

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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April 20, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued the [agenda](#) for its April 23, 2020 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider six items, including 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.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to congressional members detailing FCC's actions in response to a [GAO report](#) on the rate-of-return high-cost support program.
- Petitions for reconsideration of the RDOF [order](#) were filed by the [Vermont DPS](#), the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#), and [Premier Communications](#). Comment dates are not yet set. [public notice](#)
- The FCC [will hold](#) a webinar on the RDOF Phase I auction on May 5, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [seeks comment](#) on Johnson Telephone's [petition for waiver](#) of the ruling in the RDOF [order](#) that CAF II participants that defaulted on their award will be barred from the RDOF auction. Comments are due April 30, 2020; replies are due May 7, 2020.
- The WCB [seeks comment](#) on Charter's [petition](#) for a waiver of RDOF census block eligibility rule. Comments are due April 21, 2020; replies are due April 28, 2020.
- [Challenges were filed](#) to the census blocks list deemed initially eligible for the RDOF Phase I auction.
- [Comments were filed](#) in support of the CAF II Coalition's [petition](#) for a rulemaking and [petition](#) for waiver regarding the CAF II letter of credit requirements. Replies are due April 28, 2020.
- NTCA filed [comments](#) in support of Red River Telephone's [request](#) that the Bureau issue a revised A-CAM II offer and to waive the A-CAM II election deadline. Replies are due April 29, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Chairman Pai [sent letters](#) congressional members detailing FCC actions in response to the pandemic.
- The USDA [said](#) it will [use](#) the \$100 million provided for the ReConnect Program in the [CARES Act](#) to invest in qualified 100 percent grant projects that did not receive funding in the program's first round.
- The WCB [established](#) procedures for the 2020 annual access charge tariff filings and tariff review plans for ILECs.
- The ACAM Broadband Coalition [opposed](#) a transition of 8YY originating access to bill-and-keep for rate-of-return carriers absent a robust recovery mechanism.
- The Consumer Affairs Bureau [established](#) guidelines for operation of the reassigned numbers database, pursuant to the December 2018 robocall [report and order](#).

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Apr. 27 - Comments [due](#) on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second report. Replies are due May 28, 2020. [public notice](#)

USF Reform

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Congressional members on April 10, 2020, regarding a November 18, 2019 [Government Accountability Office report](#) that made recommendations on improving the FCC's fraud risk management program and modifying the rate-of-return high-cost support mechanisms in order to mitigate fraud risk. Pai said in their response to the draft report, the Commission has taken a variety of administrative and programmatic actions to reduce the risk of fraud in the High-Cost program.
- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on April 14, 2020, announcing petitions for reconsideration of the RDOF [report and order](#) were filed by the [Vermont Department of Public Service](#), the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#), and [Premier Communications](#). Oppositions to petitions are due 15 days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register; replies are due within 10 days after oppositions are due.
- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force issued a [public notice](#) on April 15, 2020, announcing a webinar on the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction (Auction 904) will be held on May 5, 2020. The RBTf said the webinar is free and will provide an overview of the adopted policy framework for Auction 904, the proposed procedures for applications and bidding in the auction, and tips for service providers that are interested in applying to participate in the auction.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 16, 2020, seeking comment on Johnson Telephone Company's [petition for waiver](#) of the ruling in the RDOF [report and order](#) that CAF Phase II auction participants that subsequently defaulted on their entire award will be barred from participating in the RDOF auction. Comments are due April 30, 2020; reply comments are due May 7, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 14, 2020, seeking comment on Charter's [petition](#) for a waiver of RDOF census block eligibility rule to exclude certain census blocks in New York in which Charter is in the process of deploying service of at least 300/10 Mbps. Comments are due April 21, 2020; replies are due April 28, 2020.
- Charter Communications filed a [petition for waiver](#) on April 13, 2020, of section 54.802(a), which sets forth census block eligibility criteria for Phase I of the RDOF auction, to exclude certain census blocks in New York in which Charter is already in the process of deploying service of at least 300/10 Mbps. Charter said excluding the New York census blocks from the RDOF-eligible areas prevents other providers from overbuilding these areas using federal funding, and offers the Commission an opportunity to use scarce federal funds in other areas. Charter Communications filed a [letter](#) on April 13, 2020, to clarify its [petition for waiver](#).
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on April 20, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a revision of a currently approved information collection on FCC Form 183, the application to participate in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. The FCC stated it will review Form 183 information as part of the pre-auction process, prior to the start of the auction, and determine whether each applicant satisfies the Commission's requirements to participate in the auction for RDOF support. PRA comments are due May 20, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau, Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, and Office of Economics and Analytics issued a [public notice](#) and [news release](#) on April 14, 2020, authorizing \$2,642,413 in CAF II support to Armstrong Telecommunications to expand broadband in rural northwestern Pennsylvania. The FCC said Armstrong has committed to providing broadband at speeds of at least 1 Gbps/500 Mbps to an estimated 1,949 unserved rural homes and businesses.
- The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable filed a [letter](#) on April 15, 2020, expressing support for the Vermont DPS's [petition for reconsideration and clarification](#) of the RDOF [report and order](#). The MDTC agreed with Vermont that the FCC should partner with states to facilitate more efficient broadband investment and supports Vermont's proposal to create a grant program that

