March 6, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued a tentative agenda for its March 23, 2017 Open Meeting, and draft texts and one-page fact sheets of all the items that are expected to be considered at the Open Meeting. The FCC will consider: an NPRM and NOI on robocalls; a Report and Order and FNPRM to combat contraband wireless devices in correctional facilities; a Report and Order, NOI, FNPRM, and Order on VRS; a Second Report and Order, Report and Order, and Second FNPRM on mobile broadband deployment; an NPRM proposing to eliminate the Traffic and Revenue Reports and streamline the Circuit Capacity Reports; and a Report and Order that would authorize channel sharing outside the context of the incentive auction.

- The FCC released the Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration that was adopted at its February Open Meeting setting rules for the CAF Phase II reverse auction.

- Reply comments were filed by NTCA, ERTA, and the Nebraska Companies on the FNPRM asking whether to expand the A-CAM budget for rate-of-return carriers to provide additional funding with an associated increase in broadband deployment obligations.

- NTCA urged the FCC to correct or clarify the capital investment allowance and address the adverse effects upon consumers from the application of the local service rate floor policy.

- The FCC released the Order it adopted at its February Open Meeting that relieved small broadband providers from the enhanced reporting requirements in the 2015 Open Internet Order for five years.

- The FCC announced it released data on fixed broadband deployment as of June 30, 2016.

- The FCC issued an Order granting, in part, a Petition for Stay filed by nine associations of the broadband privacy Order; the FCC stayed only the data security requirements. News Release. Chairman Pai and Acting FTC Chairman Ohlhausen issued a joint statement on the Order.

- The FCC announced it is opening a new docket to target and eliminate unlawful robocalls.


- NTCA and TDS discussed the phase-down of support for voice service in the E-rate program.

- Commissioner O’Rielly wrote a blog post on the FCC’s information collections, noting the FCC has over 423 active information collections demanding over 457 million responses each year, which require a total of over 73 million hours to complete at a cost of about $798 million.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Mar. 6 - Oppositions due to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Broadband Privacy Report and Order. Replies are due March 16. FR, PN

- Mar. 6 - Oppositions due to Adak Eagle Enterprise’s Petition for Reconsideration of the FCC’s decision to deny Adak Eagle a second offer of A-CAM support. Replies are due March 14. Notice

- Mar. 6 - Comments due on the Public Notice asking whether certain docketed proceedings should be terminated as dormant. Replies are due March 20. FR

Editor: Teresa Evert | Assistant Editor: Shawn O’Brien
USF Reform

The FCC released on March 2, 2017, the Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration that was adopted at its February 23, 2017 Open Meeting, setting rules for the CAF Phase II reverse auction. The Order established bidding weights to compare bids across performance tiers set in 2016, explaining these weights account for the value of higher speeds, higher usage allowances, and low latency. The FCC declined to adopt specific preferences for certain states and tribal lands in the Phase II auction, and declined to adopt alternative interim deployment obligations for a subset of Phase II auction recipients. It did, however, adopt preferences that will be implemented in the Remote Areas Fund auction for states where the Phase II offer of model-based support was declined, subject to certain conditions. In the Order on Reconsideration, the FCC: denied a Petition for Reconsideration of the FCC’s decision to score bids relative to the reserve price; granted a Petition for Reconsideration of the FCC’s decision to retain the option to re-auction certain areas served by high latency bidders if a set subscription rate is not met; and granted a Petition for Reconsideration of the FCC’s decision to require bidders in the above-baseline and gigabit performance tiers to offer an unlimited monthly usage allowance.

Reply comments were filed February 27, 2017, on the FNPRM asking whether to expand the A-CAM budget for rate-of-return carriers to provide additional funding with an associated increase in broadband deployment obligations. NTCA reiterated its support for additional funding for A-CAM while also renewing its request for simultaneous action on its Petition for Reconsideration regarding the sufficiency of high-cost USF support for those RLECs that did not elect A-CAM distribution and will instead receive support via non-model mechanisms. NTCA highlighted the strong support in the record for the proposition that budget shortfalls in the entirety of the RLEC high cost program undermine the goals of the RoR Reform Order. ERTA agreed additional funding should be provided to both A-CAM and RoR carriers in order to serve more customers with broadband. ERTA also agreed with WTA’s suggestion that full funding for RoR support, at a minimum, entails elimination of the budget control reduction set forth in section 54.901(f) and a High Cost support inflation adjustment similar to those adopted for other USF mechanisms. The Nebraska Companies supported an additional A-CAM budget allocation that will provide support up to $200 per location. They said should additional funding be ordered, but at amounts less than $200 per location, a proportional reduction method similar to the one utilized in the Order for allocating additional funding is well-conceived and should be continued. They also said possible modifications to legacy RLEC support should be addressed in the proceeding that was opened specifically to address legacy RoR mechanisms. FR Notice

