

[USF Reform](#) [Open Internet](#) [Broadband](#) [IP Transition](#) [USF](#) [Call Completion](#) [Misc.](#) [Upcoming Events](#)

May 1, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) for its May 18, 2017 Open Meeting, and will consider, among other things: an [NPRM and Order](#) that proposes to eliminate the local service rate floor rule and freezes the current rate at \$18 pending further action; and an [NPRM](#) that proposes to return Internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service and seeks comment on the existing rules governing ISPs' practices.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) circulation of the draft [NPRM](#) on reclassifying internet access services. The FCC also issued [two fact sheets](#), [opened](#) a new docket entitled "Restoring Internet Freedom," and [provided guidance](#) on filing comments. Commissioner O'Rielly [discussed](#) Open Internet issues and Chairman Pai's proposal. Commissioner Clyburn and FTC Chairman Terrell McSweeney issued a [joint statement](#) claiming the proposal would harm competition and innovation and leave consumers without any real oversight by the FTC or FCC.
- The FCC released the BDS [Report and Order](#) adopted at its April 20, 2017 Open Meeting. The Wireline Competition Bureau [announced](#) the process to request an unredacted version Order and [proposed](#) to release the list of counties where lower speed business data services will be deemed competitive, non-competitive, or grandfathered. Affected parties have until May 11, 2017, to object to the release of their data.
- The Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations [seeks comments](#) to refresh the record in the separations reform proceeding. The Joint Board also [seeks comments](#) on how reforms adopted in the February 24, 2017 Part 32 [Report and Order](#) impact Part 36 rules. Comments on both are due May 24, 2017; replies due June 8, 2017.
- Reply comments were filed by [NTCA](#), [WTA](#), [Pioneer Telephone](#), and [NASUCA](#) on the [FNPRM](#) on the proposed 18-month extension of the separations freeze. [Notice](#)
- The FCC issued an [Order](#) setting forth Tariff Review Plans for the 2017 annual access filings.
- The FCC [seeks comments](#) on CenturyLink's [Petition for Limited Stay](#) of years six and seven of the ICC transition as it impacts tandem switching and transport charges. Comments are due May 4, 2017; replies due May 11, 2017.
- The FCC is [circulating](#) an item addressing Petitions for Waiver of section 51.917 (access revenue recovery).
- The FCC issued [an Order](#) granting Westelcom's [Petition](#) for a limited and temporary conditional waiver of section 61.26(a)(6)(ii) to allow Westelcom to transition from maximum rural CLEC access rates to non-rural rates.
- Sprint, Level 3, and Verizon [discussed](#) the pending [Petition for Declaratory Ruling](#) filed by Bright House Networks, et al. on the intraMTA rule. They asked the FCC to declare intraMTA calls are subject to reciprocal compensation.
- The Robocall Strike Force issued a [second report](#) on the progress on addressing the robocall problem.
- The Senate will hold a [hearing](#) on May 3, 2017 on broadband deployment and infrastructure in rural areas.
- [Petitions for Reconsideration](#) of the Mobility Fund Phase II [Order](#) were filed. [Comments were filed](#) on the [FNPRM](#) on the challenge process for eligible areas for Mobility Fund Phase II support. Replies are due May 11, 2017.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- May 4 - Comments due on whether rules adopted in 2001- 2004 should be continued without change or be amended or rescinded, consistent with section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. [FR](#)
- May 11 - Replies due on the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process for determining eligibility of geographic areas for support. [Order](#), [FNPRM](#) | [Notice](#)

