

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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April 27, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC adopted at its April 23, 2020 [Open Meeting](#) an [NPRM and order](#) proposing to establish the 5G Fund for rural America, and awarding up to \$9 billion in support over 10 years for the deployment of 5G mobile broadband services in rural areas.
- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) for its May 13, 2020 Open Meeting, and will consider four items, including a [report and order](#) that would realign the 900 MHz band to create a new six megahertz broadband segment, and a [report and order and NPRM](#) on regulatory fees.
- The FCC released its [2020 broadband deployment report](#), finding the digital divide continues to narrow and for a third consecutive year, advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed on a reasonable and timely basis. [news release](#)
- Twenty-seven state attorneys general [asked](#) the FCC to join them in urging the telecommunications industry to make further commitments to protect consumers during the pandemic. [press release](#)
- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), et al. [urged](#) President Trump to include dedicated funding in the next pandemic relief package to help small broadband providers sustain services for students and low-income families. [press release](#)
- The FCC [announced](#) a webinar will be held on May 20, 2020, for state, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials on the RDOF Phase I auction.
- Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), et al. [asked](#) the FCC to update the broadband coverage maps being used for the 5G Fund. [press release.](#) Chairman Pai [responded](#) to senators on using accurate broadband deployment data for the 5G Fund.
- ComSouth and Bloomingdale Telephone filed a [petition for waiver](#) of the requirement that rate-of-return carriers submit location information into the HUBB portal by March 1 each year.
- [Comments were filed](#) on Charter's [petition](#) for a waiver of RDOF census block eligibility rule. Replies are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#)
- The [Pennsylvania PUC](#) objected to the dismissal of the [D.C. PSC's petition](#) that sought reconsideration of the decision in the Transformation Order to permit price cap LECs to determine the allocation of eligible recovery for ICC reform at the holding company level. [public notice](#)
- The [report and order](#) requiring voice providers to implement the STIR/SHAKEN caller ID authentication framework in the IP portions of their networks by June 30, 2021, [is effective](#) May 21, 2020. Comments on the [accompanying FNPRM](#) are due May 15, 2020; replies are due May 29, 2020.
- [Comments were filed](#) on refreshing the record in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings, in light of the 2019 Mozilla decision. Replies are due May 20, 2020. [public notice](#) | [order](#)

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Apr. 29 - Replies [due](#) on Red River's [request](#) for a revised A-CAM II offer and waiver of election deadline.

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USF Reform

- The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Office of Native Affairs and Policy, and the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force issued a [public notice](#) on April 20, 2020, announcing a webinar will be held on May 20, 2020, for state, local, Tribal, and territorial government officials on the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction (Auction 904).
- The FCC issued the [NPRM and order](#) that proposes to establish the 5G Fund for rural America, which was adopted at its April 23, 2020 Open Meeting. Phase I of the 5G Fund would target at least \$8 billion of support to rural areas of the country that would be unlikely to see timely deployment of voice and 5G broadband service absent high-cost support or as part of T-Mobile's transaction-related commitments. Phase II would target universal service support to bring wireless connectivity to harder to serve and higher cost areas, such as farms and ranches, and make at least \$1 billion available specifically aimed at deployments that would facilitate precision agriculture. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 60 days after FR publication.
- Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 22, 2020, asking the FCC to update the broadband coverage maps being used to distribute the 5G Fund's \$9 billion to expand reliable broadband access across America. They said absent major changes, the draft Notice of Proposed Rule Making and order for the 5G Fund auction will leave millions of people behind if you conduct an auction that relies on old, outdated coverage data to determine who can and cannot participate. They asserted the mapping provisions contained in the Broadband DATA Act must be implemented before the 5G Fund auction. [press release](#)
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), John Thune (R-S.D.), et al. on April 17, 2020, to respond to their letter on using accurate broadband deployment data for the 5G Fund. Pai said under one approach for Phase I, the Commission would hold an auction in 2021 by defining eligible areas based on current data sources that identify areas as particularly rural and thus in the greatest need of universal service support. Pai said the second approach would delay the 5G Fund Phase I auction until at least 2023, after collecting and processing improved mobile broadband coverage data through the FCC's new Digital Opportunity Data Collection.
- The Vermont Department of Public Service [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai and his legal advisor on April 20, 2020, regarding the roles states can play assisting the FCC in achieving universal service for both fixed and mobile services. It asserted federal-state partnerships that implement high-cost support mechanisms that are complementary with existing state connectivity initiatives could make universal service a reality. The DPS also expressed support for FCC plans to prioritize areas currently lacking 3G and 4G LTE service for purposes of the 5G.
- ComSouth and Bloomingdale Telephone filed a [petition for waiver](#) on April 21, 2020, of section 54.316(c)(1), which requires rate-of-return carriers to submit location information, including geocodes, into USAC's HUBB portal by March 1 each year. Petitioners asserted second-round HUBB filers were unaware of the requirement to certify no locations and that the penalty for failing to certify no locations was a reduction in the amount of high-cost universal service support, until after the March 1, 2019 deadline.
- 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](#)
- Comments were filed on April 21, 2020, 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. [Clarkson University](#) opposed the petition and asserted many of the areas covered by the 2,400 census blocks are not commercially viable without outside funding and the elimination of eligibility for this program will likely leave those New Yorkers

