

## NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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### April 6, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) for its April 23, 2020 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider six items, including: an [NPRM and order](#) establishing the 5G Fund for Rural America, awarding up to \$9 billion in support over 10 years. The FCC also issued a [news release](#) on the 5G Fund.
- The FCC released items from the March 31, 2020 Open Meeting, including: an [NPRM](#) proposing to eliminate ex ante pricing regulation and require detariffing of various end-user charges associated with interstate access service, and prohibit carriers from separately listing these charges on customers' telephone bills; and a [report and order and FNPRM](#) adopting rules requiring voice providers to implement the STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication framework in the IP portions of their networks and proposes additional measures to combat illegal spoofing.
- The FCC [announced](#) the Wireline Bureau approved waiver requests from NECA and JSI to allow tariff revisions waiving late payment penalties, installation and early cancellation fees to ensure companies have the flexibility to keep rural Americans connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Over 650 broadband and phone providers [have signed](#) Pai's [Keep Americans Connected Pledge](#).
- The USDA [extended](#) the deadline for broadband ReConnect Program applications from March 31, 2020, until April 15, 2020, in light of the pandemic.
- The Wireline Bureau [waived](#) on its own motion, certain network performance pre-testing requirements for recipients of CAF Phase II model-based support, due to the pandemic.
- [Comments were filed](#) on the process of establishing pre-and post-auction application and competitive bidding procedures for Phase I of the RDOF. Replies are due April 10, 2020. [public notice](#)
- West Kentucky Rural, NTCA, NECA, and JSI [discussed](#) whether and to what degree the RDOF could be leveraged to help deliver immediate connectivity to communities in need in light of the pandemic.
- PRA comments [are due](#) June 2, 2020, on a revision of a currently approved collection on FCC Form 683, application for CAF Phase II and RDOF auction support.
- The Wireline Bureau [seeks comments](#) on Penasco Valley's [petition](#) for a waiver of the March 1, 2019 deadline for certifying broadband locations in the HUBB system. Comments are due April 17, 2020.
- USTelecom [offered proposals](#) on CAF and the other USF programs to assist consumers, businesses, broadband companies, and others during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Northern Valley Communications filed its [direct case](#) in the [proceeding](#) investigating whether its [tariff revisions](#) are consistent the access arbitrage [order](#) and FCC rules. Oppositions are due April 15, 2020.
- The FCC [adopted](#) a \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program and a Connected Care Pilot Program to provide up to \$100 million of support from the USF, to support healthcare providers. [news release](#)

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### Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Apr. 10 - Replies [due](#) on the RDOF Phase I auction application and competitive bidding procedures.

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## USF Reform

- The FCC issued a [news release](#) on April 1, 2020, announcing Chairman Pai circulated a draft NPRM on establishing a 5G Fund for rural America, which would distribute up to \$9 billion for 5G connectivity in rural areas that would not see timely deployment of 5G service absent support and are not likely to be covered by the T-Mobile transaction commitments. The FCC is seeking comment on two Phase I options for identifying areas that would be eligible for 5G Fund support: in option one, the FCC would hold an auction in 2021 by defining eligible areas based on current data sources that identify areas as particularly rural and in the greatest need of universal service support; and the second option would delay the Phase I auction until at least 2023, after collecting mobile broadband coverage data through the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection. Phase II would target support to bring wireless connectivity to harder to serve and higher cost areas and make at least \$1 billion available for deployments that would facilitate precision agriculture. The FCC will vote on the NPRM at its April 23 Open Meeting.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on April 3, 2020, waiving, on its own motion, certain network performance pre-testing requirements for recipients of CAF Phase II model-based support, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bureau will permit carriers to test less than the required number of subscriber locations during the pre-test period if testing would require installation of new equipment inside subscribers' premises. The Bureau said this waiver serves the public interest because it allows carriers to complete pre-testing on schedule while minimizing unnecessary person-to-person contact and diversion of resources that are more appropriately spent on critical network maintenance.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 2, 2020, seeking comment on Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative's [petition](#) seeking a waiver of the March 1, 2019 deadline for certifying broadband locations in the HUBB system and, to the extent necessary, the associated penalty. Comments are due April 17, 2020; replies are due May 4, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on March 31, 2020, waiving, on its own motion, the requirement that a mobile competitive ETC receiving legacy high-cost universal service support use all funding for their own service area rather than an affiliated ETC's service area. The Bureau waived this requirement to give affiliated competitive ETCs the flexibility to use such support during the COVID-19 pandemic, for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services within any of the designated service areas of an affiliated ETC, regardless of whether those areas span more than one state.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), et al. on March 27, 2020, in response to their letter expressing concern with RDOF eligibility. With regard to how RDOF program affects preexisting broadband subsidy programs, Pai said if a service provider already has been given funding (federal and/or state) to serve a particular area with 25/3 Mbps broadband, the FCC will not give them more taxpayer funding to do something they are already obligated to do. With regard to the ReConnect Program, Pai said the Bureau will consult with the USDA before publication of the final eligible areas and exclude the portions of any census blocks from eligibility for the RDOF that are substantially overlapped by a ReConnect awardee. With regard to state programs, Pai said if a state has not already issued a formal funding commitment, that area will not be excluded from the RDOF auction.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on April 3, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a revision of a currently approved collection on FCC Form 683, application for CAF Phase II and RDOF auction support. The FCC proposes to reduce the number of respondents that are subject to this collection now that the CAF Phase II auction winning bidders have been announced. Also, this proposed revision seeks approval of the disclosures and certifications that must be made by winning bidders seeking to become authorized for RDOF support. PRA comments are due June 2, 2020.
- In addition to comments listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, comments were filed on March 27, 2020, on the process of establishing pre-and post-auction application procedures and competitive