Open Internet

- Chairman Pai gave a [speech](#) at the Newseum on April 26, 2017, announcing he is circulating an NPRM to return to the light-touch regulatory framework for the Internet. He indicated the [NPRM](#) will be considered at the Commission's May 2017 Open Meeting, and it will propose: returning Internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service; eliminating the so-called Internet conduct standard; and seeking comment on how the FCC should approach the so-called bright-line rules adopted in 2015. Pai also issued two fact sheets: [Internet Regulation: Myths vs. Facts](#) and [Restoring Internet Freedom for All Americans](#), which provide background information on Internet regulation and the benefits of his new approach.
- Commissioner O'Rielly [spoke at](#) the FreedomWorks and Small Business & Entrepreneurial Council Event on April 26, 2017, to discuss Open Internet issues and Chairman Pai's proposal to reclassify Internet broadband access service as a Title I information service. O'Rielly claimed the only way to bring resolution to the net neutrality debate once and for all is for Congress to enact legislation on the subject. He asserted that without a statutory resolution, each election could bring large swings in net neutrality positions, preserving uncertainty and confusion for both consumers and industry alike.
- Commissioner Clyburn and FTC Chairman Terrell McSweeney issued a [joint statement](#) on April 27, 2017, on Chairman Pai's proposed Open Internet plan. They claimed, if adopted, the plan would harm competition and innovation and leave consumers without any real protection or oversight by the FTC or FCC for broadband services.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 27, 2017, announcing it is opening a new docket, WC Docket No. 17-108, entitled "Restoring Internet Freedom." The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau also issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 27, 2017, to provide guidance on filing comments in this new proceeding. The Bureau said those who wish to file individual comments may submit them electronically via ECFS. It encouraged parties filing a large number of comments or group comments to do so through the public API or the Commission's electronic inbox established for this proceeding, at <https://www.fcc.gov/restoring-internet-freedom-comments>.
- A group of small wireline ISPs sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 25, 2017, to express support for a potential reset of the Open Internet [Order](#). They said their businesses have suffered as a result of the Order, and they have spent substantial time and resources to ensure their practices are consistent with the rules. They also said the General Conduct rule represents the worst of government regulation, and expressed concern the Commission may use the General Conduct rule to impose rate regulation which would affect their ability to obtain financing.

[Back to Highlights](#)

USF Reform

- Petitions for Reconsideration of the Mobility Fund Phase II [Order](#) were filed on April 26, 2017. [CTIA](#) seeks reconsideration to the extent necessary to facilitate adoption of its proposal for identifying rural areas that may be eligible for MF-II support and a challenge process. It suggested the Commission request new mobile wireless coverage data from providers specifically tailored for MF-II purposes, allow providers to confirm the Commission correctly integrates such data into a nationwide map of rural areas potentially eligible for MF-II, and administer a fair and efficient challenge process that minimizes burdens on providers and the FCC. To the extent necessary, [Panhandle Telephone Coop and Pine Belt Wireless](#) seek reconsideration of the eligibility for MF-II support for areas not covered by both CDMA and GSM networks and the area eligibility speed threshold of "at least 5 Mbps" that is separate from the MF-II performance benchmark of 10 Mbps/1 Mbps. They claimed these provisions, as adopted, contravene the core goals and statutory mandates of MF-II, including ensuring the ubiquitous availability and preservation of mobile voice service and the reasonable comparability of such services in rural areas to those in urban areas. [Blue Wireless](#) seeks reconsideration of the letter of credit requirements in the Order, claiming the overly burdensome LOC requirements will present a significant

deterrent to participation by small entities such as Blue Wireless. [Rural Wireless Carriers](#) seek reconsideration of: the decision that geographic areas currently being served by mobile broadband with speeds of at least 5 Mbps will not be eligible for MF-II support; the 10-year \$4.53 billion MF-II budget; and the reliance on Form 477 data. RWC said the 5 Mbps benchmark, coupled with overstated Form 477 coverage data, will result in the unwarranted restriction of eligibility for MF-II support, and the level of budgeted funding is substantially lower than necessary to be successful in achieving deployment of mobile broadband services to consumers in rural areas that are reasonably comparable to services available to urban consumers. [Blooston Rural Carriers](#) seek reconsideration of: the 5 Mbps download threshold for MF-II eligibility; the decision not to implement rural and/or small business bidding credits; aspects of the Letter of Credit requirements; and the failure to consider prohibiting MF-II recipients from entering into equipment exclusivity agreements. [T-Mobile](#) seeks reconsideration of the speed requirement, suggesting it be revised from 10 Mbps/1 Mbps to a more prevalent threshold of 5/1 and revising the latency standard where 90% of measurements are equal or superior to 220 ms. It also suggested the Commission clarify and limit USAC's role in testing winning bidders' compliance with performance metrics and other public interest obligations. [List of all Petitions available to date.](#)