underserved for decades to come. [CvWireless](#) said Charter's commitment to build in NY census blocks is not binding at a specific census block level. [NY State Assembly member Didi Barrett](#) asserted this petition is a transparent attempt to block competition, allowing Charter to continue to slow-roll the required buildout. The [N.Y. PSC](#) asserted the public interest would be harmed and the purpose and intent of the RDOF would be undermined if New York census blocks in RDOF Phase I were declared permanently ineligible from future RDOF auctions. [WISPA](#) asserted the petition appears to be a procedural detour to overcome Charter's failure to participate in the RDOF rulemaking proceeding. [NCTA](#) said granting the requested waiver is necessary to carry out FCC policies in the context of the upcoming RDOF to ensure that scarce universal service funding is awarded in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Replies are due April 28, 2020. [public notice](#) | [all comments available](#)

- Redwire filed a [petition for waiver](#) on April 20, 2020, of the CAF Phase II letter of credit requirement in order to be eligible for \$4.7M in CAF II support for 8,041 eligible locations in Oklahoma. Redwire seeks a permanent waiver of the LOC and bankruptcy opinion letter requirement in light of the economic situation now facing the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma and Redwire as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- No comments were filed 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](#)
- Skybeam filed a [supplement](#) on April 17, 2020, to its [petition for waiver](#) 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 provided information on additional steps Skybeam took to verify the number of locations in each of its ten SACs where it is authorized for support.
- Yampa Valley Electric Association filed a [reply](#) on April 20, 2020, on Zirkel Wireless's challenge to the preliminary list and map of eligible areas for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. Yampa disputed Zirkel's claim that the 545 census blocks should be removed from the RDOF auction because they are served with voice and broadband service of 25/3 Mbps or greater. Zirkel filed a [letter](#) on April 23, 2020, to respond to Yampa Valley Electric Association's [reply](#).
- Fourway [responded](#) ([attach](#)) on April 22, 2020, to Midwest Energy & Communications' [reply](#) to Fourway's challenge to the preliminary list and map of eligible areas for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase 1 auction.
- The Rural Wireless Association, GVNW, et al. [spoke with](#) staff from the Wireline Competition Bureau, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Office of Economics and Analysis Office of Economics, and Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force on April 16, 2020, regarding the draft NPRM and order on the 5G Fund for Rural America. They discussed the Commission's proposal to divide the 5G Fund auction into two phases and the different mechanics available under Phase 1 of the 5G Fund auction.
- 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](#)

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ICC

- The [Pennsylvania PUC](#) filed a response on April 20, 2020, on the [public notice](#) assessing parties' continuing interests in [petitions for reconsideration](#) of various aspects of the intercarrier compensation provisions of the USF/ICC Transformation Order. The Penn. PUC objected to the dismissal of the [D.C. PSC's petition](#) that sought reconsideration of the decision to permit price cap LECs to determine the allocation of eligible recovery for ICC reform at the holding company level. The Penn. PUC asserted this issue is still pending and Pennsylvania end-user consumers have been harmed by the Commission's rules on the holding company allocation of access recovery charge cost responsibilities and amounts.