bidding procedures for Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. [AT&T](#) recommended the FCC continue using census block groups as the minimum geographic area for bidding in its high-cost universal service support reverse auctions, and that the Commission adopt a bidding system rule to freeze the price clocks in uncontested areas after the budget clears. [USTelecom](#) suggested the FCC use census block groups as opposed to census block tracts as the standard for eligible service areas, and assign winning bids to the same ILEC entity within a state so that all letter of credit obligations and reporting requirements were associated with that study area code, among other things. [ACA Connects](#) said the FCC should maintain the census block group as the minimum geographic bidding unit for the RDOF auction to maximize participation, increase competition, and enhance the program's overall cost-effectiveness. Replies are due April 10, 2020. [all comments available](#). [public notice](#)

- The Vermont Department of Public Service filed [a petition for reconsideration and clarification](#) of the RDOF [report and order](#) on April 3, 2020. The DPS asserted the FCC should reconsider its decision to exclude census blocks that receive state broadband subsidies because the FCC failed to provide adequate notice of such census blocks as required under the APA and the approach does not fully consider the benefits of and preference toward federal-state partnerships. The DPS also asked the FCC to clarify how census blocks that receive alternate funding will be determined and excluded from RDOF.
- West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation, NTCA, NECA, and JSI [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's legal advisor on March 27, 2020, to discuss whether and to what degree the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund could be leveraged to help deliver immediate connectivity to communities in need.
- Mobius Communications filed a [letter](#) on April 2, 2020, providing a list of census blocks it is challenging for the RDOF Phase I auction. [public notice](#)
- USTelecom sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai and the FCC Commissioners on March 27, 2020, offering proposals on the Lifeline, E-Rate, Rural Health Care, and Connect America Fund programs to assist consumers, businesses, students, healthcare providers, and broadband companies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regarding the CAF, it suggested the FCC: authorize a one-time infusion of funds to ensure all service providers can rapidly augment their existing infrastructure to support non-traditional usage demands; allow CAF and A-CAM recipients to elect to receive advance payment of the future high-cost support they are eligible to receive, and waive programmatic requirements to the extent they would interfere with the goal of ensuring network reliability; extend the CAF and A-CAM interim and final deployment milestones by six months; and waive or postpone certain data and compliance filing deadlines, among other things.
- Skybeam filed a [petition for waiver](#) on April 2, 2020, of the rural broadband experiment program obligation to provide service to a specific number of locations in each of the ten study area codes where it is authorized for support. Skybeam said it has determined that the number of eligible locations the Commission used for the RBE program exceeds the actual number of locations in nine of its ten SACs. It requested the Wireline Competition Bureau authorize a pro rata reduction in future support disbursements for the remainder of the support term to account for the fewer number of actual locations it is required to serve.
- The Rural Wireless Association filed a [letter](#) on March 31, 2020, to respond to [T-Mobile's ex partes](#) that disagreed with conclusions in the FCC staff [report](#) finding 4G LTE coverage data submitted by providers is not sufficiently reliable for the purpose of moving forward with Mobility Fund II. RWA claimed T-Mobile's attempts to overstate 4G LTE coverage has industry-wide ramifications and asserted the FCC properly concluded that release of outdated mapping data should not be competitively sensitive.