- Comments were filed on April 26, 2017, on the [FNPRM](#) on the challenge process for areas that will be eligible for Mobility Fund Phase II support. [NTCA](#) said given the potentially devastating consequences of lost funding to providers and lost coverage to consumers, consistent with the challenge process adopted for non-model rate-of-return wireline universal service support, the Commission should instead require providers who have actual knowledge of their coverage territory and who certified their coverage to file the underlying data they presumably used to validate that coverage prior to certification. NTCA claimed this process would permit the Commission to move quickly, while also being data driven and consistent with the underlying requirement that ties the analysis of competition to specific geographic areas. [CTIA](#) submitted a proposal for identifying rural areas that may be eligible for MF-II support and a challenge process. It suggested the Commission request new mobile wireless coverage data from providers specifically tailored for MF-II purposes, allow providers to confirm the Commission correctly integrates such data into a nationwide map of rural areas potentially eligible for MF-II, and administer a fair and efficient challenge process that minimizes burdens on providers and the FCC. To the extent necessary, however, CTIA also seeks reconsideration of the MF-II Order to facilitate adoption of this proposal. The [Rural Wireless Association](#) proposed a challenge process that it claimed is not unduly burdensome on challenged carriers or on challengers. RWA reiterated its position that MFII service/deployment obligations must be clear, and the challenge process ensure accuracy and avoid imposing egregious costs on rural wireless carriers with limited resources, and it disagreed with AT&T's proposal. The [Competitive Carriers Association](#) suggested the Commission adopt a challenge process using the structure proposed as Option A in the Further Notice, while placing the ultimate burden of persuasion on challenged carriers who are best able to marshal evidence establishing qualifying coverage by their own networks. They also said the challenge process should be available to all interested parties, not be subject to a minimum challengeable area requirement, and the FCC should adopt standards to ensure that evidence supporting final eligibility determinations is clear, rigorous, and reliable. [Link to all comments available.](#) Reply comments are due May 11, 2017. [Order](#) | [Notice](#)
- T-Mobile filed [comments](#) on April 26, 2017, on the [Public Notice](#) that announced the Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureaus propose to release minimum advertised or expected 4G LTE speed data included in the December 31, 2015, and June 30, 2016 Form 477 filings to provide additional information about the geographical areas eligible for Mobility Fund II support. T-Mobile requested this information not be released because it includes competitively sensitive data not otherwise readily available to the public in such format. T-Mobile said, at a minimum, the Commission should defer a decision on whether to release the data until the Commission adopts final procedures for Mobility Fund II. T-Mobile also indicated CTIA will file a proposal on the process used to identify eligible Mobility Fund II areas, which, if adopted, would obviate entirely the need to disclose the Form 477 data.
- Southern Linc filed a [request](#) on April 27, 2017, seeking confidential treatment of its data on minimum advertised or expected speeds for 4G LTE mobile service that is contained in its FCC Form 477 filings, pursuant to the March 29, 2017 [Public Notice](#) and the April 11, 2017 [Order](#). Southern Linc claimed the

information disclosed in its Form 477 data is not ordinarily disclosed in the industry, and disclosure would have adverse competitive consequences for Southern Linc.