- CarrierX (d/b/a FreeConferenceCall) filed a [letter](#) on April 24, 2020, on access stimulation issues. It asserted Inteliquent is one the largest hosts of free conference calling in the world, but that FreeConferenceUSA and Inteliquent do not receive the same scrutiny as other free calling applications and access stimulating CLECs. CarrierX claimed it is wrongly accused of having engaged in, and received massive subsidies from, access arbitrage stimulation schemes. It asserted there is little difference between FreeConferenceCall and Zoom or WebEx in the services it offers and its range of free to paid pricing models.

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Broadband

- The FCC released its [2020 broadband deployment report](#) on April 24, 2020, finding the digital divide continues to narrow and for a third consecutive year, advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed on a reasonable and timely basis. The report found the number of Americans lacking access to fixed terrestrial broadband service at 25/3 Mbps continues to decline, going down by more than 14% in 2018 and more than 30% between 2016 and 2018. The FCC also said the number of Americans without access to 4G LTE mobile broadband with a median speed of 10/3 Mbps fell approximately 54% between 2017 and 2018. The FCC said over 85% of Americans now have access to fixed terrestrial broadband service at 250/25 Mbps, a 47% increase since 2017, and the number of rural Americans having access to 250/25 Mbps fixed terrestrial broadband service has tripled between 2016 and 2018. [news release](#)
- The FCC released the [report and order and FNPRM](#) on promoting innovation and the use of mid-band spectrum for broadband by allowing unlicensed operations in the 5.925-7.125 GHz, which was adopted at its April 23, 2020 Open Meeting. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 60 days after FR publication.
- Commissioner Starks [spoke](#) at the NTCA Legislative and Policy Conference on April 21, 2020, on ways to address the digital divide in rural America. He suggested the FCC fund rural broadband with fixed maps, and the FCC incentivize providers to bring future-proof broadband to communities. He also said the FCC must hold auction winners accountable and should require USF auction winners to offer an affordable broadband service option. He also discussed the importance of the Lifeline program.
- Twenty-seven state attorneys general sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 22, 2020, asking the FCC to join the coalition in urging the telecommunications industry to make further commitments to protect consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The coalition requested telecommunications companies: extend the previous 60-day FCC Keep Americans Connected pledge by an additional 90 days; reconnect as appropriate and feasible any previously disconnected customers who wish to be reconnected for a minimum of 90 days from May 13, or until August 11, with reconnection fees and penalties waived; expand data caps and waive any overage charges on cell phones for a minimum of 90 days from May 13, or until August 11, among other things. [press release](#)
- Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) and Reps. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and Roger Marshall, M.D. (R-Kan.) sent a [letter](#) to President Trump urging the administration to support dedicated funding for small broadband providers to keep students and low-income families in their communities connected to the internet during the coronavirus pandemic. They said although the CARES Act included funding for rural broadband deployment, it did not include dedicated funding to help small broadband providers sustain services and upgrades for students and low-income families. In March, Sens. Klobuchar and Cramer introduced the [Keeping Critical Connections Act](#), which would appropriate \$2 billion for a temporary fund at the FCC to help small broadband providers sustain internet services for students and low-income families during the pandemic. [press release](#)
- Twenty-three senators sent a [letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin on April 22, 2020, to urge the Treasury Department to increase its efforts to make economic impact payments available to those without access to the internet who cannot file a tax return electronically. They asserted at least 21

million Americans are without high-speed internet access and face a significant barrier in their ability to file a tax return online if they are not eligible to receive an automatic payment [press release](#)

- Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) introduced the [Emergency Educational Connections Act of 2020](#) on April 21, 2020, which seeks to ensure that students have internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill would create a special \$2 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund at the FCC to disburse funds to schools and libraries, and Tribal schools and libraries, to purchase Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and internet-connected devices for students and patrons. Text of the bill is not yet available.
- Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.), Angus King (I-Maine), et al. [announced](#) on April 23, 2020, they plan to re-introduce the [Community Broadband Act](#), which would ban any state, local, or tribal statute or regulation that prohibits cities from providing high-speed internet. They asserted the measure will preserve and protect the rights of cities and localities to build municipal broadband networks, and claimed it will improve internet access in underserved communities as millions of students and families learn and work remotely during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Comments are due on April 27, 2020, 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](#)
- Hughes Network Systems [spoke with](#) staff from the Wireline Competition Bureau, International Bureau, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau on April 17, 2020, regarding the Digital Opportunity Data Collection. Hughes said since the start of the pandemic, it has undertaken new activations while supporting their current customer base. Hughes also asserted the Broadband DATA Act does not mandate any changes to satellite broadband providers' reporting obligations, including their continued ability to report their coverage on a nationwide basis.
- The Edison Electric Institute filed a [letter](#) on April 22, 2020, to respond to ACA Connects' [request](#) that the Commission affirm that customer drop pole attachments can be performed without providing advanced notice to investor-owned utilities that own the relevant pole infrastructure. EEI asserted the Commission should reject this request, claiming a customer drop as described by ACA Connects is not a common industry practice and is not the equivalent to service drop.
- CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric and Southern Indiana Gas and Electric filed a [letter](#) on April 24, 2020, to respond to ACA Connects' [request](#) that the Commission affirm that customer drop pole attachments can be performed without providing advanced notice to investor-owned utilities that own the relevant pole infrastructure. They said if the Commission plans to consider the declaratory relief requested by ACA Connects, then it should direct ACA Connects to first file a petition for such relief that would be subject to public notice and comment.

Robocalls

- The [report and order](#) requiring 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, was published in the [Federal Register](#) on April 21, 2020. The order is effective May 21, 2020. The accompanying FNPRM was also published in the [Federal Register](#) and 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 issued a [public notice](#) on April 20, 2020, to provide notification that the Enforcement Bureau, pursuant to the [TRACED Act](#) and the Commission's [order](#) implementing the Act, requires any consortium that seeks to be selected as the single registered consortium to file a letter of intent to conduct private traceback efforts. The deadline to submit letters of intent is May 21, 2020. The deadline to submit comments on the letters is June 5, 2020.

- British Telecommunications [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and International Bureau staff on April 17, 2020, regarding robocalls. BT explained it could segment its international and domestic voice traffic destined for termination in the US into separate streams with one stream originating on BT's network from calling numbers assigned by BT, another stream originating on BT's network but from calling numbers that were not assigned by BT, and a third stream containing calls that neither originated on BT's network nor from calling numbers assigned by BT.

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Open Internet

- Comments were filed on April 20, 2020, on refreshing the record in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings, in light of the 2019 Mozilla decision that upheld most of the 2017 RIF [order](#). [INCOMPAS](#) asserted classifying broadband as an information service has significant implications for BIAS providers' statutory rights for access to poles and conduit required to deploy competitive service, public safety communications, and the ability of the Commission to ensure BIAS availability to low-income individuals through the Lifeline program. [TIA](#) said it continues to call on the Commission to reaffirm its current approach to broadband regulation and to advocate for legislation that will end the long debate over Internet openness. [Public Knowledge, et al.](#) asserted the best way for the FCC to fulfill its statutory mandates and stated goals is to classify broadband as a telecommunications service. In addition to comments listed in a previous edition of *Washington Watch*, [comments](#) were filed on April 20, 2020, on refreshing the record in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings, in light of the 2019 Mozilla decision that upheld most of the 2017 RIF [order](#). [USTelecom](#) asserted the issues the court directed the FCC to re-examine on remand do not provide any basis to alter its conclusion to classify broadband as an information service. [NARUC](#) asserted the FCC should re-examine its reclassification of BIAS service in light of the potential ramifications for the federal Lifeline program. [NCTA](#) claimed the RIF Order will protect and advance public safety interests, does not impair access to pole attachments and does not preclude low-income consumers from receiving discounted broadband service through the Lifeline program. Replies are due May 20, 2020. [public notice](#) | [order](#) | [all comments available](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released an [order](#) on April 20, 2020, denying a [request](#) filed by the City of Los Angeles, et al. for a further extension of time to file comments and replies on [refreshing](#) the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings. The Bureau said the request was filed only four days before comments are due and did not establish that the pandemic affected their ability to file a timely motion for extension of time. Commissioner Rosenworcel filed a [statement](#).
- Sens. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) [sent](#) a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 24, 2020, to ask him to further extend the comment and reply period on refreshing the record in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings. They asked the FCC to reconsider its [decision](#) denying a 60-day extension to file comments.