NTCA met with Commissioner O’Rielly’s Legal Advisor on February 24, 2017, to urge the Commission to act on two key outstanding USF reform issues: the need for a technical correction to, or clarification of, the capital investment allowance adopted in last year’s reforms, and the continuing adverse effects upon consumers from the application of the local service rate floor policy. NTCA noted each issue is the subject of a pending petition for reconsideration, and said the Commission could therefore act immediately with respect to each of them.

Cordova Telephone, Cordova Wireless, and Alexicon met with Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly and Clyburn and Wireline Telecommunications Bureau staff on February 28, 2017, to discuss universal service, middle mile transport, and the Alaska Plan. Cordova suggested that public safety concerns and the unique competitive nature of wireless service in Alaska make the use of reverse auctions, such as those that will be used for the Mobility Fund, inadvisable in Alaska, and proposed tying wireless USF support in Alaska to the LEC affiliated with the rural wireless carrier. Cordova agreed any Congressional funding ought to be used to populate the FCC’s USF budget that is subject to Commission monitoring and service requirements.
Open Internet

- The FCC released on March 2, 2017, the Order it adopted at its February 23, 2017 Open Meeting that relieved small broadband providers with 250,000 or fewer connections from the enhanced reporting requirements contained in the 2015 Title II Open Internet Order for five years. The Order applies retroactively and prospectively to cover the period beginning on the date the enhanced reporting requirements became effective, January 17, 2017, to March 2, 2022.

- Commissioner Clyburn spoke at an event held by The Voices for Internet Freedom Coalition on February 27, 2017, on Open Internet issues. She said it is time to fight for the protections embodied in the Open Internet Order and the recently adopted broadband privacy rules, suggesting Orders to stay or turn back the gains made must always be challenged. Clyburn claimed a light-touch Title II approach has allowed the FCC to be the watchful eye that ensures consumers are protected in a broadband world, and said she will not go along with any effort that would rescind the promises made to the American people to protect and serve them in the digital age.

Broadband

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice on March 3, 2016, announcing it released data on fixed broadband deployment as of June 30, 2016. These data were collected through FCC Form 477 and are available on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Data webpage. This version of the June 30, 2016 data includes any revisions made by filers before February 10, 2017, and users can download data on the census blocks where providers report offering fixed broadband services to at least part of the block. The Bureau said coverage area shapefiles showing mobile broadband network deployment will be made available at a later date.

- The FCC issued an Order on March 1, 2017, granting, in part, a Petition for Stay filed by nine associations of the broadband privacy rules while the FCC addresses petitions for reconsideration. The FCC stayed only the data security requirements adopted in the Order, new section 64.2005, that were scheduled to become effective on March 2, 2017. The FCC did not take action on Petitioners' request for stay of the other provisions of the Order and did not address those rules that became effective before the Petition for Stay was filed. News Release

- Chairman Pai and Acting FTC Chairman Maureen K. Ohlhausen issued a joint statement on the Order granting a temporary stay of a the data security regulation. They said jurisdiction over broadband providers' privacy and data security practices should be returned to the FTC and all actors in the online space should be subject to the same rules, enforced by the same agency. They said the data security rule is not consistent with the FTC's privacy framework, and the stay will remain in place only until the FCC is able to rule on a petition for reconsideration of its privacy rules.

- Commissioner O'Rielly issued a statement on February 27, 2017, expressing support for Chairman Pai's decision to act on a Petition for Stay filed by nine associations of the broadband privacy rules. O'Rielly said he supports the Chairman's proposal “to allow the Commission and Congress time to take another look at these ill-considered rules before they have a chance to throw broadband providers' data security practices into unsettled territory.”

