NECA’s Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

April 13, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

• The Wireline Competition Bureau granted a limited waiver of the requirements for filing speed and latency testing results for recipients of CAF Phase II model-based support.

• Reply comments were filed on the process of establishing pre-and post-auction application procedures and competitive bidding procedures for Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. public notice

• Challenges to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the RDOF Phase I auction were filed. public notice

• NRECA and NTCA urged the FCC to adopt processes to promote collaboration between the RDOF program and the RUS ReConnect program.

• Premier Communications and the Illinois Office of Broadband filed petitions for clarification and/or reconsideration of the RDOF report and order.

• The FCC announced the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and Office of Economics and Analytics released a staff report detailing how a 5G Fund for Rural America would impact 5G Fund eligibility.


• Reps. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.) introduced the Serving Rural America Act, which proposes to create a five-year pilot grant program at the FCC, authorizing $100 million a year for five years to expand broadband service to unserved areas.

• The report and order adopting a $200 million COVID-19 telehealth program and a $100 million Connected Care Pilot Program is effective May 11, 2020. The Wireline Bureau announced the opening of the COVID-19 telehealth program application portal.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

• Apr. 20 - Responses due on assessing parties’ continuing interests in petitions for reconsideration of various aspects of the ICC provisions of the 2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order.

Editor: Shawn O’Brien | Assistant Editor: Libby Newson
USF Reform

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an order on April 10, 2020, granting, on its own motion, a limited waiver of the requirements for filing speed and latency testing results for recipients of CAF Phase II model-based support. The Bureau will allow CAF Phase II carriers to make reasonable assumptions to determine certain information for USAC speed and latency testing templates, provided such assumptions do not change the carriers’ speed and latency testing results. The Bureau said it expects if CAF Phase II carriers participate in future high-cost programs that require speed and latency testing, they will adjust their systems to provide all of the information required to complete the templates without using any assumptions.

- Reply comments were filed on April 10, 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. NTCA asserted the record supports the use of census block groups as the minimum bidding unit in the RDOF auction and urged the FCC to ensure those seeking to bid in the RDOF auction are technically capable of performing as promised. Microsoft requested the FCC not to adopt its proposal to exclude any applicant that intends to use fixed wireless from bidding in the Gigabit tier if the applicant has not reported offering Gigabit broadband service in its December 2018 FCC Form 477 data. public notice | all replies available

- Challenges were filed on April 6, 2020, to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. public notice | all challenges available

- NRECA and NTCA spoke with Chairman Pai’s rural broadband advisor on April 6, 2020, to urge the FCC to adopt processes that would promote collaboration between the RDOF program and the ReConnect program administered by the RUS. They suggested the FCC identify those eligible census blocks where ReConnect loans have been awarded, and that those census blocks be flagged as ineligible for RDOF bidding for parties other than the specific ReConnect borrower. They said this would not guarantee a ReConnect borrower would win RDOF support because of the nature of competitive bidding. They said such a policy would enable the RDOF and ReConnect programs to work in concert and avoid the prospect for potential conflict or overbuilding concerns as between these critical federal programs.

- Heartland Telephone Co of Iowa d/b/a Premier Communications filed a petition for clarification of the RDOF report and order on April 9, 2020. Heartland asserted the FCC has not resolved the question of what areas will be included in the RDOF Phase II auction, nor has it foreclosed the possibility of providing some form of ongoing support to high-cost price cap areas that currently receive CAF Phase II model-based support where broadband service meeting the FCC’s performance standards is available, but unsustainable without universal service support. Alternatively, Heartland requested reconsideration of the order if the FCC has determined that only high-cost price cap areas lacking 25/3 Mbps will be eligible for RDOF Phase II.

- The Illinois Office of Broadband filed a petition for reconsideration of the RDOF report and order on April 9, 2020. It asked the FCC to reconsider its decision to forego federal-state partnership on broadband deployment, asserting a partnership would help coordinate state and federal broadband investment in order to maximize efficiency and minimize duplication. It also asked the FCC to reconsider its decision to continue to treat broadband offering 25/3 Mbps service as a viable minimum, and suggested the Commission make 50/5 Mbps the threshold for support in the RDOF auction.