- Allband and Fred Williamson & Associates [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 25, 2017, to discuss USAC's April 14, 2017 report, which Allband claimed is favorable. They discussed a timetable and information which should be contained in a new request for waiver of the \$250 high-cost support cap that Allband will be filing pursuant to the July 2016 Order.
- Hamilton County Telephone Co-op and JSI [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Clyburn and O'Rielly on April 26, 2017, to discuss potential new funding opportunities to address what they call the "Cooperative-Cooperative" divide caused by flawed Form 477 data and the A-CAM challenge process. Hamilton urged the FCC to fully fund the A-CAM, and discussed possible future funding opportunities, such as the Remote Areas Fund and potential additional funds from infrastructure legislation, so the 85 percent of locations in its service area for which funding was eliminated would be able to receive high-speed broadband. It also urged the FCC to ensure that any future funding mechanism use a robust challenge process similar to that being used for rate-of-return carriers remaining on legacy support.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 25, 2017, announcing Petitions for Reconsideration of the [CAF Phase II Auction Order](#) were filed by [Hughes Network Systems](#) and the [Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development](#). Oppositions to the petitions must be filed within 15 days of the date of publication in the Federal Register; replies will be due within 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.
- Hughes Network Systems [met with](#) Commissioner Clyburn and her Legal Advisor on April 24, 2017, to discuss Hughes' [Petition for Reconsideration](#) of the CAF Phase II Auction [Order](#). Hughes said the FCC should follow the principle of technology neutrality to ensure that all platforms, including satellite broadband, are able to compete and meet the important needs of consumers. Hughes said the platforms should be granted adequate access to the spectrum resource needed to compete with other platforms based on the strengths of the technology itself within a given market segment.
- The Competitive Carriers Association [met with](#) staff of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, Office of Engineering & Technology, and the Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis on April 21, 2017, to encourage the FCC to anchor its Mobility Fund II funding decisions on accurate service data and a sound challenge process. CCA said the Commission should adopt data collection standards to ensure that evidence supporting final determinations for areas eligible to receive MF II support is clear, rigorous, and reliable, and suggested the FCC delineate certain factors by which providers are able to determine coverage. CCA also suggested the FCC require evidence submitted by challengers and challenged carriers to be clearly defined, robust, and reliable, provide sufficient time for carriers to respond during the challenge process, and adopt a procedure that does not burden smaller carriers with limited resources.
- The Utilities Technology Council and Holston Electric Cooperative met separately with Legal Advisors to Commissioners [O'Rielly](#) and [Clyburn](#) on April 25, 2017, to discuss Holston's plans to study deploying fiber optic networks to provide broadband services and support its smart grid pilot in unserved areas of northeastern Tennessee. It claimed 38.5% of customers in Holston's service territory reported they do not have access to broadband, and 95% of Holston's customers who were surveyed reported that quality access to broadband is important to them and their family.
- Comments were due April 28, 2017, on PRTC's [Petition for Declaratory Ruling](#) on whether section 54.320(d)(2) applies to recipients of CAF Phase I Round 2 support. Replies due May 15. [Public Notice](#)
- Comments were due April 28, 2017, on ACS' [Petition for Clarification](#) or, in the alternative, petition for limited waiver of the requirement to provide geocoded location information for CAF Phase I deployments. Replies due May 15. [Public Notice](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