will coordinate with states to use federal funding to further the goals of section 254. The Vermont PUC also filed a [letter](#) in support of Vermont's petition.

- In addition to those listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, 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. [USTelecom](#) asserted the use of census block groups provide greater flexibility than relatively larger geographic areas and will ensure the most amount of competition within the auction. It also said the Commission should move ahead with the RDOF auction this year so that funding can be awarded to rapidly close the digital divide. [Conexon](#) said the RDOF Phase I auction should be accelerated, not delayed, and the FCC should adopt procedures to permit those who are prepared to construct Gigabit FTTP networks to file a long-form application coincident with the short-form application, or shortly thereafter, so that such applicants might move ahead immediately following the auction. [WISPA](#) asserted the record supports using census block groups for the RDOF Phase I auction. [public notice](#) | [all replies available](#)
- Comments were filed on April 13, 2020, in support of the CAF II Coalition's [petition](#) for a rulemaking proceeding to update section 54.315(c) to align the letter of credit requirements for recipients of CAF Phase II support with those of RDOF support recipients, and their [petition](#) for waiver to allow recipients of universal service high-cost support awarded in the CAF Phase II auction to comply instead with the RDOF letter of credit provisions. [NTCA](#) said amending the CAF II obligations increases opportunities for CAF II awardees to participate in the RDOF. [USTelecom](#) asserted these LOC rules divert funds intended for deployment of new service to the payment of substantial bank fees and constrain the ability of recipients to borrow funds to expedite delivery of supported voice and broadband services. [Computer 5](#) said the relief requested will remove unnecessary financial burdens arising from the CAF II LoC rules. [Allens Communications](#) said the relief will help reduce CAF II recipients' costs and offer greater financial flexibility in support of their ongoing work to deploy broadband to unserved areas. [NCTA](#) asserted granting the request will allow support recipients to deploy broadband more expeditiously while continuing to provide adequate protection in cases where buildout commitments are unmet. [WISPA](#) claimed there is no sound policy basis to treat CAF Phase II support recipients differently than RDOF recipients. Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#) | [all comments available](#)
- Comments were filed on April 13, 2020, in support of 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). [USTelecom](#) asserted Skybeam is not trying to avoid the build out obligations associated with the funding awards, but instead has shown good cause by steadily abiding by its buildout obligations since beginning to receive support. [WISPA](#) asserted the FCC should ensure Skybeam does not continue to bear the disproportionate burden of onerous and increasing letter of credit fees that have diverted funds to banks and away from needed broadband deployment. Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Skybeam filed a [reply](#) on April 15, 2020, on its [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). Skybeam asserted no party opposed its request, and there is no reason why the Commission should not immediately grant the requested relief so Skybeam can immediately reduce the financial burdens that its letters of credit impose and use the funds for deploying broadband to rural Americans. Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- In addition to challenges listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, [challenges were filed](#) on April 10, 2020, to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. [public notice](#) | [all challenges available](#)
- Conexon filed a [letter](#) on April 13, 2020, to reply to a RDOF Phase I challenge filed by [Cable One](#) ([attach](#)). Conexon asserted the FCC makes it clear that challengers must identify census blocks – not census block groups or census tracts – when filing RDOF Phase I Auction challenges, and that Cable One did not follow the FCC's instructions. Conexon claimed that left unverified, Cable One's challenge