- The Maine PUC filed a letter on April 8, 2020, expressing support for the Vermont DPS’s petition for reconsideration and clarification of the RDOF report and order. The Maine PUC asserted having the RDOF funding complement, and not supplant, state-based broadband funding is a common-sense solution that will provide the maximum benefit to states who most need support.

- The Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority filed a letter on April 9, 2020, expressing support for the Vermont DPS’s petition for reconsideration and clarification of the RDOF report and order. The
CT PURA asserted the exclusion of census blocks receiving state or federal broadband subsidies from Phase I of the RDOF raises both procedural and policy questions, will deter federal-state cooperation and reduce the total financial resources available to address rural broadband deployment.

- Charter Communications spoke with Chairman Pai’s rural broadband advisor on April 3, 2020, to discuss stretching the Commission’s USF dollars as far as possible by preventing RDOF money from being used to overbuild areas that will have broadband in the near term.

- The A-CAM Broadband Coalition filed a letter on April 10, 2020, to express support for Pineland Telephone’s petition for reconsideration of the Commission’s decision to preclude carriers participating in the A-CAM I program from electing A-CAM II support and obligations. The coalition said the relief requested would advance the Commission’s broadband deployment goals and promote the public interest.

- The FCC issued a news release on April 9, 2020, announcing the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and Office of Economics and Analytics released a staff report detailing how the 5G Fund for Rural America could make as much as 67% of land in 49 states and 3 U.S. territories eligible for 5G Fund support. The staff report details how much of each state’s area and population could be eligible for funding for 5G wireless service if the auction proceeds in 2021, and included maps showing how this approach could impact each state. The FCC will consider an NPRM on the 5G Fund at its April 23, 2020 Open Meeting.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on April 6, 2020, seeking comment on Skybeam’s petition for waiver of the rural broadband experiment program obligation to provide service to a specific number of locations in each of the nine study areas where it is authorized for support. The Bureau said Skybeam asserted for each of these study areas, it has been unable to identify the requisite number of qualifying locations necessary to meet its defined deployment obligation. Comments are due April 20, 2020; replies are due April 27, 2020.

- An FCC notice was published in the Federal Register on April 7, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection on FCC Form 5625, which is used for the CAF Phase II auction in New York. This information collection addresses the eligibility requirements that New York winning bidders must meet before the Wireline Competition Bureau will authorize them to receive CAF Phase II support. PRA comments are due June 8, 2020.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on April 9, 2020, announcing the approval of Alaska Communications Systems’ 10-year CAF Phase II deployment plan. The Bureau found ACS’s service obligations are in the public interest as ACS will provide advanced communication service to at least 31,571 new locations and are consistent with the provisions of the ACS CAF Phase II Order, subject to certain conditions and exceptions.

- Comments are due April 13, 2020, 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

- Comments are due April 13, 2020, 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

- The Alaska Telecom Association filed comments on April 7, 2020, on a population distribution methodology for estimating the number of Alaskans who receive mobile service within census blocks in remote areas. ATA supported the Wireline Bureau’s proposal to use GCI’s model, with ATA’s modifications. ATA asserted the model does not need to be changed at this time and reasonably predicts the location of population within the Alaska Plan mobile service areas. Reply comments are due April 17, 2020. public notice | public notice
ICC

- An FCC notice was published in the Federal Register on April 7, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a revision of a currently approved information collection on tariff review plans. ILECs file TRPs to support revisions to the rates in their interstate access service tariffs. PRA comments are due June 8, 2020.

- Northern Valley Communications filed a supplemental response to its direct case on April 8, 2020, in the proceeding investigating whether its tariff revisions are consistent with the Act, the access arbitrage order, and FCC rules. Northern Valley amended its answer in section 13.3 of its direct case. Oppositions to the direct case are due April 15, 2020.

- Northern Valley Communications filed a letter on April 8, 2020, pursuant to section 51.914(b)(1), informing the FCC it is a LEC engaged in access stimulation. It said it will not bill long-distance carriers for terminating switched access tandem switching or terminating switched access transport charges for any traffic between the James Valley access tandem switch in Groton, South Dakota and Northern Valley’s end offices. Northern Valley said it designated James Valley Cooperative Telephone as the intermediate access provider that will provide terminating switched access tandem switching. Northern Valley accepted its obligation to pay for the foregoing services as of January 11, 2020.