- Chairman Pai sent letters to thirty Senators on February 21, 2017, in response to their February 2, 2017 letter, which urged continued focus on ensuring access to mobile broadband services in rural America and closing the digital divide as a top priority for the Commission. Chairman Pai said closing the digital divide is his top priority, and that's why he scheduled a vote on the second phase of the Mobility Fund for the Commission’s February meeting. Chairman Pai also sent similar letters to Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Representatives Carol Shea-Porter (D-N.H.) and Ann McLane Kuster (D-N.H.) on February 21, 2017, in response to their January 25, 2017 letter, which urged the FCC to move forward with the Mobility Fund Phase II auction.
Chairman Pai spoke at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on February 28, 2017, discussing 5G deployment. He asserted the key to realizing a 5G future is to set rules that will maximize investment in broadband, and said FCC policies such as light-touch regulation, facilities-based competition, flexible use policy, and freeing up spectrum have produced impressive results in the U.S. market. Pai said the FCC is on track to returning to a light-touch approach to Internet regulation, noting the FCC recently ended the FCC’s investigation into so-called zero-rating offerings, and claimed in the days following that decision, all four national wireless providers in the United States announced new unlimited data plans or expanded their existing ones.

The Technology Policy Institute filed comments on March 6, 2017, on the petitions for reconsideration of the Broadband Privacy Order. TPI asserted the FCC should reconsider the Order, claiming the Order offers no evidence demonstrating that it would yield net incremental benefits over the FTC’s rules or that the Commission attempted to make such a determination, and fails to acknowledge any costs by not acknowledging benefits that flow from the creative use of information. TPI also said the Order does not show that ISPs have access to more, and more sensitive, data than do edge companies.

The FCC issued a Notice in the Federal Register on February 28, 2017, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477, Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting. PRA comments are due May 1, 2017.

The USDA announced on February 27, 2017, it is awarding $19.3 million in loans to provide broadband in rural portions of Illinois and Oklahoma. In Oklahoma, Southern Plains Cable will receive a $15.3 million loan to build a fiber-optic broadband network serving a 55-square-mile area. Illinois’ Moultrie Independent Telephone will receive a $4 million loan to make upgrades to fiber service in a portion of its service territory. Both loans are being provided through USDA’s Telecommunications Programs of the Rural Utilities Service.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce met with Chairman O’Rielly’s Legal Advisor on February 27, 2017, to discuss the status of the Open Internet and broadband privacy proceedings in light of the new Administration. The Chamber said no new arguments were raised and the Chamber’s position on these proceedings remains unchanged.

USF

USAC filed the Federal Universal Service Support Mechanism Quarterly Contribution Base for Second Quarter 2017 on March 2, 2017. The total projected collected interstate and international end-user revenue base to be used in determining the contribution factor for the USF Support Mechanisms for second quarter 2017 is $13,615,143,917, down from $13,971,514,032 in the previous quarter.

The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice on March 2, 2017, seeking comment on a request filed by 40 entities for the FCC to rescind the Order on Reconsideration that revoked the Order that previously granted Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC status to nine carriers. They also asked the Commission to swiftly implement the 2016 Lifeline Reform Order. Comments are due March 16; replies are due March 23.

The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice on March 2, 2017, seeking comment on Spot On Networks’ Application for Review of the Order on Reconsideration that revoked its Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC designation. Comments are due March 16; replies are due March 23.

The FCC published a Notice in the Federal Register on February 28, 2017, seeking PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with monitoring the impact of
USF support mechanisms. The Commission is reporting a 24-hour increase in the total hour burden based on updated information from NECA regarding the number of respondents/responses. Comments are due May 1, 2017.

- The FCC published a Notice in the Federal Register on February 28, 2017, seeking PRA comments on revisions to a currently approved information collection associated with the Lifeline National Verifier. The revised collection addresses changes associated with transition to the National Verifier, updates the number of respondents for certain requirements contained in this information collection and the total burden hours, and revises the FCC Form 555 to reflect the transition to the National Verifier. Comments are due May 1, 2017.

- The FCC’s Managing Director issued an Order on February 28, 2017, displaying Office of Management and Budget control numbers assigned to the Commission’s public information collection requirements that have been approved by the OMB. The FCC also displayed the FCC Form number or the information collection description and the OMB expiration date. In addition, the FCC revised the text of section 0.408.