would have the effect of improperly taking funding away from rural communities in need of broadband, and asserted the entirety of Cable One's challenge should not be considered by the Commission.

- NTCA filed [comments](#) on April 14, 2020, in support of Red River Telephone's [request](#) that the Bureau issue a revised A-CAM II offer that includes support for areas that Red River alleges were incorrectly determined to be ineligible for A-CAM II support due to erroneous Form 477 data filed by an adjacent ILEC. Red River also requested the FCC waive the A-CAM II election deadline for Red River, so that it may elect the revised offer, if the Bureau makes one. NTCA asserted grant of the petition would neither justify nor result in any reopening of numerous other offers and that Red River's circumstances are relatively unique in that the concerns were clearly flagged to the Commission prior to the deadline for A-CAM II model offer acceptances and the errors were undisputed. Replies are due April 29, 2020. [public notice](#)
- To date, no comments were filed 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](#)
- Responses are due April 20, 2020, 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](#)
- Comments are due April 20, 2020, 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](#)
- To date, no replies were filed 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](#)
- AT&T [spoke with](#) the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economic Analysis staff on April 10, 2020, regarding the draft 5G Fund [NPRM](#). AT&T discussed the proposals to apply new service obligations on recipients of legacy wireless funding, to allow recipients flexibility in the service areas where they spend the funding, and the proposed methodology and timeline for phasing out this funding. AT&T asserted it is not clear whether the new obligation is intended to begin when the order takes effect or when the areas eligible for the auction are made public.
- T-Mobile [spoke with](#) Office of Economics & Analytics, Wireline Competition Bureau, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff on April 13, 2020, to discuss the proposed 5G Fund for Rural America. T-Mobile asserted the submission of any 5G deployment information to facilitate the identification of rural areas for the 5G Fund must be completely voluntary and encouraged the Commission to rely on objective criteria, such as rurality and density, or data from all carriers via the FCC's Form 477 or Digital Opportunity Data Collection to identify areas eligible for 5G Fund support.
- T-Mobile [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's advisors, Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr and their legal advisors and legal advisors to Commissioners Rosenworcel and Starks on April 14-15, 2020, regarding the proposed 5G Fund for Rural America. T-Mobile suggested the draft NPRM should emphasize that submission of any data, outside of the Form 477 or Digital Opportunity Data Collection is completely voluntary. T-Mobile also said if the Commission determines that 5G Fund support should not be used in areas where carriers have federal, state, or local commitments or are receiving support from another state or federal program that could be used to support 5G networks, that determination should be applied to all carriers, not just T-Mobile.