- The Ad Hoc Telecom Users Committee spoke with Commissioner Rosenworcel’s chief of staff on April 9, 2020, regarding 8YY reform. Ad Hoc claimed the current 8YY originating access charge system incentivizes traffic pumping, and its members have seen an increase in the number of fraudulent calls terminating to their toll-free numbers. It asserted that bill-and-keep remains the correct economic policy for access charges, including 8YY, because the policy drives market-based behaviors, incentivizes competition, and disincentivizes fraud.

Broadband

- Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) and Reps. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), et al. sent a letter to Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif) on April 6, 2020, to include funding to help small broadband providers sustain internet services and upgrades for students and low-income families in any future legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sen. Klobuchar, et al. introduced the Keeping Critical Connections Act on March 24, 2020, which would appropriate $2 billion for a fund at the FCC under which small broadband providers with fewer than 250,000 customers could be compensated for broadband services- if they provided free or discounted broadband services or upgrades during the pandemic for their customers who were unable to pay their bills or provided distance learning capability for students. press release

- Reps. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.) introduced the Serving Rural America Act on April 6, 2020. The bill proposes to create a five-year pilot grant program at the FCC, authorizing $100 million a year for a total of $500 million over five years to expand broadband service to unserved areas of the country. The bill prioritizes funding to areas without 25Mbps/3Mbps and features a challenge process allowing the public or other existing service providers to submit a challenge to the FCC, among other things.

- The Office of Economics and Analytics issued a public notice on April 10, 2020, extending the deadline to file comments and replies on the public notice on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second communications marketplace report. The OEA said in light of the COVID-19
pandemic, a limited extension of the comment deadlines is warranted. Comments are now due April 27, 2020; reply comments are due May 28, 2020.

- ACA Connects spoke with Chairman Pai’s advisor and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 7, 2020, to request the Commission affirm customer drop pole attachments be performed without providing advance notice to investor-owned utilities. It asserted this targeted action would provide greater clarity for attachers and utilities and is an immediate step the Commission can take to help new broadband customers get online rapidly.

Robocalls

- Chairman Pai sent letters to Sens. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) and John Thune (R-S.D.) and Rep. Bob Latta (R-Ohio) et al. on April 3, 2020, to respond to their letters expressing concern with robocalls on the COVID-19 pandemic. Pai said the Commission has partnered with the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice, and USTelecom’s Industry Traceback Group to tackle the threat of COVID-19 robocall scams.

- Neustar spoke with Chairman Pai’s advisor and Commissioner O’Rielly and his legal advisor on April 2 and 3, 2020, to discuss Commissioner O’Rielly’s recent tweet regarding COVID-19 emergency alerts from government entities being incorrectly identified as spam. Neustar asserted there are occasions where legitimate calls are inadvertently mislabeled or blocked and said it works as a clearinghouse to help resolve mislabeling and blocking issues for vetted enterprises.

Other Universal Service Programs

- The report and order adopting 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 help defray health care providers’ costs, was published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2020. The order is effective May 11, 2020, except for the portions of order on the telehealth program, which are effective April 9, 2020. The pilot program information collection requirements will not become effective until approved by the OMB.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice and news release on April 10, 2020, to announce the COVID-19 telehealth program application portal will open April 13, 2020. Applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program may be filed through a dedicated application portal.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on April 8, 2020, to provide guidance on actions applicants can begin to take to ready themselves for filing an application for COVID-19 Telehealth funding, pursuant to the report and order.

- An FCC notice was published in the Federal Register on April 7, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a revision of a currently approved information collection on rural health care forms, as a result of the 2019 report and order on telehealth. PRA comments are due May 7, 2020.

- Reps. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) and Don Young (R-AK) introduced a bill on April 10, 2020, entitled H.R. 6474, the Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act, which will provide $2 billion to expand telehealth and high-quality internet connectivity at public and nonprofit healthcare facilities, including mobile clinics and temporary health facilities deployed to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

- Chairman Pai sent letters to Reps. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), et al. on March 30, 2020, to respond to their letters expressing concern with loss of connectivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pai said the Commission is working to ensure Americans stay connected, and he asked broadband and telephone service providers to take the Keep America Connected pledge.
• GCI and Southcentral filed a petition on April 8, 2020, seeking a waiver on an expedited basis to allow GCI to provide service to SCF’s Takotna Village Health Clinic which has relocated to a temporary site, due to a fire in the original clinic location. They asked for a waiver to permit site and service substitution in accordance with the new section 54.624 (site and service substitutions) adopted in the August 2019 rural healthcare order, which would otherwise not take effect until FY 2021.