- NTCA and TDS met with Wireline Competition Bureau staff on February 28, 2017, to assert the phase-down of support for voice service in the E-rate program runs counter to the importance of this service, as set forth in statute and recent FCC proceedings. They suggested the FCC conduct an E-rate support applicants study, as the 2014 E-rate Modernization Order directed, to enable schools and libraries to demonstrate the consequences of the voice support phase-down on their operations and budgets. They also suggested restoration of funding year 2014 levels of support for voice service, at the very least on a temporary basis.

- Reply comments were filed on February 27, 2017, on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands’ request for guidance on whether terms of the exclusive license it provided “in perpetuity” to Waimana Enterprises, the parent company of Sandwich Isles, and a subsequent, partial assignment of that license directly to Sandwich Isles to provide telecommunications services to the Hawaiian home lands conflicts with section 253(a). Waimana Enterprises asserted DHHL has the equivalent of sovereign authority over the HHL, and said neither the Hawaii State government nor the FCC has authority to overrule or interfere with HHL’s exercise of its authority over the land that it owns. Waimana claimed the license DHHL entered over 20 years ago is entirely appropriate and unassailable under section 253(a), and the exclusivity contained in the license was entirely appropriate because it was made in exchange for WEI’s commitment to provide modern telecommunications service to all of the HHL no matter how remote. Albert Hee claimed the exclusivity in the license was known to all parties from the outset, and it is a lawful and proper exercise of DHHL’s autonomy over the HHL. Public Notice

- No replies were filed to oppositions to Sandwich Isles Communications’ Petition for Reconsideration of the Order that found SIC improperly received payments in the amount of $27,270,390 from the federal high-cost support mechanisms from 2002 to June 2015. FR

- Comments were filed on March 2, 2017, on TracFone Wireless’ request for clarification of the Lifeline minimum service standards established in the 2016 Lifeline Modernization Order. Sprint urged the Commission to clarify that, under rules and policies adopted in the Lifeline Modernization Order, Wi-Fi service does not satisfy the mobile BIAS minimum data allotment requirement, and the device provided by the service provider to its Lifeline subscriber must be 3G-capable and configured in order for that subscriber to be classified as a broadband customer. Sprint also said the FCC should clarify that the 12-month broadband port freeze must be removed from the accounts of end users who were incorrectly classified as broadband customers. Telrite said the Commission should decline any requests for clarification that would rewrite these rules so as to preclude access to the kinds of innovative and robust service offerings the Commission had hoped to spur through expansion of the port freeze to mobile BIAS offerings. Consumer Action and the National Consumer League supported TracFone’s request and asserted the Commission should stop Lifeline providers who are using the port freeze rule to lock up for twelve months those Lifeline customers who were enrolled as voice-only Lifeline customers and who were provided with standard cellular telephones suitable for voice and text messaging, but which are unsuitable for use with Broadband Internet Access Service. The Public Utility
Division of the Oklahoma Corporate Commission urged the FCC to give consideration to both the technical characteristics and geographic availability of any new, innovative, or otherwise non-standard BIAS offerings. List of all comments available to date. Replies are due March 9. Public Notice

- Boomerang Wireless filed a letter on March 1, 2017, asking the Commission to grant its ETC Designation Petition. It also asked the FCC to reconcile the states and service areas in the ETC Petition and LBP Petition where Boomerang seeks authority to provide Lifeline services, and to clarify the proposed Lifeline service plans for which Boomerang seeks approval from the Commission.

- FreedomPop filed a letter on March 1, 2017, asking the Commission to treat its Petition for Streamlined Designation as a Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC as a Petition for designation as a Lifeline-only ETC in the 12 states that do not exercise jurisdiction over wireless resellers for the purpose of Lifeline-only ETC designation.

- ZING Wireless spoke with Wireline Competition Bureau staff on February 22, 2017, to discuss its pending Petition seeking Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC designation.

- MAXIMUS met with Chairman Pai’s Legal Advisor on February 28, 2017, to discuss its support for an independent national verifier and continuing activity at USAC to execute the Lifeline Modernization Order.

- inContact filed a letter on March 1, 2017, asking the Commission to rule on its Application for Review of an Order denying its request for refund of penalties and interest assessed on a belated 2009 USAC invoice for USF fees on revenues earned in 2003. inContact claimed the Commission waived similar penalties and interest on a six-year delayed USAC true-up invoice issued to Outfitter Satellite and granted a similar request from Peak Communications after the deadline.