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- The Pricing Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on April 15, 2020, establishing procedures for the 2020 annual access charge tariff filings and tariff review plans for ILECs. The order: sets an effective date of July 1, 2020, for the annual access charge tariff filings; establishes the dates for filing petitions to suspend or reject an incumbent LEC tariff filing and replies to such petitions; and establishes service requirements for petitions and replies.
- Oppositions were filed on April 15, 2020, to Northern Valley's [direct case](#) on the lawfulness of its [tariff revisions](#). [T-Mobile](#) asserted Northern Valley's attempt to relocate its point of interconnection to a tandem switch is an attempt to circumvent the Commission's access arbitrage reforms. [AT&T](#) asserted NVT has a history of evading Commission rulings that limit its access arbitrage schemes. [Verizon](#) asserted the Commission should declare NVT's filing unlawful and direct it to refile its tariff with an intermediate access provider that complies with Commission rules and the Act. [South Dakota Network](#) asserted traffic destined for NVC continues to be routed to SDN for which SDN does not receive payment because NVC rejects the traffic and because IXCs and NVC refuse to pay for the traffic. SDN asserted the Commission must clarify the entity responsible for paying SDN's access charges when IXC traffic is transmitted to SDN for access switching, and clarify NVC cannot reject terminating traffic and thereby tie up SDN's network while depriving SDN of terminating access revenue. [order](#)
- The ACAM Broadband Coalition filed a [letter](#) on April 15, 2020, asserting poor economic and policy outcomes would result from the transition of 8YY originating access to bill-and-keep for rate-of-return carriers absent a robust mechanism to provide for the recovery of lost interstate and intrastate revenues. It asserted the Commission should refrain from mandating bill-and-keep for the intrastate 8YY access traffic of RoR carriers unless it implements a similar recovery mechanism for the intrastate access revenue that would be lost as a result.
- AT&T filed an [opposition](#) on April 13, 2020, to Free Conferencing's [petition](#) 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. AT&T claimed Free Conferencing lacks standing to seek the waiver because it cannot seek a waiver of rules that do not apply to them, on behalf of some class of unnamed CLEC beneficiaries.
- Free Conferencing filed a [reply](#) on April 14, 2020, in support of its [petition](#) 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. Free Conferencing responded to AT&T's [opposition](#), asserting Free Conferencing has a direct interest in such a waiver, as the waiver will allow CLECs to connect the substantially increased volume of calls to Free Conferencing conferences without financial penalties.
- Verizon filed a [letter](#) on April 14, 2020, to respond to Wide Voice's [letter](#) claiming the FCC has failed to address intentional call blocking. Verizon said although Wide Voice accuses Verizon of having made material misstatements to the Commission, it fails to identify a single such statement. Verizon recommended the Commission issue a declaratory ruling confirming that, under the access arbitrage [order](#) and prior Commission precedent, traffic routed from the PSTN through a LEC to an interconnected VoIP provider is counted when applying the 3:1 and 6:1 ratios to that LEC

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Broadband

- Chairman Pai sent letters to [Sen. Joshua Hawley](#) (R- Mo.), [Rep. Robert B. Aderholt](#) (R- Ala.), [Sen. John Lewis](#) (D-Ga.), and [Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester](#) (D-Del.) on April 8, 2020, in response to their letters on the COVID-19 pandemic. Pai detailed actions the FCC has taken in response to the pandemic, including the \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program. Pai said over 600 broadband and telephone service providers have taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, which includes a 60-day commitment not to terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of

their inability to pay their bills. Pai also said the FCC provided relief and flexibility to hundreds of rural broadband and telephone providers to immediately waive consumer fees, including late payment fees as well as installation and cancellation fees for consumers signing up for or switching DSL broadband providers in order to work from home or access remote learning.