Other Universal Service Programs

- The Office of Managing Director and Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 21, 2020, to announce suspension of the red light rule for the COVID-19 health program. The rule requires action on applications and requests by any entity found to be delinquent in its debt to the Commission be withheld until full payment or resolution of such debt. They said the waiver will ensure that otherwise worthy telehealth projects are not unnecessarily turned away due to the red light rule during the pandemic.
- The FCC [announced](#) on April 21, 2020, it has approved a second set of COVID-19 telehealth program applications in the amount of \$3.71 million for providers in Florida, Ohio, New York, California, and Michigan. The FCC [announced](#) on April 23, 2020, it has approved a third set of COVID-19 telehealth

program applications in the amount of \$2.56 million for providers in Maryland, Delaware, California, Louisiana, and New York.

- The Enforcement Bureau released an [order](#) on April 22, 2020, adopting a consent decree with DRS Global Enterprise Solutions, which terminates an investigation into its potential violations of the FCC's rural health care program rules. The Bureau said DRS Global acknowledged it failed to determine the rural rates charged to non-profit health care and social services providers serving rural and remote Alaskan Native communities. DRS Global agreed to relinquish any claims to USF support payments, repay the USF, and pay a \$1M settlement. [news](#)
- Native Public Media sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Rosenworcel, Carr and Starks on April 21, 2020, to urge the FCC to expand the affordability and availability of communication services during the COVID-19 pandemic. It urged the Commission to encourage ISPs to offer subsidized or free broadband to Native radio and television stations, tribal governments, first responders, hospitals, and other essential anchor institutions that are essential and vital to Tribal citizens during this pandemic.
- The Rural Hospital Coalition filed a [letter](#) on April 20, 2020, to express support for the American Hospital Association's [petition](#) for partial reconsideration of the [report and order](#) adopting a \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program. It said ensuring rural patients have access to high-quality services should not depend on the ownership of the rural hospital serving them and allowing for-profit hospitals to participate the COVID-19 Telehealth Program would allow thin resources to be stretched further and better serve all patients.
- Next Century Cities [spoke with](#) Commissioner Carr's legal advisor on April 21, 2020, to discuss opportunities to work with local health officials to ensure the success of telehealth and telemedicine initiatives.
- In addition to reply comments listed in a previous edition of *Washington Watch*, replies were filed on April 20, 2020, on petitions for reconsideration of the E-Rate Category Two [report and order](#) filed by [Infinity Communications and Consulting](#) and [SECA](#). [E-Rate Central](#) agreed with SECA the exclusion of part-time students from the Category Two budget calculations would dramatically and adversely undercut the Commission's goal of providing adequate funding of schoolwide Wi-Fi network. [Funds for Learning](#) requested the Commission reconsider its decision to exclude part-time students from Category Two budget calculations as requested by Infinity, and reconsider the non-instructional facilities cost allocation requirement as requested by SECA. [SECA](#) asserted all commenters support its petition and reiterated its request that the FCC reconsider its decision and allow NIFs to qualify fully for Category Two funding. The [SHLB Coalition](#) and [West Virginia Dept. of Education](#) also filed replies. [public notice](#) | [all replies available](#)
- The Tanana Chiefs Conference filed a [reply](#) on April 20, 2020, to comments on its [application for review](#) of a rural health care program [decision](#). TCC said it concurs with all comments filed, which supported the request, and reiterated its request that the Commission grant the relief requested in the petition. Advanced Data Services also filed a [reply](#) in support of the petition. [public notice](#)
- Fond du Lac Communications filed a [second further supplement](#) on April 22, 2020, to its [petition](#) for designation as an ETC to provide telecommunications services within the Fond du Lac reservation.