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## ICC

- Northern Valley Communications filed its [direct case](#) on April 1, 2020, in the [proceeding](#) investigating whether its [tariff revisions](#) are consistent with the Act, the access arbitration [order](#), and FCC rules. NVC asserted its decision to home to a tandem that is closer to its end offices is fully consistent with the access arbitration order, and promotes competition by allowing various carriers to compete to provide the transport services necessary to terminate traffic to Northern Valley. It also said its actions to preserve the accessibility of free conferencing services have helped to keep the nation connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Oppositions to the direct case are due April 15, 2020.
- Inteliquent [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics on March 27, 2020, to express overall support for most of the elements of the 8YY reform [proposal](#) submitted by USTelecom on February 25, 2020. Inteliquent suggested the Commission adopt USTelecom's proposal, subject to modifications, including setting the tandem switching and transport rate at the uniform nationwide rate of \$0.0017 per minute that Inteliquent proposed previously, and making both end office 8YY charges and database query charges uniform across the country at all steps in the transition downward, in order to reduce opportunities for arbitrage as quickly as possible.
- The Ad Hoc Telecom Users Committee filed a [letter](#) on April 2, 2020, to express support for the 8YY [proposal](#) submitted by USTelecom. Ad Hoc said it is withdrawing its opposition to the use of the transition period and the implementation of revenue shortfall recovery mechanisms specified in the USTelecom proposal and urged the Commission to move forward with adopting and implementing the proposal.
- Onvoy, d/b/a Inteliquent [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on March 26, 2020, to discuss its [petition](#) for a temporary waiver of the access stimulation definition contained in Part 61, so that it is not deemed an access stimulator by virtue of handling a surge in conference calling traffic due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Inteliquent said the surging demand is the result of the ongoing public health crisis and appropriate social distancing, and it bears no relationship to access stimulation schemes. The Wireline Competition Bureau [granted](#) Inteliquent's [petition](#) on March 27, 2020.
- Free Conferencing filed a [petition](#) on April 1, 2020, for a temporary waiver, through June 1, 2020, of section 61.3(bbb)(1)(ii), such that its conference call traffic be waived from "access stimulation" traffic ratio triggers for any CLEC that connects calls to Free Conferencing. It said the COVID-19 pandemic has created a spike in demand for conference calling services.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on April 3, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on extension of a currently approved collection on the FCC's Electronic Tariff Filing System. ILECs and CLECs (and other nondominant carriers) use ETFS to file tariffs and associated documents electronically. PRA comments are due June 2, 2020.

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## Broadband

- The FCC issued a [news release](#) on April 1, 2020, announcing the Wireline Competition Bureau approved waiver requests from the National Exchange Carrier Association and John Staurulakis, Inc. to allow them to quickly implement tariff changes to ensure NECA and JSI participant companies have the flexibility to meet the Keep Americans Connected pledge during the COVID-19 pandemic. The tariff changes will allow hundreds of rural phone and broadband providers to waive fees that would otherwise be incurred by customers experiencing economic challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including late payment fees, installation and cancellation fees for consumers signing up for, or looking to switch providers of, DSL broadband services in order to work from home or access remote learning.

- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on April 2, 2020, he spoke with broadband and telephone service providers and trade association leaders about the state of American communications networks as volume and usage patterns shift during the coronavirus pandemic. The Chairman said providers reported network usage had risen about 20-35% for fixed networks and 10-20% for cellular networks in recent weeks, and that their networks were holding up well. Pai said over 650 broadband and phone providers have signed his [Keep Americans Connected Pledge](#).
- The FCC [circulated a report](#) on March 30, 2020, entitled “Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion.”
- The USDA [announced](#) on March 30, 2020, that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it extended the deadline for broadband ReConnect Program applications from March 31, 2020, until April 15, 2020. In December 2019, the USDA [announced](#) it was making available an additional \$550 million in ReConnect funding in 2020.
- The USDA [announced](#) on April 3, 2020, it is opening a second application window for funding under the [Distance Learning and Telemedicine](#) grant program. It said due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is providing an additional window for those who cannot complete applications prior to the first application deadline. The USDA said applications for window two may be submitted electronically, beginning April 14, 2020, and are due by July 13, 2020, and that it is not accepting paper applications for round two.
- Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), and Richard Neal (D-Mass.) [proposed a framework](#) on April 1, 2020, for a five-year, \$760 billion investment in the country’s infrastructure. The framework, among other things, outlines major investments, including those in highways, rail, and transit systems, airports, wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, and broadband. It proposes \$86 billion to expand broadband internet access, adoption for unserved and underserved rural, suburban, and urban communities.
- Comments were due on April 3, 2020, on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second communications marketplace report. Replies are due May 13, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) the appointment of nine tribal members to the FCC’s Native Nations Communications Task Force on March 31, 2020, raising the total number of task force members from 20 to 25. The task force’s mission is to provide guidance and recommendations to requests from the Commission on a range of telecommunications issues that directly or indirectly affect tribal governments and their people.
- The Benton Institute for Broadband and Society filed a [letter](#) on March 31, 2020, attaching an op-ed authored by Fellow Jonathan Sallet, former FCC General Counsel, entitled *Our Networks Are More Vital Than Ever. The FCC Owes Us Updates*, which urged the FCC to issue a weekly broadband status report during the course of the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Wireless Infrastructure Association [spoke with](#) Commissioner Carr and his legal advisor on March 26, 2020, to discuss what its members are doing to meet the growing need for connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic. It said most states and many local governments now have variations of stay at home orders in place, so most municipal employees have not been able to be in their offices physically to conduct normal operations affecting wireless, and as a result, members report delays in the processing of the various types of permits necessary for upgrading their networks. WIA also discussed its [petitions for rulemaking](#) and for [declaratory ruling](#) and CTIA’s [petition for declaratory ruling](#).