Back to Highlights

State Actions

- The Regulatory Commission of Alaska released an Order on February 28, 2017, approving a stipulation on access charges filed by the Alaska Exchange Carriers Association, et al. on the establishment of Alaska intrastate access charge rates for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. The RCA also approved a waiver of certain provisions of the Alaska Intrastate Interexchange Access Charge Manual. AECA must also file revised tariff sheets implementing the stipulated rates for the originating local switching and originating information surcharge rate elements, as a compliance filing in this docket, by May 16, 2017.

Back to Highlights

Misc.

- The FCC issued a tentative agenda for its March 23, 2017 Open Meeting, and draft texts and one-page fact sheets of all the items that are expected to be considered at the Open Meeting. The FCC will consider: an NPRM and NOI that would enable voice service providers to better protect subscribers from illegal and fraudulent robocalls; a Report and Order and FNPRM to combat contraband wireless devices in correctional facilities; a Report and Order, NOI, FNPRM, and Order on video relay services; a Second Report and Order, Report and Order, and Second FNPRM on mobile broadband deployment, including LTE, to promote greater spectrum efficiency and reduce regulatory burdens and costs; an NPRM proposing to eliminate the Traffic and Revenue Reports and streamline the Circuit Capacity Reports; and a Report and Order that would authorize channel sharing outside the context of the incentive auction.
• The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued a Public Notice on March 2, 2017, to announce it is opening CG Docket No. 17-59, which is captioned “Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls.”

• Commissioner O’Rielly wrote a blog post on March 3, 2017, saying, according to OMB, as of the end of February, the FCC has 423 active information collections demanding over 457 million responses each year, which require a total of over 73 million hours to complete at a cost of about $798 million. He noted small rural telephone companies have to make close to 100 filings with the FCC each year. He said the FCC should complete a holistic data review to determine which collections remain necessary, look at ways to streamline those collections, and eliminate those that are duplicative or unnecessary. O’Rielly recommended the FCC’s Office of Communications Business Opportunities start to track information on the total burdens on each type of small business regulated by the FCC.

• The FCC issued a Notice in the Federal Register on March 2, 2017, seeking PRA comments on an extension of a previously approved information collection related to the MAG Plan Order, Parts 54 and 69 filing requirements for regulation of interstate services of non-price cap ILECs and interexchange carriers. It indicated USAC requires, among other things, that rate-of-return carriers collect projected cost and revenue data to administer the ICLS mechanism, and carriers are required to submit tariff data, including certain cost studies, to ensure that their rates are just and reasonable. PRA comments are due May 1, 2017.

• Westelcom Network met separately with Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly and Clyburn on February 24, 2017, to urge prompt grant of its Petition for Limited Expedited Waiver of the definition of CLEC in section 61.26(a)(6) so that it can use the “rural exemption” rate for its interstate switched access services. It said its Petition was filed two years ago and has been on circulation since December 28, 2016, and the delays have moved the company to agree to the compromise contained in its November 2016 ex parte, which would allow it to transition to price cap rates and rate structures while providing a level of relief that is anticipated to allow it to stabilize its operations. Westelcom said any additional delays in granting the relief further diminishes its ability to compete and adds to the ongoing risk to the company and its customers.

• Comcast met with Chairman Pai’s Legal Advisor and Wireline Competition Bureau and General Counsel staff on February 24 and 28, 2017, to summarize its views on the business data services rulemaking. Comcast claimed that cable providers’ lack of market power in the BDS arena undermines any argument for imposing rate regulation on such providers’ BDS offerings. Comcast also said there is no basis to subject competitive BDS providers that operate as private carriers to mandatory common carrier regulation.

• Sprint met with Chairman Pai’s Legal Advisor on February 28, 2017, to discuss the special access proceeding, including the findings of the FCC’s third party economist that Sprint claims shows the market power exercised by the ILECs and the continuing need to ensure the Business Data Services market functions properly.

• BT met with Commissioner O’Rielly’s Legal Advisor on February 27, 2017, to urge caution on BDS and technology transition rules that it says would kill competition and further expand and strengthen the dominance of incumbents. BT asserted that caution, scrutiny, and fresh data are in order because of the rapid concentration taking place in the telecommunications industry.

• INCOMPAS met with Jay Schwarz of the Wireline Competition Bureau on March 1, 2017, to discuss the status of the special access and BDS proceedings. INCOMPAS said its positions remain unchanged.