ICC

- The Pricing Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [Order](#) on April 24, 2017, setting forth the Tariff Review Plans to be used by all incumbent LECs to support their interstate access service tariff revisions to be filed in 2017.
- The FCC released a [Public Notice](#) on April 24, 2017, seeking comments on CenturyLink's [Petition for Limited Stay](#) of years six and seven of the ICC transition in the 2011 Transformation Order as it impacts tandem switching and transport charges. CenturyLink claimed significant debate has arisen within the industry about what subset of tandem switching and transport rates are subject to the years six and seven transition to bill and keep, and there is disagreement regarding how the Bureau's guidance for price cap ILECs and RoR ILECs carry-over by virtue of the CLEC benchmark rule to the variety of potential call flows where a CLEC might own the tandem. Comments are due May 4, 2017; replies are due May 11, 2017.
- The Commission placed on [circulation](#) on April 26, 2017, an item addressing Petitions for Waiver of section 51.917. This is reported to be an Order addressing, at least in part, West Kentucky and Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative's Petition that would allow the company to include in its FY 2011 Base Period Revenue amounts for Transitional Intrastate Access Service that should have been billed and collected by March 31, 2012, but were not due to a billing omission.
- The Commission issued [an Order](#) on April 24, 2017, granting Westelcom's 2015 [Petition](#) for a limited and temporary conditional waiver of section 61.26(a)(6)(ii) to allow Westelcom Network to transition from the maximum access rates that Rural CLECs may charge to the maximum rates that a non-Rural CLEC may charge. The Commission said to the extent Westelcom's service in the Watertown, New York urbanized area disqualifies it from the Rural CLEC exemption, consistent with Westelcom's compromise proposal, Westelcom is granted a temporary and limited waiver of section 61.26(e) through June 30, 2019, subject to Westelcom's interstate originating and terminating switched access rates not exceeding the benchmarks set forth in the Order. This waiver will have the effect of providing Westelcom with the opportunity for a four-step, three-year transition between the benchmark applicable to Rural CLECs pursuant to section 61.26(e) and the benchmark applicable to non-Rural CLECs pursuant to section 61.26(c).
- Sprint, Level 3, and Verizon [met with](#) FCC General Counsel staff on April 24, 2017, to ask the Commission to respond to the pending [Petition for Declaratory Ruling](#) filed by Bright House Networks, et al. on the intraMTA rule. Sprint, et al. asked the FCC to declare intraMTA calls are subject to reciprocal compensation and are not subject to access charges, whether or not a third party is involved in carrying the call, and to declare LECs may not collect access charges from any carrier on any intraMTA calls. They claimed they identified intraMTA traffic on which the LECs have assessed access charges, and said once the Commission clarifies this issue, the industry would quickly be able to work out the implementation details both prospectively and retroactively.
- Aureon Network Services and JSI [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 25, 2017, to discuss issues raised in AT&T's [Petition](#) for Forbearance from enforcement of certain switched access stimulation rules related to tandem and transport services provided on calls to carriers engaged in access stimulation and database query charges for toll-free services.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Broadband

- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 24, 2017, seeking comments and data on actions to accelerate adoption and accessibility of broadband-enabled health care solutions and advanced technologies. Comments are due May 24; replies are due June 8. Commissioner Clyburn also issued a [statement](#). [News Release](#).

- The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will hold a [hearing](#) entitled “Investing in America’s Broadband Infrastructure: Exploring Ways to Reduce Barriers to Deployment” on May 3, 2017. The hearing will discuss solutions to streamline broadband deployment and infrastructure especially in rural areas, and how to encourage private investment in next-generation telecommunications services.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Call Completion/Robocalls

- Chairman Pai [sent letters](#) to Sens. Bob Casey (D- Pa.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) on April 21, 2017, in response to their [letter](#) expressing support for the Commission’s NPRM and NOI to permit telecommunications providers to block spoofed robocalls. Pai said the proposed rules would permit providers to block spoofed robocalls when the caller uses an unassigned or invalid phone number, and allows providers to block spoofed robocalls when the subscriber to that telephone number requests that calls originating from that number be blocked. Pai also said the NPRM seeks comment on further steps the Commission could take to protect consumers and empower voice service providers to block illegal robocalls.
- The ACT/The App Association, ATIS, CTIA, and USTelecom filed a [second report](#) from the Robocall Strike Force on April 27, 2017, detailing progress on addressing the robocall problem. The report stated, among other things, USTelecom and CTIA, in coordination with the FCC, published consumer-centric websites providing information on robocall issues and consumer tools, and indicated several companies have taken steps to educate customers about robocalls and to make mitigation tools available to consumers on their company websites. The report also said innovation is ongoing to address the display challenges associated with existing customer premises equipment, and Verizon has been trialing a new service that warns about potential spam by inserting a warning indication in the Caller Name field of the home user’s phone display that the incoming call may be spam related. Chairman Pai issued a [statement](#) on the report.