- The USDA [announced](#) on April 16, 2020, it has taken a [number of immediate actions](#) to help rural residents, businesses, and communities affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, including using the \$100 million provided for the ReConnect Program in the [CARES Act](#) to invest in qualified 100 percent grant projects that did not receive funding in the program's first round of ReConnect Program investments. It said round one applicants who did not receive funding because there was broadband access in the proposed service area may submit an application during the second round to receive this priority as long as their proposed service area meets the requirements of the ReConnect round two funding opportunity announcement.
- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on April 16, 2020, announcing Chairman Pai added new charges for the Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. The FCC said this working group will assist the BDAC in documenting the various strategies and solutions that stakeholders are developing and implementing in real time to address the deployment-related challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The FCC seeks to add new members to the working group and solicits nominations for membership. Nominations are due April 27, 2020.
- Reps. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) and John Katko (D-N.Y.) [introduced](#) a bill on April 14, 2020, entitled *The Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility Act (H.R. 6491)*, which removes hurdles for broadband projects under Economic Development Administration grants, ensures that local communities can partner with the private sector in carrying out broadband projects, and gives communities more flexibility in complying with their funding match requirements.
- Hughes Network Systems [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's advisor on April 8, 2020, regarding the section 706 broadband deployment [report](#). Hughes said since the start of the pandemic, it and other satellite broadband operators have undertaken significant new activations while supporting their current customer bases with reliable, cost-effective broadband service. It said these new activations have taken two to three days to install even in the most rural and remote portions of the country where no or limited terrestrial competition exists.
- Hughes Network Systems [spoke with](#) Commissioner Starks's advisor on April 10, 2020, regarding the section 706 broadband deployment [report](#). Hughes asserted during the pandemic, satellite broadband plays a critical role with significant new activations occurring daily, including in rural and remote areas. Hughes Network Systems also spoke with advisors to [Chairman Pai](#) and Commissioners [Rosenworcel](#) and [Carr](#) on April 13-15, 2020, regarding the section 706 broadband deployment [report](#).
- The Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal & Economic Public Policy Studies [issued](#) a [paper](#) on April 15, 2020, on a report issued by the [National Digital Inclusion Alliance](#) that found price is the principal reason people do not subscribe to broadband. The Phoenix Institute asserted that price is not the primary reason for non-adoption, and it is impossible for the surveys used by NDIA to indicate whether relevance or price is the most important factor for determining non-adoption of the Internet at home. It also encouraged modifications to broadband surveys so that the effects of price on adoption can be quantified.
- Arizona Public Service Company, Evergy, et al. filed a [letter](#) on April 13, 2020, to respond to ACA Connects' [proposal](#) that the Commission affirm customer drop pole attachments be performed without providing advance notice to investor-owned utilities. They asserted given the confusion and necessary distinction between what ACA calls "customer drops" and what are widely known to be "service drops," and given the disruption to common industry practice that ACA appears to be proposing, the FCC should reject ACA Connects' proposal.
- The FCC [announced](#) on April 17, 2020, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau granted an emergency special temporary authority request filed by the Navajo Nation to use unassigned spectrum

in the 2.5 GHz band to provide wireless broadband service over its reservation as part of its emergency COVID-19 pandemic response. The temporary grant of authority is effective for 60 days.

Robocalls

- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 16, 2020, to establish guidelines for operation of the reassigned numbers database, pursuant to the December 2018 robocall [report and order](#). The database will contain reassigned number information from each provider that obtains North American Numbering Plan U.S. geographic numbers and toll-free numbers. Based on recommendations from the NANC, the Bureau set forth its understanding of key terms and the disposition of any excess funds from the order, including definitions of terms the database will return to user queries, the definition of cost, and disposition of excess funds.
- The [report and order](#) establishing the registration of a single consortium that conducts private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls, pursuant to the TRACED Act was published in the [Federal Register](#) on April 20, 2020. The order is effective May 20, 2020.
- Chairman Pai [sent letters](#) to Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine), Kyrsten Sinema (R-Ariz.), and Martha McSally (R-Ariz.) on April 7, 2020, to respond to their letter which asked the Commission what further statutory authority it would need to shut down U.S.-based VoIP providers that knowingly serve as gateways for illegal robocalls from overseas. Pai detailed measures the Commission has taken to combat robocalls, including partnering with the FTC, DOJ, and USTelecom's Industry Traceback group to tackle COVID-19 robocalls and the sending of letters to companies that allow international robocalls seeking their support to traceback the originators of these calls. Pai [also responded](#) to a similar letter from Rep. Harley Rouda (D-Calif.), et al.