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Misc.

- The FCC adopted items at its April 23, 2020 [Open Meeting](#), including: an [NPRM and order](#) proposing 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](#) promoting 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; and [a report and order and](#)

[FNPRM](#) updating the orbital debris rules for all Commission-authorized satellites. The FCC [deleted](#) the following items from the [agenda](#), as they were already adopted prior to the meeting: an [order and declaratory ruling](#) granting 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](#) modernizing the LPFM technical rules to provide more regulatory flexibility for licensees; and an [NPRM](#) proposing 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. Some of the items are not yet released.

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on April 22, 2020, for its May 13, 2020 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider: a [report and order](#) that would realign the 900 MHz band to create a new six megahertz broadband segment to support the growing technological needs of the nation's industries, while reserving the remaining four megahertz of the band for narrowband operations; a [second report and order and report and order](#) addressing rules to facilitate the deployment of geostationary-satellite orbit and non-geostationary-orbit fixed-satellite service earth stations that operate while in motion; a [report and order](#) that would modernize and simplify the written and on-air public notices broadcasters must provide upon the filing of certain applications; and a [report and order and NPRM](#) that would level the playing field between domestic and foreign licensed space stations by assessing a regulatory fee on non-U.S. licensed space stations with United States market access, and would initiate the Commission's annual regulatory fee proceeding.
- The FCC [issued](#) three orders to show cause on April 24, 2020, against four companies ultimately subject to ownership and control of the Chinese government. The orders direct [China Telecom Americas](#), [China Unicom Americas](#), [Pacific Networks](#), and [ComNet](#) to explain why the Commission should not start the process of revoking their domestic and international section authorizations enabling them to operate in the United States. They have 30 days to respond. Commissioners [Carr](#) and [Starks](#) issued statements.
- Ericsson [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 21, 2020, to discuss supply chain issues. It provided an overview of the Ericsson's customers who are potentially eligible for assistance in swapping out network equipment and its hardware, with a focus on what equipment rural operators would likely use when swapping out portions of their infrastructure.
- The Rural Wireless Association [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai and Commissioner Carr and their legal advisors, and Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on April 15 and 16, 2020, to discuss the [Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019](#), the law's impact on RWA members who currently operate networks using equipment and services from entities initially designated by the FCC as covered companies, and how the Act guides the Commission's action in this proceeding.
- The Rural Wireless Association [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly and his legal advisor and Commissioner Starks' legal advisor on April 20, 2020, to discuss the [Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019](#), the law's impact on RWA members who currently operate networks using equipment and services from entities initially designated by the FCC as covered companies, and how the act guides the Commission's action in this proceeding. RWA also [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 17, 2020, to discuss the [public notice](#) seeking supply chain security information.
- No comments were filed 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](#)
- 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. To date, no replies were filed. [public notice](#)
- To date, no replies 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. [public notice](#)

- The Wireline Competition Bureau released an [order](#) on April 22, 2020, granting Verizon's [petition](#) for limited waiver of the maximum 180-day period for maintaining wireless telephone numbers in reserved status for certain business customers. The Bureau said the waiver will assist businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and applies to all wireless telephone numbers of business accounts placed or maintained in reserved status between the date of this order and September 30, 2020.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on April 23, 2020, seeking comment on 8x8's [application](#) for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. Comments are due May 8, 2020.
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued an [order](#) on April 24, 2020, addressing a slamming complaint against National Access Long Distance. The Bureau found NALD violated the Commission's slamming rules, and granted the complaint.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- 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 8 - Comments due on 8x8's [application](#) for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. [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 5 - Comments due on letters of intent on traceback consortium. [public 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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