USF

- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) on April 28, 2017, granting, denying, and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on the E-rate program and contributions. Petitions for reconsideration or applications for review of these decisions must be filed within 30 days of the Public Notice.
- The SHLB Coalition filed a [letter](#) on April 27, 2017, to express concern with the recent set of inquiries sent by USAC to over 100 E-rate applicants seeking support for special construction costs for fiber installation. It said the questions ask for information irrelevant to determining whether an application meets E-rate requirements and suggests new limitations on funding that were not contained in the 2014 E-rate Modernization Orders, the FCC’s rules, or USAC’s training materials. The Coalition encouraged the FCC and USAC to maintain the existing policies adopted in 2014 that promote competition and cost-effective fiber options for schools and libraries.
- KonaTel [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff, Commissioner Clyburn and her Legal Advisor, and Legal Advisors to Commissioner O’Rielly and Chairman Pai on April 19 and 20, 2017, to discuss Lifeline issues and KonaTel’s [pending](#) LBP petition. KonaTel discussed its commitment to compliance with the Lifeline program, and said it does not intend to utilize USAC’s third party identification verification and address exceptions processes until they are reviewed and deemed acceptable by the Commission’s new leadership.

[Back to Highlights](#)

State Actions

- Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam (R) [signed into law](#) on April 24, 2017, a [bill](#) creating a grant program for promoting the deployment and adoption of broadband internet access services. The bill also provides certain standards that must be met by a local community to benefit from such grants; allows an electric cooperative to provide broadband service within or without the cooperative's service area, subject to certain requirements; and provides a tax credit for qualified broadband Internet access equipment.

Misc.

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on April 27, 2017, for its May 18, 2017 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider: an [NPRM and Order](#) that proposes to eliminate the local service rate floor rule that requires RLECs receiving USF support to impose higher minimum monthly rates on their customers than the rates paid by some of their urban counterparts or otherwise lose some USF support. The Order would freeze the current rate at \$18 until the Commission takes further action in this proceeding; an [NPRM](#) that proposes to return Internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service, and seeks comment on the existing rules governing ISPs' practices; an [NPRM](#) that would facilitate the deployment of and reduce regulatory burdens on fixed-satellite service earth stations authorized to transmit while in motion; a [Report and Order](#) that would amend provisions of the Personal Radio Services located in Part 95 to update and modernize various rules to reflect current uses and technologies; a [Public Notice](#) that would launch a review of the Commission's rules applicable to media entities; and an [NPRM](#) that would propose to eliminate the Commission's main studio rule.
- The FCC released the [Report and Order](#) on business data services on April 28, 2017, that was adopted at its April 20, 2017 Open Meeting. The Report and Order recognizes the strong competition present in the business data services market and modernizes the FCC's regulatory structure for BDS to bring new technologies, products, and services to businesses and consumers.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 28, 2017, announcing the process to request an unredacted version of the BDS [Report and Order](#). The Bureau said access to information designated as Highly Confidential is limited to outside counsel and consultants, and their employees, not involved in competitive decision-making as defined in the Protective Orders. The Bureau also said to receive access to information designated as Highly Confidential Information an individual must have filed Acknowledgments of Confidentiality and access is only granted after any objection is resolved by the Commission in favor of the party seeking access.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 28, 2017, proposing to release the list of counties where lower speed business data services will be deemed competitive, non-competitive, or grandfathered. Affected parties have until May 11, 2017, to object to the release of their own data and must explain why publicly identifying whether a county is competitive, non-competitive, or grandfathered will reveal information they have not already made available to the public and will harm them competitively. The Bureau said if the Commission receives no objections, it will publicly release the lists of counties on May 12, 2017.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 24, 2017, announcing the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations seeks comments to refresh the record in the separations proceeding and on issues related to comprehensive, permanent separations reform. The Joint Board encouraged commenters to submit reform proposals as part of their comments. Comments are due May 24, 2017; replies are due June 8, 2017.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 24, 2017, announcing the Federal-State Joint Board on Separations seeks comments on how reforms adopted in the February 24, 2017 [Report and Order](#) that streamlined and eliminated various Part 32 accounting requirements impacts Part 36 rules to ensure

that jurisdictional separations rules are consistent. Comments are due May 24, 2017; replies are due June 8, 2017.