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Open Internet

- Comments are due April 20, 2020, 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](#)

Other Universal Service Programs

- The Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Managing Director issued a [public notice](#) on April 17, 2020, to provide invoicing guidance for the COVID-19 telehealth program. The notice provides guidance for those applicants that receive funding commitments on how to invoice the Commission for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program-funded services and/or connected devices.
- Commissioners [Starks](#) and [Rosenworcel](#) spoke at the MediaJustice #Right2Connect Town Hall on April 16, 2020, regarding connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starks said he asked the Commission to enact a connectivity stimulus to see Americans through the coronavirus crisis and power the economy. He also said the Commission should leverage the \$8 billion in universal service funding, and focus efforts on students and vulnerable, struggling Americans. Rosenworcel said the Commission must keep Lifeline standards up to date and make sure no one is cut off from communications.
- Commissioner Starks [spoke at](#) a telephone townhall held by Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-N.Y.) on April 15, 2020, on the role of technology in the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the FCC must enact a connectivity stimulus to see Americans through the crisis, power the economy and, in particular, leverage the

Commission's \$8 billion in universal service funding, focusing its efforts on students and vulnerable, struggling Americans. He also said the FCC needs to enhance the Lifeline program.

- The FCC [announced](#) on April 16, 2020, the Wireline Competition Bureau approved funding applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth program, for a total of \$3.23 million to six providers in Georgia, New York, Ohio, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania. Commissioner Carr issued a [statement](#).
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [erratum](#) on April 13, 2020, to the [order](#) announcing an extension of E-Rate service and implementation deadlines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The erratum amended paragraphs 5 and 6 of the order to account for situations where an applicant from a funding year prior to funding year 2019 already received an extension of the service implementation deadline for non-recurring services or special construction, and that deadline falls in 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 17, 2020, seeking comment on proposed revisions to the annual and quarterly telecommunications reporting worksheets (FCC Forms 499-A and 499-Q), and accompanying instructions, to be used in 2021 to report 2020 revenues. Comments are due May 18, 2020.
- PRTC filed a [letter](#) on April 16, 2020, to express support for USTelecom's [proposals](#) on Lifeline, E-Rate, Rural Health Care and CAF programs to assist consumers, healthcare providers and broadband companies during the COVID-19 pandemic. PRTC asked the Commission to include Puerto Rico in adoption of measures included in the proposal.
- Replies due April 20, 2020, 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](#)
- Replies due April 20, 2020, on applications for review of decisions on the rural health care program filed by the [Tanana Chiefs Conference](#) and [ENA Healthcare Services](#). [public notices](#)
- CenturyLink [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 14, 2020, on the need for clarification that the Commission's certification rule related to the use of commissioned sales agents by rural health care program service providers has only prospective effect.
- The Consumer Technology Association sent letters to [Chairman Pai](#), Commissioners [Rosenworcel](#), [Starks](#), [O'Rielly](#), and [Michelle Ellison](#) of the Connect2HealthFCC Task Force, on April 17, 2020, on how it is helping address the pandemic by providing resources for virtual care and home health and wellness resource for health professionals.
- The FCC released an [order on reconsideration](#) on April 13, 2020, to affirm its decision that details of American Broadband's [apparent violations](#) of Lifeline rules should be made public. The Bureau said American Broadband has not shown that the public release of the information would cause it competitive or any other substantial harm.
- The National Tribal Telecommunications Association filed a [letter](#) on April 16, 2020, to express support for Commission action in the Lifeline program during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also urged the Commission to include additional Lifeline funding during the pendency of the pandemic and said there are steps the Commission can take to promote continued connectivity, including SBI's [proposal](#) to temporarily add \$20 per month to the Tribal lands support amount.
- The AARP sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Rosenworcel, Starks and Carr on April 17, 2020, to urge the Commission to take action to expand the affordability and availability of communication services to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It recommended several actions the Commission could take, including suspending all fixed and mobile broadband data caps and usage overage charges.
- Smith Bagley, Inc. filed a [letter](#) on April 13, 2020, to follow up on its March 24, 2020, [letter](#) that asked the FCC to take action to ensure connectivity on Tribal lands. SBI said conditions on its tribal lands