## Robocalls

- The FCC released the [report and order and FNPRM](#) on robocalls, which was [adopted prior](#) to the FCC’s March 31, 2020 [Open Meeting](#). The report and order required originating and terminating voice service providers to implement the STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication framework in the IP portions of their networks by June 30, 2021. The accompanying FNPRM seeks comment on additional

measures to combat illegal spoofing, including further implementation of the TRACED Act. Comments are due May 15, 2020; replies are due May 29, 2020.

- The FCC and Federal Trade Commission [announced](#) on April 3, 2020, they sent letters to three gateway providers facilitating COVID-19-related scam robocalls originating overseas, warning them they must cut off these calls or face serious consequences. The FCC and FTC said unless they stop bringing these calls into the United States in the next 48 hours, other phone companies will be able to begin blocking all traffic from these gateway providers' networks. They also wrote to USTelecom to ask its members to begin blocking calls from these providers if the flood of robocalls is not cut off within 48 hours.
- Reps. Mike Latta (R-Ohio), Mike Doyle (D-Pa.), Greg Gianforte (R-Mont.), and A. Donald McEachin (D-Va.) sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai and Attorney General William Barr on April 1, 2020, to urge them to take steps to combat illegal robocalls relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. They asked the FCC and DOJ to provide information on what steps they will be taking to address the increase in illegal robocalls no later than April 14, 2020.
- ATIS filed a [letter](#) on March 30, 2020, to provide to the FCC with links to ATIS standards for robocalls, the call authentication trust anchor, and implementation of the TRACED Act.

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## Call Completion

- Dakota Central Telecom, Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, DeKalb Telephone Cooperative and Peoples Telecommunications filed a [motion](#) with the Illinois district court on March 31, 2020, in the case addressing a [complaint](#) filed by Craigville Telephone and Consolidated Telephone that alleged T-Mobile's provision of false ring tones resulted in lost opportunities to seek intercarrier compensation. Dakota Central, et al. seek permission to intervene, or in the alternative, to intervene as of right, as additional plaintiffs and representatives of the putative class in this case. Alternatively, they asked the court that if it does not grant their motion, the existing plaintiffs move for leave to file a second amended complaint for the purpose of adding Dakota Central, et al. as additional plaintiffs.

## Universal Service

- The FCC released a [report and order](#) on April 2, 2020, adopting a \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program to support healthcare providers responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Congress appropriated the funds as part of the CARES Act. The FCC also adopted a Connected Care Pilot Program to provide up to \$100 million of support from the USF to help defray health care providers' costs of providing connected care services and to help assess how the USF can be used in the long-term to support telehealth. [news release](#)
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on March 30, 2020, his plans for a \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program to support health care providers responding to the ongoing pandemic. As part of the [CARES Act](#), Congress appropriated \$200 million to the FCC to support health care providers' use of telehealth services in combating the pandemic. If adopted by the Commission, the program would help eligible health care providers purchase telecommunications, broadband connectivity, and devices necessary for providing telehealth services. Pai [also announced](#) he circulated an order proposing to make available \$100 million under the Connected Care Pilot Program for healthcare providers to offer telehealth services.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released an [order](#) on April 1, 2020, announcing an extension of key E-Rate service and implementation deadlines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bureau waived the service implementation deadline for special construction for all funding year 2019 applicants and extended the deadline by one year, to June 30, 2021. The Bureau also extended the service delivery deadline for nonrecurring services for funding year 2019 by one year, to September

30, 2021, granted schools and libraries an automatic 60-day extension to file requests for review or waiver of decisions by USAC, provided applicants and service providers an automatic 120-day extension of the invoice filing deadline, and gives all program participants an additional 30-day extension to respond to certain information requests from USAC. [news release](#)

