originally circulated for the January meeting but were withdrawn due to the lapse in appropriations, including a [Report and Order](#) establishing a schedule to end CAF Phase I support in price cap areas where winning bidders in the CAF Phase II auction will begin receiving Phase II support and in areas that were not eligible for the auction, while providing interim support in areas that did not receive any bids. The FCC will also consider: an [NPRM](#) proposing to amend its Truth in Caller ID rules to implement the anti-spoofing provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act; an [NPRM](#) that proposes revisions to the FCC's NCE and LPFM comparative processing and licensing rules; a [Report and Order](#) eliminating the requirement in section 73.2080(f)(2) that certain broadcast television and radio stations file the Broadcast Mid-Term Report (Form 397); and a [Report and Order, FNPRM, and Order](#) to enhance program management, prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, and improve emergency call handling in the IP CTS program.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on January 29, 2019, further revising deadlines for submitting FCC filings, as a result of the recent lapse in federal funding. The FCC said this public notice supersedes the [January 2, 2019](#) and [January 28, 2019](#) public notices to the extent that they are inconsistent with any deadlines or time periods set forth in this public notice. Filings that were due between January 3 and January 7, inclusive, are due on January 30, 2019, and filings that are required to be filed between January 8, 2019, and February 7, 2019, will be due on February 8, 2019. The FCC said this extension does not apply to NORS and DIRS filings and filings related to spectrum auction activities authorized by section 309(j). The FCC also said any reply or responsive pleadings that are allowed are provided an equivalent extension to the due dates so responding parties have the same amount of time following the comment deadline. The FCC also said while it cannot waive statutory filing deadlines, such as those associated with petitions for reconsideration, it will not consider the Commission open for the filing of documents with statutory deadlines, other than filings related to spectrum auction activities, until January 30, 2019. Also, nominations for membership on the re-chartered Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee are due February 4, 2019.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on January 28, 2019, extending by one day the deadline for submitting FCC filings. The FCC announced that filings that would have been due from January 3, 2019, through January 29, 2019, are now due January 30, 2019. The FCC said this extension of filing deadlines does not apply to filings in the Network Outage Reporting System and Disaster Information Reporting System or to filings related to spectrum auction activities authorized by section 309(j),

including the broadcast incentive auction. The FCC said it will soon issue further guidance on revised filing deadlines.

- Comments were filed on January 30, 2019, on the Second FNPRM and FNPRM that accompanied the [Report and Order](#) that allowed certain RLECs that receive fixed high-cost support to transition from RoR regulation to incentive regulation for their business data services. [Alaska Communications](#) supported the Commission's proposal to reinstate its decision in the 2017 BDS [Order](#) to eliminate ex ante pricing regulation of all price cap ILEC TDM-based transport special access services and forbear from the associated tariffing requirements of section 203. The [Telecommunications Subcommittee of the American Petroleum Institute](#) urged the FCC to reassess its apparent intent to move forward with the adoption of BDS pricing flexibility in areas of concern to API member companies in the absence of ILEC commitments to maintain reasonable levels of service, let alone on the expectation of advanced IP-based facilities-based competition. [FR](#). Per the January 29, 2019 [Public Notice](#), comments are due February 8, 2019.
- Commissioner Rosenworcel [released](#) a [list of companies](#) who responded by January 14, 2019, to her December 12, 2018 [letter](#) that asked them to provide a description of any tools they offer to combat robocalls, including a description of the costs charged, if any, to consumers. [AT&T](#) indicated it offers multiple call blocking options across its platforms, saying customers of its post-paid mobile wireless, interconnected VoIP, and legacy telephone services all have access to such options, many of which are available at no charge to the customer. AT&T also indicated it is blocking illegal traffic on its network where legally permitted, and will continue to be actively engaged with industry stakeholders on a number of additional fronts in the fight against illegal and unwanted robocalls. [CenturyLink](#) described the tools it offers to help customers control who can reach them, indicating these calling features-are available today at no additional cost with most home or business phone bundles. It said it is also evaluating new features that will make use of Call Authentication signaling enabled by the 2019 rollout of the new SHAKEN/STIR technology, and is looking at new uses of data analytics in conjunction with SHAKEN/STIR for new network blocking and consumer blocking and screening options. It said SHAKEN/STIR will also enable CenturyLink and allied providers to enhance the speed and effectiveness of their Trace Back initiative, which works to identify originators of unlawful robocalls. [Comcast](#) said it seeks to empower customers with a variety of free tools and functionalities to mitigate robocalls, including Nomorobo, a third-party cloud-based service, and free tools at the network level. It indicated in the near future it plans to deploy a centralized capability for blocking calls that appear to originate from certain invalid and unallocated numbers, and it participates in the Industry Traceback Group.
- LucidTech [met with](#) Eric Burger, FCC Chief Technology Officer, on December 28, 2019, to discuss robocalls. LucidTech shared its position on the necessary steps required to support tracebacks in an effective and timely manner as STIR/SHAKEN is deployed. It discussed the IETF draft of *A SIP Response Code for Rejected Calls* as it relates to LucidTech's work on the 'Know Your Customer' initiative as well as the facilitation of sharing key information in order to support the traceback functionality. LucidTech also discussed the pros and cons of the TN-PoP approach, as well as the timeline of any solution that might be required to ensure that business and policy aspects of the support of solutions kept pace with the technical roll-out of STIR/SHAKEN.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on January 30, 2019, to announce the opening of WC Docket No. 18-335, "Implementing Section 503 of RAY BAUM'S Act."
- Comments were filed January 30, 2019, on the 2018 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations, which included rules in Parts 1, 8, 32, 36, 42, 43, 51, 52, 53, 54, 59, 61, 63, 64, 68 and 69. The [Community Associations Institute](#) recommended the Wireline Bureau not seek additional rules or policies concerning exclusive marketing, bulk billing, revenue sharing, and exclusive wiring agreements for BIAS or other lawful agreements between a multiple dwelling unit buildings and multichannel video programming distributors. It further recommended the Bureau take no action to limit or otherwise chill a community association's opportunity to engage in meaningful negotiations with entities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction concerning access to rights of way that cross community association common elements. [Iridium](#) urged elimination of the Ancillary Terrestrial Component rules, asserting the ATC applications have led to protracted proceedings and sapped the