continue to deteriorate and reiterated its request that the Commission temporarily add \$20 to its tribal Lifeline program, and temporarily waive the one-to-a household requirement on Tribal lands, until the COVID-19 pandemic concludes.

- Funds for Learning [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on April 10, 2020, to provide suggestions Congress and the Commission could take to close the educational divide and get disconnected students into online classrooms. It 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. It 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.
- Consortia Consulting, on behalf of TrioTel Communications, filed a [letter](#) on April 17, 2020, to submit a notice of consolidation of two study areas in South Dakota, which receive A-CAM II support. TrioTel said the consolidation will be effective July 1, 2020.
- No comments were filed on two petitions seeking study area waivers filed by West River Telecommunications Cooperative. Reply comments are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- The City of Bainbridge, Georgia filed a [petition](#) on April 10, 2020, seeking a waiver of the one-year deadline for filing a downward revision to its 2017 FCC Form 499-A and relief from any penalties that USAC imposed. Bainbridge asserted it was not required to submit a Form 499-A and good cause exists to grant it a waiver.

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Misc.

- The FCC issued the [agenda](#) on April 16, 2020, for its April 23, 2020 Open Meeting. It said due to the pandemic and related agency telework and headquarters access policies, this meeting will be in electronic format and will be open to the public on the Internet via live feed from the FCC's web page at www.fcc.gov/live and on the FCC's YouTube channel. The FCC said the first three items on the agenda will be considered by the Commission during the meeting, while the other items are expected to be voted on circulation prior to the 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.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 13, 2020, seeking comment on the applicability of section 4 of [the Secure Networks Act](#) to the Commission's rulemaking on protecting against national security threats to the communications supply chain. The act prohibits the use of federal funds to purchase equipment from companies that pose a national security threat and creates a reimbursement program to remove and replace equipment in use. Comments are due 15 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 30 days after publication.
- To date, no comments were filed 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](#)

- Comments are due April 20, 2020, 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](#)
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection relating to payphone compensation. PRA comments are due May 15, 2020.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Apr. 21 - Comments due on Charter's [petition](#) for a waiver of RDOF census block eligibility rule to exclude certain census blocks in New York in which Charter is in the process of deploying service of at least 300/10 Mbps. Replies are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- 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. 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 Charter's [petition](#) for a waiver of RDOF census block eligibility rule to exclude certain census blocks in New York in which Charter is in the process of deploying service of at least 300/10 Mbps. [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. 29 - Replies due on Red River Telephone's [request](#) for a revised A-CAM II offer and waiver of election deadline. [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](#)
- Apr. 30 - Comments due on Johnson Telephone Company's [petition for waiver](#) of the ruling in the RDOF [order](#) that CAF Phase II auction participants that subsequently defaulted on their entire award will be barred from participating in the RDOF auction. Reply comments are due May 7, 2020. [public 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 7 - Replies due on Johnson Telephone Company's [petition for waiver](#) of the ruling in the RDOF [report and order](#) that CAF Phase II auction participants that subsequently defaulted on their entire award will be barred from participating in the RDOF auction. [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 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 15 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection relating to payphone compensation. [notice](#)
- May 18 - Comments due on proposed revisions to the annual and quarterly telecommunications reporting worksheets (FCC Forms 499-A and 499-Q), and accompanying instructions, to be used in 2021 to report 2020 revenues. [public notice](#)

- 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 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection on FCC Form 183, the application to participate in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. [notice](#)
- 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](#)

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