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on March 30, 2020, waiving and extending waivers of certain Lifeline rules, to help Americans stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bureau temporarily waived the Lifeline program's usage requirements and general de-enrollment procedures until May 29, 2020. The Bureau also extended its previous waiver of the Lifeline program's recertification and reverification rules to May 29, 2020, to ensure all of the waiver periods for Lifeline's de-enrollment rules have the same duration. The Bureau also directed USAC to pause any involuntary de-enrollment of existing subscribers. [News release](#)
- Sen Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and twenty-one other senators [sent letters](#) to 21 Lifeline providers on April 2, 2020, asking them to take steps to expand their service for Americans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. They suggested the providers enable hotspot access for all Lifeline subscribers, ensure all Lifeline subscribers have access to 4G service, and provide no-cost upgrades to existing subscribers using older smartphones provided by the Lifeline provider that lack hotspot functionality.
- The FCC issued a [notice of apparent liability for forfeiture](#) against TracFone Wireless on April 2, 2020, for apparent violations of the Commission's Lifeline program rules. The FCC said TracFone apparently sought and obtained federal Lifeline support for hundreds of ineligible subscribers in Florida and Texas. The FCC proposes a \$6 million forfeiture penalty against TracFone. [news release](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [public notice](#) on March 31, 2020, granting, denying and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on E-Rate, rural health care, 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 its [Semi-Annual Audit Recovery Report](#) for the Schools and Libraries Program on March 31, 2020, which summarizes the status of all outstanding audit findings.
- USAC submitted its [annual report](#) on March 31, 2020, which details USAC's operations, activities, and accomplishments for the prior year, including information about participation in each of the universal service programs and administrative action intended to ensure program integrity.
- The Navajo Nation sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on March 27, 2020, to urge the Commission to increase the amount of Lifeline support available to carriers serving Tribal lands and temporarily suspend any FCC Lifeline requirements that would cause their citizens to travel to storefronts (to pay for service or present documentation of Lifeline eligibility). It also asked the Commission to suspend the "one-per-household" requirement, to ensure their low-income citizens have the capability to communicate with health care providers, and educational institutions.
- Common Sense Media, et al. [spoke with](#) Commissioner Starks and his legal advisors on March 26, 2020, to discuss the importance of the Lifeline program during the COVID-19 pandemic. They urged the Commission to support Lifeline subscribers receiving unlimited voice minutes and texts, prohibit disconnections of Lifeline recipients, and establish an emergency Lifeline broadband benefit. They also urged the Commission to seek solutions to improve outreach and participation in Lifeline during the COVID-19 crisis.
- TruConnect [spoke with](#) Commissioner Carr's legal advisor on March 27, 2020, to offer recommendations on how the Lifeline program can meet the needs of low-income Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. TruConnect also recommended the Commission amend its recent [order](#) waiving or suspending the annual re-certification of Lifeline subscribers to avoid unnecessarily terminating eligibility for many, claiming the order is not effective until April 15, 2020, and numerous Americans are still being dropped from service until mid-April.

- Free Press [spoke with](#) Commissioner Starks and his legal advisors and Commissioner Rosenworcel on March 26, 2020, to express support for immediate action by governmental and private actors to expand access for Lifeline and E-Rate beneficiaries. Free Press also provided a copy of its report entitled *Keeping Connected Amid Crisis: Policies to Keep People Online During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, which suggested \$1 billion to expand service and capacity under the existing Lifeline program, for both new and current recipients.
- GCI filed [comments](#) on March 30, 2020, on a revision of a currently-approved [information collection](#) associated with changes in reporting requirements for FCC forms 460, 461, 462, 463, 465, 3466 and 467 (rural health care.) GCI asserted the request for comment did not correctly identify every proposed information collection in the rural health care [order](#), including the rules instructing USAC to create a rural and urban rate database as requiring PRA review, even though these rules clearly contain new information collections. GCI said the Commission should publish a corrected notice that identifies all provisions in the Order that must be approved by OMB.
- The New England Health Consortium, et al. [spoke with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel and her legal advisor on March 30, 2020, to discuss how broadband and network equipment is increasingly needed to support greater utilization of telehealth and to support employees working from home.
- The Satellite Industry Association sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, Rosenworcel, Carr and Starks on April 1, 2020, to discuss the importance of connectivity to telehealth services. It urged the FCC to ensure its proposed Connected Care program is technology-neutral including satellite and provides funding for both doctors and patients.
- Connected Health filed a [letter](#) on April 1, 2020, to express support for Commission efforts to enact telehealth programs and pilots to provide care to Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also discussed the need to include more broadband services to enable connectivity for as many patients and healthcare facilities as possible.
- Comments were filed on April 3, 2020, supporting the Tanana Chiefs Conference’s [application for review](#) of a USAC decision denying its funding request and certification of Form 466 outside of the newly imposed window for the rural health care program for funding year 2016. Replies are due April 20, 2020. [public notice all comments available](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 3, 2020, seeking comment on a [petition](#) seeking a study area waiver on the transfer of the Browning, Montana exchange from 3 Rivers to SiyCom. The Bureau also seeks comment on SiyCom’s [petition](#) seeking ETC designation in the Browning, Montana exchange. Comments are due May 5, 2020; replies are due May 20, 2020.
- Siyeh Communications filed a [supplement](#) on March 28, 2020, to its [petition](#) seeking a study area waiver on the transfer of the Browning, Montana exchange from 3 Rivers to SiyCom. SiyCom said it does not hold a 10 percent or greater interest in any other provider of telecommunications services except as identified in the application. SiyCom also clarified the Browning Exchange assets that are proposed to be transferred to SiyCom include a small sliver of land that is beyond the boundary of the Blackfeet Reservation that does not have any 3 Rivers Cooperative, Inc. customers or facilities.