- Reply comments were filed April 24, 2017, on the [FNPRM](#) seeking comment on the FCC's proposal for a further 18-month extension of the freeze of jurisdictional separations category relationships and cost allocation factors for rate-of-return ILECs. [NTCA](#) supported an extension of a length sufficient to enable the Joint Board and the FCC to consider fully the ramifications of recent and ongoing regulatory reforms and technology changes on the existing separations rules generally and on smaller operators more specifically. NTCA also supported the Commission granting certain RoR carriers a one-time option to unfreeze their part 36 category relationships and cost allocations provided that resulting adjustments can be made in tariff rate calculations. [WTA](#) supported the extension, and agreed with NECA and NTCA that the current Part 36 separations freeze should be extended for a period that gives RLECs a reasonable and sufficient time to implement the ultimate Part 36 separations changes recommended by the Federal-State Joint Board and reviewed, revised, and adopted by the Commission. WTA suggested extending the freeze at least six months after the revised Part 36 separations rules are adopted by the Commission and become final. [Pioneer Telephone](#) supported USTelecom's proposal for carriers that have elected A-CAM support to be allowed to choose to unfreeze their category relationships. Pioneer noted it has had a Petition to unfreeze its category relationship pending since 2013, and said USTelecom correctly noted the effect of the freeze for carriers who have elected A-CAM support, such as Pioneer, is that only special access service costs are subject to the freeze. [NASUCA](#) said given the significant changes in technologies and investment decisions, as well as changes in regulatory approaches at both the state and federal levels since 2001, the freeze should not be perpetuated, and it claimed USTelecom's proposed resolution of the separations freeze is not in the public interest. [Notice](#)
- Pamela Arluk, Chief of the Pricing Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau, sent a [letter](#) to Panhandle Telephone on April 28, 2017, to respond to Panhandle's request for approval to record journal entries to credit account 3212, Accumulated Depreciation, and a corresponding entry to debit account 1438, Deferred Maintenance and Retirements, to allow it to complete an extraordinary retirement of the company's investment in its fixed wireless local loop network to deploy both voice and broadband services to customers in remote areas of its study area utilizing LTE technology. Panhandle also requested the extraordinary retirement be amortized over five years, beginning with calendar year 2017 and ending in calendar year 2021. The FCC found the showing contained in Panhandle's December 8, 2016 request satisfies the requirements set forth in the Commission's rules, and it authorized Panhandle to charge account 1438 for the net book value of the retired plant, amortized ratably, over a five-year period beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2021.
- The FCC issued a [News Release](#) on April 25, 2017, announcing it adopted a [Forfeiture Order](#) that imposes a \$1 million fine on Advantage Telecommunications for slamming and cramming. The FCC claimed Advantage violated Commission rules by impersonating representatives of customers' existing long-distance providers and switching the customers' long-distance carriers without obtaining proper, verified authorization, added unauthorized charges onto consumers' telephone bills, and failed to plainly and clearly describe its charges on bills.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on April 27, 2017, announcing the next Consumer Advisory Committee meeting will be May 19, 2017. The Committee may consider issues including, but not limited to: consumer protection and education; implementation of Commission rules and consumer participation in the FCC rulemaking process; and the impact of new and emerging communication technologies (including availability and affordability of broadband service and Universal Service programs).
- The North American Portability Management filed a [letter](#) on April 28, 2017, to provide a summary of the NAPM's status updates to the FCC on the transition of the current LNPA, Neustar, to the new LNPA, Telcordia d/b/a/ iconectiv. NAPM said it will continue to file updates of this report with the FCC at the end of each month until the transition is complete.