• The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on April 8, 2020, seeking comment on an emergency request filed by the PR-USVI Fund Coalition, seeking a waiver of rules regarding the bank commitment letter and letter of credit requirements for applicants participating in the Stage 2 fixed competitive process of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund. Comments are due April 29, 2020, replies are due May 13, 2020.

• The SHLB Coalition et al spoke with Chairman Pai’s special counsel on April 3, 2020, to express support for Commission actions to extend the rural health care filing window and make available telehealth funding. They also expressed concern with delays by USAC in approval of rural health care funding applications and suggested increasing USAC staffing and systems and processes to handle the volume of work. They also asked the Commission to delay the implementation of the proposed new database setting urban and rural rates in the Telecommunications program.

• The American Hospital Association filed a petition on April 9, 2020, seeking partial reconsideration of the report and order adopting a $200 million COVID-19 telehealth program. The AHA asked the FCC to reconsider its decision to limit participation in the COVID-19 Telehealth Program to certain categories of health care providers, and asserted the CARES Act contained no such restriction, and eligibility for participation in the COVID-19 Telehealth Program should be extended all types of hospitals and other direct patient care facilities regardless of their size, location or for-profit or not-for-profit status.

• The New England Telehealth Consortium, et al. spoke with Commissioner Carr’s legal advisor on April 7, 2020, to discuss the financial impact on health care providers of USAC not having issued most of the funding decisions for funding year 2019 in the Healthcare Connect Fund and Telecommunications Program. They noted that lack of timely funding decisions adds financial burdens on health care providers and service providers at a time when all available resources are needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

• Funds for Learning spoke with Chairman Pai’s legal advisor on April 8, 2020, to provide suggestions Congress and the Commission could take to close the educational divide and get disconnected students into online classrooms. They suggested Congress provide $5.25 billion in E-Rate funding to support connectivity to online classrooms which would be available for off-campus Internet access, connected learning devices, and cybersecurity for school and library networks. They suggested the FCC update the E-Rate funding year 2020 eligible services list and Category two budget factors and waive its standard 28-day Form 470 bidding requirements.

• SECA filed comments on April 8, 2020, in support of Infinity Communications and Consulting’s petitions for reconsideration of the E-Rate Category Two report and order. SECA suggested the Commission reconsider and clarify its directive regarding the counting of part-time students for Category Two budgets. Replies are due April 20, 2020. public notice, FR

• New America’s Open Technology Institute sent a letter to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, Starks and Rosenworcel on April 8, 2020, to express concern with the homework gap during the COVID-19 pandemic. It made several suggestions the Commission could take to mitigate the situation, including designating a substantial portion of the $2.2 billion in currently available E-Rate funding for this purpose and waiving restrictions on the use of E-Rate funded facilities to extend school or library connectivity to students off campus for educational purposes.
The Aleutians East Boro School District filed a request on April 6, 2020, seeking a waiver of the E-Rate program rules relating to off-campus use of existing E-Rate supported bandwidth to provide access to students at home, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WTA filed a letter on April 9, 2020, on its petition for reconsideration of the requirement that all ETC Lifeline enrollment representatives register with the USAC representative accountability database. It expressed support for Commission action delaying mandatory registration for enrollment representatives with the Representative Accountability Database due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WTA requested the Commission revise its RAD policy so it focuses on preventing fraud by parties that have a history of committing such fraud and allowing parties without such a history to continue operating their businesses with less interruption.

Next Century Cities spoke with Commissioner Starks’ advisors on April 6, 2020, to discuss emergency response measures related to the coronavirus public health crisis. Next Century Cities said the Commission should consider ways to strengthen the Lifeline program and suggested it provide public service announcements on the importance and availability of Lifeline, working with municipal leaders to share information on eligibility and enrollment in local networks.

Q LINK sent Chairman Pai a copy of a letter on April 6, 2020, which responded to a Congressional inquiry seeking information on how Q LINK is handling challenges faced by Lifeline subscribers related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Q LINK offered proposals for additional relief it said could be included in new legislation or in a Commission order granting emergency relief, or in some combination thereof.