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## Misc.

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on April 2, 2020, for its April 23, 2020 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider: an [NPRM and order](#) that would propose to establish the 5G Fund for Rural America, awarding up to \$9 billion in support over 10 years for the deployment of 5G mobile broadband services in rural areas; a [report and order and FNPRM](#) that would promote innovation and the use of mid-band spectrum for broadband by allowing unlicensed operations in the 5.925-7.125 GHz band while protecting existing licensed operations; a [report and order and FNPRM](#) that would update the orbital debris rules for all Commission-authorized satellites; an [order and declaratory ruling](#) that would grant



ViaSat's request for U.S. market access to offer broadband services using a proposed constellation of non-geostationary orbit satellites; a [report and order](#) that would modernize the LPFM technical rules to provide more regulatory flexibility for licensees; and an [NPRM](#) that would propose to expand video description requirements to 40 additional local television markets over the next four years to increase the accessibility of programming to blind and visually impaired Americans.

- Chairman Pai wrote a [blog post](#) on April 1, 2020, on the items that will be considered at the April 23, 2020 Open Meeting. He said the FCC will consider an NPRM on establishing a 5G Fund for rural America, using multi-round reverse auctions to distribute up to \$9 billion. The FCC will also consider: a proposal to make 1,200 megahertz of spectrum available for unlicensed use in four segments of the 6 GHz band; an order to update the FCC's existing rules regarding orbital debris mitigation; an order to approve ViaSat's request for market access for a constellation of 20 satellites that will provide fixed-satellite service; an NPRM tentatively concluding it should expand the FCC's video description regulations by phasing them in for an additional 10 markets each year for the next four years; and an order updating its technical rules for Low-Power FM stations.
- The FCC [deleted](#) all of the items listed on the [agenda](#) for the March 31, 2020 Open Meeting, as they were already adopted by the FCC prior to the meeting. The adopted: an [NPRM](#) proposing to eliminate ex ante pricing regulation and require detariffing of various end-user charges associated with interstate access service, and prohibit carriers from separately listing these charges on customers' telephone bills; a [report and order and FNPRM](#) adopting rules requiring originating and terminating voice service providers to implement the STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication framework in the IP portions of their networks, and proposing additional measures to combat illegal spoofing, including measures to implement portions of the TRACED Act; an [NPRM](#) on whether to modify the Commission's rules governing the use of distributed transmission systems by broadcast television stations; an [FNPRM and NPRM](#) on whether to modify the Commission's rules governing the resolution of program carriage disputes between video programming vendors and multichannel video programming distributors; and an [NPRM](#) on whether to update the methodology for determining whether a television broadcast station is "significantly viewed" in a community outside of its local market.
- The FCC released the [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges on April 1, 2020, which was [adopted prior](#) to the FCC's March 31, 2020 [Open Meeting](#). The FCC proposes to eliminate ex ante pricing regulation and require detariffing of various end-user charges associated with interstate access service, and prohibits carriers from separately listing these charges on customers' telephone bills. Comments are due 45 days after publication of the NPRM in the Federal Register; replies are due 75 days after FR.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analysis released an [order](#) on April 2, 2020, granting a 30-day extension of time for filers to complete the supply chain [information collection](#). Responses are now due on May 22, 2020.
- USTelecom filed a [letter](#) on March 27, 2020, to express support for RWA's [request](#) for an extension of time to report supply chain security information. USTelecom also expressed support for RWA's request for clarity on a number of issues related to the information request.
- NTCA filed a [letter](#) on April 1, 2020, to express support for RWA's [request](#) for an extension to report supply chain security information. NTCA also expressed support for RWA's request for additional clarification or guidance on issues relating to the information request.
- In addition to comments that were listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, comments were filed on March 27, 2020, on the applicability of the recent [Secure and Trusted Communications Act of 2019](#) to the designation proceedings involving Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corporation. [USTelecom](#) asserted the Secure Networks Act compels the FCC to confirm its designation of Huawei and ZTE as entities that produce covered equipment. [WTA](#) asserted the Commission must discontinue the designation process it adopted and replace it with the new process outlined by Congress that calls for creating a list of equipment that poses a threat. The [Rural Wireless Association](#) asserted that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fact that the Secure Networks Act does not require final designation until 2021, and the desire by all parties operating covered company equipment to replace those elements