Upcoming Filing Dates

- May 1 - PRA comments due on an extension of a previously approved information collection related to the MAG Plan Order, Parts 54 and 69 filing requirements for regulation of interstate services of non-price cap ILECs and interexchange carriers. [Notice](#)
- May 1 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477, Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting. [Notice](#)
- May 1 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with monitoring the impact of USF support mechanisms. The Commission is reporting a 24-hour increase in the total hour burden based on updated information from NECA regarding the number of respondents/responses. [Notice](#)
- May 1 - PRA comments due on revisions to a currently approved information collection associated with the Lifeline National Verifier. [Notice](#)
- May 1 - PRA comments due on a revised information collection associated with Form 481 and its instructions to provide clarification for some reporting items and to reflect certain updates. [Notice](#), [Notice](#)
- May 2 - Comments due on Megaphone's [application](#) for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. [Public Notice](#)
- May 4 - Comments due on CenturyLink's [Petition for Limited Stay](#) of years six and seven of the ICC transition in the 2011 Transformation Order as it impacts tandem switching and transport charges. Replies are due May 11, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- May 4 - Comments due on FairPoint's [Petition for Waiver](#) of section 54.312(c) to permit it to submit the locations and census blocks in which FairPoint deployed broadband, but for which FairPoint was not authorized, in order to meet the requirements for receipt of CAF Phase I Round 2 support. Replies are due May 19, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- May 4 - Comments due on the [Public Notice](#) seeking comment on whether the rules adopted in 2001 – 2004 should be continued without change or should be amended or rescinded, consistent with the stated objective of section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. [FR](#)
- May 8 - Comments due on competition in the mobile wireless industry for its Twentieth Annual Report on the State of Competition in Mobile Wireless. Replies due June 7. [Public Notice](#)
- May 8 - Comments due on iconectiv's [request](#) for the FCC to approve certain modifications to the LNP Administrator Code of Conduct and to the voting trust agreement. Replies due May 23. [Public Notice](#)
- May 11 - Replies due on the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process for determining eligibility of geographic areas for support. [Order](#), [FNPRM](#) | [Notice](#)
- May 11 - Replies due on CenturyLink's [Petition for Limited Stay](#) of years six and seven of the ICC transition in the 2011 Transformation Order as it impacts tandem switching and transport charges. [Public Notice](#)
- May 15 - Replies due on PRTC's [Petition for Declaratory Ruling](#) on whether section 54.320(d)(2) applies to recipients of CAF Phase I Round 2 support. [Public Notice](#)

- May 15 - Replies due on ACS' [Petition for Clarification](#) or, in the alternative, petition for limited waiver of the requirement to provide geocoded location information for CAF Phase I deployments. [Public Notice](#)
- May 19 - Replies due on FairPoint's [Petition for Waiver](#) of section 54.312(c) to permit it to submit the locations and census blocks in which FairPoint deployed broadband, but for which FairPoint was not authorized, in order to meet the requirements for receipt of CAF Phase I Round 2 support. [Public Notice](#)
- May 23 - Replies due on iconectiv's [request](#) for the FCC to approve certain modifications to the LNP Administrator Code of Conduct and to the voting trust agreement. [Public Notice](#)
- May 24 - Comments due on actions to accelerate adoption and accessibility of broadband-enabled health care solutions and advanced technologies. Replies are due June 8. [Public Notice](#)
- May 24 - Comments due on refreshing the record in the separations proceeding and on issues related to comprehensive, permanent separations reform. Replies are due June 8, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- May 24 - Comments due on how reforms adopted in the February 24, 2017 [Report and Order](#) that streamlined and eliminated various Part 32 accounting requirements impacts Part 36 rules to ensure that jurisdictional separations rules are consistent. Replies are due June 8, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- June 7 - Replies due on competition in the mobile wireless industry for its Twentieth Annual Report on the State of Competition in Mobile Wireless. [Public Notice](#)
- June 8 - Replies due on refreshing the record in the separations proceeding and on issues related to comprehensive, permanent separations reform. [Public Notice](#)
- June 8 - Replies due on how reforms adopted in the February 24, 2017 [Report and Order](#) that streamlined and eliminated various Part 32 accounting requirements impacts Part 36 rules to ensure that jurisdictional separations rules are consistent. [Public Notice](#)
- June 8 - Replies due on actions to accelerate adoption and accessibility of broadband-enabled health care solutions and advanced technologies. [Public Notice](#)
- June 12 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved collection for Part 32, Uniform System of Accounts. [notice](#)
- June 23 - Petitions due on 2017 annual access charge tariffs made on 15 days' notice; replies due June 27, 2017. [Order](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

Editor: [Teresa Evert](#) | Assistant Editor: [Shawn O'Brien](#)