Comments are due April 13, 2020, on two petitions seeking study area waivers filed by West River Telecommunications Cooperative. Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. public notice

Misc.

RWA filed a letter on April 7, 2020, on the order granting a 30-day extension of time for filers to complete supply chain information collection. It asserted the order failed to address questions raised by the instructions to the reporting portal for supply chain security information. It urged the Bureaus to hold a webinar or provide an online tutorial to assist ETCs in gathering and providing the desired information.

Chairman Pai sent a letter to Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R- Fla.) on April 3, 2020, in response to his letter on the NPRM on unbundling and resale rules. Pai said the NPRM recognizes that unbundling requirements may continue to have benefits in areas where facilities-based competition is likely less to occur, and proposed to maintain unbundling of broadband-capable loops used to serve residential customers in rural areas.

WorldNet Telecommunications spoke with Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on April 9, 2020, regarding the NPRM on updating its unbundling and resale rules. WorldNet expressed opposition to the proposals to eliminate and/or further restrict access to unbundled network elements, specifically as those proposals relate to Puerto Rico. WorldNet asserted that due to the unique circumstances in Puerto Rico, the FCC not apply its proposal in Puerto Rico or, at a minimum, defer the implementation of those proposals for at least five years.

The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on April 6, 2020, seeking comment on a 214 application filed by Onvoy and Garden Valley Telephone requesting approval for the transfer of certain assets of Onvoy to Garden Valley. Comments are due April 20, 2020; replies are due April 27, 2020.

The FCC issued a public notice on April 7, 2020, announcing the next meeting of the Consumer Advisory Committee will be held on April 27, 2020, at 10:30 am. At this meeting, the CAC will consider a recommendation from its Truth-in-Billing Working Group. This meeting is open to the general public.
and has been moved to a wholly electronic format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting can be viewed by the public at [http://www.fcc.gov/live](http://www.fcc.gov/live).

- Verizon filed a petition on April 9, 2020, seeking a limited waiver of the maximum 180-day period for maintaining wireless telephone numbers in reserved status for certain business customers under the Part 52 rules. Verizon said grant of the requested relief will serve the Commission’s public interest objective of minimizing billing, service disconnection, and related burdens on business customers as they plan for and seek to recover from the devastating economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Comments are due April 13, 2020, 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

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on April 6, 2020, granting an application filed by Quality Voice and Data for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service.

**Upcoming Filing Dates**

- 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. 20 - Comments due on Skybeam’s petition for waiver of the rural broadband experiment program obligation to provide service to a specific number of locations in each of the nine study areas where it is authorized for support. Replies are due April 27, 2020. public notice

• Apr. 20 - Comments due on a 214 application filed by Onvoy and Garden Valley Telephone requesting approval for the transfer of certain assets of Onvoy to Garden Valley. Replies are due April 27, 2020. public notice

• Apr. 20 - 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. 27 - Replies due on Skybeam’s petition for waiver of the rural broadband experiment program obligation to provide service to a specific number of locations in each of the nine study areas where it is authorized for support. public notice

• Apr. 27 - Replies due on a 214 application filed by Onvoy and Garden Valley Telephone requesting approval for the transfer of certain assets of Onvoy to Garden Valley. public notice

• Apr. 27 - Comments due on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second communications marketplace report. Reply comments are due May 28, 2020. public notice, 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. 29 - Comments due on an emergency request filed by the PR-USVI Fund Coalition, seeking a waiver of rules regarding the bank commitment letter and letter of credit requirements for applicants participating in the Stage 2 fixed competitive process of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund. Replies are due May 13, 2020. 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 7 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection on rural health care forms, as a result of the 2019 report and order on telehealth. 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 an emergency request filed by the PR-USVI Fund Coalition, seeking a waiver of rules regarding the bank commitment letter and letter of credit requirements for applicants participating in the Stage 2 fixed competitive process of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund. 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 a revision 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 28 - Replies due on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second communications marketplace report. public notice, public notice
• 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

• June 8 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection on FCC Form 5625, which is used for the CAF Phase II auction in New York. notice

• June 8 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection on tariff review plans. ILECs file TRPs to support revisions to the rates in their interstate access service tariffs. notice

Back to Highlights

Editor: Shawn O'Brien  |  Assistant Editor: Libby Newson