as soon as practicable, the FCC should abstain from issuing any final designation public notice before March 2021. [Huawei](#) also filed comments. [public notice all comments available](#)

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 3, 2020, seeking comment on a [214 application](#) filed by 3 Rivers Telephone and Siyeh Communications, requesting approval for the acquisition of certain assets of 3 Rivers in the Browning Exchange in Montana by SiyCom. Comments are due April 17, 2020; replies are due April 24, 2020.
- The FCC released a [public notice](#) on March 31, 2020, to provide instructions regarding the submission of confidential materials. The FCC said because hand-delivery of confidential materials is no longer possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is providing instructions on how to file them during the pandemic. The FCC had [previously issued](#) guidelines for hand-delivery of filings.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on March 31, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection regarding access to numbering resource application information. The FCC said the information collected will be used by the FCC, state commissions, the NANPA and the Pooling Administrator to verify the validity and accuracy of such data and to assist state commissions in carrying out their numbering responsibilities, such as area code relief. PRA comments are due April 30, 2020.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on March 31, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with payphone compensation. PRA comments are due April 30, 2020.

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## Upcoming Filing Dates

- Apr. 7 - Comments due on a population distribution methodology for estimating the number of Alaskans who receive mobile service within census blocks in remote areas. Replies due April 17, 2020. [PN](#), [PN](#)
- Apr. 8 - Oppositions due to [SECA's](#) and [Infinity Communications and Consulting's](#) petitions for reconsideration of the E-Rate Category Two [report and order](#). Replies are due April 20, 2020. [public notice](#), [FR](#)
- Apr. 10 - Replies due on the process of establishing pre-and post-auction application procedures and competitive bidding procedures for Phase I of the RDOF. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 10 - Challenges due on the preliminary list of census blocks that have been deemed initially eligible for the RDOF Phase I auction. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 10 - PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the prevention of the unauthorized change by telecommunications carriers of consumers' selections of telecommunications service providers. [notice](#)
- Apr. 13 - Comments due on the CAF II Coalition's [petition](#) for rulemaking and [petition](#) for waiver regarding the letter of credit requirements for recipients of CAF Phase II support. Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 13 - Comments due on two petitions seeking study area waivers filed by West River Telecommunications Cooperative. Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 13 - Comments due on the outcomes of the auction of toll free numbers in the 833 area code, lessons learned, and future recommendations for toll free number assignment methodologies. [public notice](#)