resources of the FCC, federal government, and private industry while increasing the threat of interference to critical MSS operations. It said the FCC should eliminate the ATC rules as they are no longer in the public interest. [EchoStar Satellite Operation and Hughes Network Systems](#) said the Commission should repeal or modify certain Part 25 rules that are no longer in the public interest, particularly those rules that impose unequal burdens on satellite service providers, placing them at a regulatory and competitive disadvantage with respect to other satellite or terrestrial service providers. [P. Randall Knowles](#) also filed comments. [Public Notice](#). Per the January 29, 2019 [Public Notice](#), comments are due February 8, 2019.

- Public Knowledge, et al. filed a [Petition for Reconsideration](#) on January 28, 2019, of the December 13, 2018 [Declaratory Ruling](#) that classified SMS and MMS wireless messaging as information services. Public Knowledge, et al. asserted the Declaratory Ruling does not materially advance the Commission's deregulatory policy agenda relative to the status quo, and instead creates potential future legal complications.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on February 1, 2019, the appointment of Christine Calvosa as the FCC's Chief Information Officer. Prior to being named Chief Information Officer, Ms. Calvosa was the acting CIO for the FCC for over one year and for several years was the FCC's Deputy CIO for Technology and Resiliency.
- Commissioner Starks [announced](#) the appointment of individuals who will serve in his office in acting capacities on January 30, 2019. Appointments include: Daudeline Meme, Acting Chief of Staff and Acting Legal Advisor for Wireless and International; Michael Scurato, Acting Legal Advisor for Media and Consumer Protection; Randy Clarke, Acting Legal Advisor for Wireline and Public Safety; Renee Coles, Acting Confidential Assistant; and Natalie Martinez, Acting Staff Assistant. Commissioner Starks also issued a [statement](#) upon taking his oath of office.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on February 1, 2019, announcing the meeting of the North American Numbering Council originally scheduled for February 5, 2019, is rescheduled for February 14, 2019. At this meeting, the NANC will consider a report from its Numbering Administration Oversight Working Group on the referral involving the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act. The NANC meeting is open to the public.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on January 31, 2019, seeking comments on Comcast IP Phone's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. Comments are due February 15, 2019.

[Back to Highlights](#)

## Upcoming Filing Dates

\*Note: Per the FCC's January 29, 2019 [Public Notice](#), due dates were further revised, as a result of the recent lapse in federal funding.

- Feb. 8 - Comments 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. Reply comments are due March 11, 2019. [FR](#) \*
- Feb. 8 - Comments 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. Replies are due March 11, 2019. [Public Notice](#) \*
- Feb. 8 - 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 22, 2019. [Public Notice](#) \*

- Feb. 11 - Comments due on Bloosurf's [Petition for Designation](#) as an ETC in Delaware and Maryland. Bloosurf is a winning bidder of CAF Phase II auction support for census blocks in those States. Replies are due February 19, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- Feb. 12 - Comments due on [Meriweather Lewis Connect](#) and [HolstonConnect](#)'s separate petitions for designation as an ETC. Each of the petitioners is a winning bidder of CAF Phase II auction support. Replies are due February 19, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- Feb. 13 - 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](#) \*
- Feb. 15 - Comments due on Comcast IP Phone's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. [Public Notice](#)
- Feb. 19 - Replies due on Bloosurf's [Petition for Designation](#) as an ETC in Delaware and Maryland. Bloosurf is a winning bidder of CAF Phase II auction support for census blocks in those States. [Public Notice](#)
- Feb. 19 - Replies due on [Meriweather Lewis Connect](#) and [HolstonConnect](#)'s separate petitions for designation as an ETC. Each of the petitioners is a winning bidder of CAF Phase II auction support. [Public Notice](#)
- Feb. 22 - 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](#)
- Mar. 11 - 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](#) \*
- Mar. 11 - 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](#) \*

[Back to Highlights](#)

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