• The North American Portability Management filed a letter on February 28, 2017, to provide a summary of the NAPM’s status updates to the FCC on the transition of the current LNPA, Neustar, to the new LNPA, Telcordia d/b/a iconectiv. NAPM said it will continue to file updates of this report with the FCC at the end of each month until the transition is complete.
Upcoming Filing Dates

- Mar. 6 - Oppositions due to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Broadband Privacy Report and Order. Replies are due March 16. FR, PN

- Mar. 6 - Comments due on the Public Notice seeking comment on whether certain docketed proceedings listed in the attachment to the Public Notice should be terminated as dormant. Replies are due March 20. FR

- Mar. 6 - Oppositions due to Adak Eagle Enterprise’s Petition for Reconsideration of the FCC’s decision to deny Adak Eagle a second offer of A-CAM support. Replies are due March 14. Notice

- Mar. 9 - Comments due on Neustar’s request to approve its new owner, Aerial Investors LLC, formed by Golden Gate Private Equity. Replies due March 24. Public Notice

- Mar. 9 - Replies due on TracFone Wireless’ request for clarification of the Lifeline minimum service standards established in the 2016 Lifeline Modernization Order. Public Notice

- Mar. 9 - Comments due on VoIPStreet’s application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. Public Notice

- Mar. 13 - PRA comments due on a new information collection on data breach reporting, as required by the October 2016 Broadband Privacy Order. Notice

- Mar. 13 - Comments due on NECA’s December 22, 2016 proposed modification of average schedule formulas. The revisions are proposed to become effective for a one-year period beginning on July 1, 2017. Replies due March 28. Public Notice

- Mar. 14 - Replies due to oppositions to Adak Eagle Enterprise’s Petition for Reconsideration of the FCC’s decision to deny Adak Eagle a second offer of A-CAM support. Notice

- Mar. 16 - Comments due on why the FCC should not initiate proceedings to revoke the Commission authorizations granted to Sandwich Isles Communications. Replies due March 31. Public Notice

- Mar. 16 - Replies due to oppositions to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Broadband Privacy Report and Order. FR, PN

- Mar. 16 - Comments due on a request filed by 40 entities for the FCC to rescind the Order on Reconsideration that revoked the Order that previously granted Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC status to nine carriers. Replies are due March 23. Public Notice

- Mar. 16 - Comments due on Spot On Networks’ Application for Review of the Order on Reconsideration that revoked its Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC designation. Replies are due March 23. Public Notice

- Mar. 20 - Replies due on the Public Notice seeking comment on whether certain docketed proceedings listed in the attachment to the Public Notice should be terminated as dormant. FR

- Mar. 23 - Replies due on a request filed by 40 entities for the FCC to rescind the Order on Reconsideration that revoked the Order that previously granted Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC status to nine carriers. Public Notice
• Mar. 23 - Replies due on Spot On Networks’ Application for Review of the Order on Reconsideration that revoked its Lifeline Broadband Provider ETC designation. Public Notice

• Mar. 24 - Replies due on Neustar’s request to approve its new owner, Aerial Investors LLC, formed by Golden Gate Private Equity. Public Notice

• Mar. 28 - Replies due on NECA’s December 22, 2016 proposed modification of average schedule formulas. The revisions are proposed to become effective for a one-year period beginning on July 1, 2017. Public Notice

• Mar. 31 - Replies due on why the Commission should not initiate proceedings to revoke the Commission authorizations granted to Sandwich Isles Communications. Public Notice

• Apr. 17 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection covering the conditional forbearance relief granted by the Commission from Cost Assignment Rules, Property Record Rules, ARMIS Report 43–01, and the Structural Separation Requirement for price cap LECs in the May 17, 2013. Notice

• May 1 - PRA comments due on an extension of a previously approved information collection related to the MAG Plan Order, Parts 54 and 69 filing requirements for regulation of interstate services of non-price cap ILECs and interexchange carriers. Notice

• May 1 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477, Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting. Notice

• May 1 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with monitoring the impact of USF support mechanisms. The Commission is reporting a 24-hour increase in the total hour burden based on updated information from NECA regarding the number of respondents/responses. Notice

• May 1 - PRA comments due on revisions to a currently approved information collection associated with the Lifeline National Verifier. Notice

• May 4 - Comments due on the Public Notice seeking comment on whether the rules adopted in 2001 – 2004 should be continued without change or should be amended or rescinded, consistent with the stated objective of section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. FR