- Apr. 13 - Comments due on Skybeam's [request](#) for expedited waiver that the Commission waive the letter of credit rules for rural broadband experiments support recipients, and instead allow Skybeam to comply with the recently adopted RDOF letter of credit provisions of section 54.804(c). Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 14 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection relating to the monitoring of USF support mechanisms. PRA comments are due April 14, 2020. [FCC notice](#)
- Apr. 15 - Oppositions due to Northern Valley's direct case due regarding the lawfulness of [tariff its revisions](#). [order](#)
- Apr. 16 - Comments due on the re-establishment of a computer matching program the FCC and USAC will conduct with agencies from the states of Colorado, Mississippi, New Mexico and Utah to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of the Lifeline program. [notice](#)
- Apr. 17 - Comments due on a [214 application](#) filed by 3 Rivers Telephone and Siyeh Communications, requesting approval for the acquisition of certain assets of 3 Rivers in the Browning Exchange in Montana by SiyCom. Replies are due April 24, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 17 - Replies due on a population distribution methodology for estimating the number of Alaskans who receive mobile service within census blocks in remote areas. [public notice](#), [public notice](#)
- Apr. 17 - Comments due on Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative's [petition](#) seeking a waiver of the March 1, 2019 deadline for certifying broadband locations in the HUBB system and, to the extent necessary, the associated penalty. Replies are due May 4, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 20 - Replies due to oppositions to [SECA's](#) and [Infinity Communications and Consulting's](#) petitions for reconsideration of the E-Rate Category Two [report and order](#). [public notice](#), [FR](#)
- Apr. 20 - PRA comments due on a new information collection as a result of the December 12, 2018 [order](#) on robocalls, which established a database to enable callers to verify whether a telephone number has been disconnected before calling that number. [notice](#)
- Apr. 20 - PRA comments due on a revision to a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Forms 481, 497, 555, 5629, 5630 and 5631, as a result of the November 2019 Lifeline [order](#). [FR](#)
- Apr. 20 - Responses due on assessing parties' continuing interests in [petitions for reconsideration](#) of various aspects of the intercarrier compensation provisions of the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order. [Federal Register](#), [public notice](#)
- Apr. 20 - Replies due on applications for review of decisions on the rural health care program filed by the [Tanana Chiefs Conference](#) and [ENA Healthcare Services](#). [public notices](#)
- Apr. 20 - Comments due on refreshing the record in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings. The Bureau seeks comment on how changes adopted in the RIF [order](#) might affect: public safety; the regulation of pole attachments in states subject to federal regulation; and the Lifeline program. Replies due May 20, 2020. [public notice](#), [order](#)
- Apr. 24 - Replies due on a [214 application](#) filed by 3 Rivers Telephone and Siyeh Communications, requesting approval for the acquisition of certain assets of 3 Rivers in the Browning Exchange in Montana by SiyCom. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 28 - Replies due on the CAF II Coalition's [petition](#) for rulemaking and [petition](#) for waiver regarding the letter of credit requirements for recipients of CAF Phase II support. [public notice](#)

- Apr. 28 - Replies due on Skybeam's [request](#) for expedited waiver that the Commission waive the letter of credit rules for rural broadband experiments support recipients, and instead allow Skybeam to comply with the recently adopted RDOF letter of credit provisions of section 54.804(c). [public notice](#)
- Apr. 28 - Replies due on two petitions seeking study area waivers filed by West River Telecommunications Cooperative. [public notice](#)
- Apr. 30 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection regarding access to numbering resource application information. [notice](#)
- Apr. 30 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with payphone compensation. [notice](#)
- May 4 - Replies due on Penasco Valley Telephone's [petition](#) seeking a waiver of the March 1, 2019 deadline for certifying broadband locations in the HUBB system and, to the extent necessary, the associated penalty. [public notice](#)
- May 4 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with rate-of-return carrier universal service reporting requirements filed on FCC Forms 507, 508 and 509. [FR](#)
- May 4 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with high-cost universal service support filed on FCC Form 481. [FR](#)
- May 4 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection on IXC information disclosure requirements, internet posting requirements, recordkeeping requirements, and annual certification requirements. [notice](#)
- May 5 - Comments due on a [petition](#) seeking a study area waiver on the transfer of the Browning, Montana exchange from 3 Rivers to SiyCom, and on SiyCom's [petition](#) seeking ETC designation in the Browning, Montana exchange. Replies are due May 20, 2020. [public notice](#)
- May 11 - PRA comments on a new FCC Form 5634, application for the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 Fixed Support. [notice](#)
- May 11 - PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with numbering audits. [notice](#)
- May 13 - Replies due on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second communications marketplace report. [public notice](#)
- May 15 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on additional measures to combat illegal spoofing, including further implementation of the TRACED Act. Replies are due May 29, 2020.
- May 19 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with certain Part 54 ETC designation requirements. [FR](#)
- May 19 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with supply chains. [FR](#)
- May 19 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with price cap pricing flexibility. [FR](#)
- May 20 - Replies due on a [petition](#) seeking a study area waiver on the transfer of the Browning, Montana exchange from 3 Rivers to SiyCom, and on SiyCom's [petition](#) seeking ETC designation in the Browning, Montana exchange. [public notice](#)

- May 20 - Replies due on refreshing the record in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings. The Bureau seeks comment on how changes adopted in the RIF [order](#) might affect: public safety; the regulation of pole attachments in states subject to federal regulation; and the Lifeline program. [public notice](#), [order](#)
- May 22 - Deadline for ETCs to report on the extent to which their networks contain or use potentially prohibited equipment or services provided by Huawei or ZTE and the costs associated with removing such equipment and replacing it with equivalent equipment. [public notice](#), [order](#)
- May 29 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) on additional measures to combat illegal spoofing, including further implementation of the TRACED Act.
- June 2 - PRA comments due on extension of a currently approved collection on the FCC's Electronic Tariff Filing System. [notice](#)
- June 2 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved collection on FCC Form 683, application for CAF Phase II and RDOF auction support. [notice](#)

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