

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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May 4, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Chairman Pai [announced](#) the extension of his Keep Americans Connected Pledge until June 30, 2020. The FCC said over 700 broadband and telephone service providers have committed to the pledge.
- Reps. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D- N.J.), et al. [proposed](#) a plan to connect all Americans to affordable broadband Internet, which includes, among other things, investing \$80 billion over five years to deploy broadband infrastructure.
- Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai, asking the FCC work with broadband providers and Congress to increase access to mobile broadband hotspots, and to provide a report on the current distribution of hotspots. [press release](#)
- [Comments were filed](#) on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second communications marketplace report. Replies are due May 28, 2020. [public notice](#), [public notice](#)
- Oppositions to petitions for reconsideration of the RDOF [report and order are due](#) May 18, 2020; replies are due May 26, 2020.
- NTCA, NRECA, et al. [urged](#) the FCC to utilize a technology neutral, bright line framework for the RDOF and determine the eligibility for bidding based upon clear evidence of established performance by each technology.
- CenturyLink [discussed](#) broadband deployment issues during the coronavirus pandemic, and said this year's CAF deployment schedule faces challenges.
- Replies were filed by [NRECA](#) and [Nokia](#) on the CAF II Coalition's [petition](#) for a rulemaking and [petition](#) for waiver regarding the CAF II letter of credit requirements. [public notice](#)
- [Replies were filed](#) on Charter's [petition](#) for a waiver of RDOF census block eligibility rule.
- NTCA [responded](#) to Frontier's challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible in the RDOF Phase I auction, and urged the FCC to investigate Frontier's claims. WISPA and NRECA also [asked](#) the FCC to start an inquiry into Frontier's claims.
- The FCC released an [NPRM](#) on proposals for implementing the TRACED Act's requirements to further protect consumers from one-ring scams. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 45 days after publication.
- The Enforcement Bureau [ended](#) its practice of warning most robocallers before issuing penalties, and has extended the statute of limitations for violations, and increased the maximum fines.
- USAC filed the [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections](#) for the third quarter of 2020.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- May 15 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on additional measures to address illegal spoofing. Replies are due May 29, 2020.

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USF Reform

- The [public notice](#) 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](#) was published in the [Federal Register](#) on May 1, 2020. Oppositions to petitions are due May 18, 2020; replies are due May 26, 2020.
- The Office of Economics and Analytics and Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [protective order](#) on May 1, 2020, in the 5G Fund proceeding. They said in connection with the FCC's consideration of a proposed adjustment factor for the 5G Fund, Commission staff anticipate utilizing two datasets containing non-public information that will be placed in the proceeding: aggregated and anonymized county-level cell site location counts for AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, and T-Mobile, derived from their responses to the Business Data Services Data Collection; and anonymized subscriber counts at the Cellular Market Area level for carriers engaged in the provision of wireless telecommunications services, derived from the Number Resource Utilization Forecast reports filed by those carriers.
- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on May 1, 2020, to announce it intends to place into the 5G Fund proceeding the number of wireless telecommunications carriers' subscribers per deployed megahertz of spectrum by Cellular Market Area. The FCC said the Office of Economics and Analytics and the Wireline Competition Bureau intend to seek comment on specific adjustment factor values for purposes of bidding in the 5G Fund auction as well as the disaggregation of legacy support. Affected parties have until May 11, 2020, to oppose disclosure of their data.
- NTCA, NRECA, the Fiber Broadband Association, and the Utilities Technology Council [spoke with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Starks and Rosenworcel on April 23- 24, 2020, to urge the FCC to utilize a technology neutral, bright line framework for the RDOF and determine the eligibility for bidding in specific performance tiers in the upcoming auction based upon clear evidence of established performance by each technology. They asserted such a framework had operated effectively in the CAF Phase II auction, and that its use in the RDOF auction is important to provide certainty and clarity to all would-be bidders.
- CenturyLink [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's rural broadband advisor on April 27, 2020, regarding broadband deployment challenges during the coronavirus pandemic. CenturyLink said it is experiencing pandemic-related issues that are disrupting and slowing broadband network deployment, including ongoing and planned deployment toward CAF milestones. It said in some cases, localities have mandated a complete work stoppage that extends to broadband deployment. CenturyLink said that this year's CAF deployment schedule faces significant challenges, and reiterated the suggestions in [USTelecom's filing](#) on extensions to CAF deadlines.
- Reply comments were filed on April 28, 2020, on 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. [NRECA](#) supported the petitions, asserting the RDOF LOC rules reflect a more balanced approach to protecting federal funds and allocating these scarce funds for the intended purpose of deploying broadband infrastructure in rural areas, and that this approach should be extended to CAF II awardees. [Nokia](#) asserted granting the requested waiver would provide relief already found to be in the public interest for the newer RDOF program and would ensure more funding is used to build broadband infrastructure. [public notice](#)
- Reply comments were filed on April 28, 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. [WISPA](#) asserted Charter has not met the good cause standard or demonstrated special circumstance for waiver and claimed rural communities would be denied the benefits of a technology-neutral, market-based reverse auction that could result in faster broadband speeds throughout the area than Charter would be willing to provide. [Charter](#) asserted claims that granting the petition would harm competition are wrong, and there is nothing procedurally

improper about Charter's request. It asserted commenters cite no authority for their claims that Charter's petition is premature or improperly substitutes for a petition for reconsideration. [Rosston and Wallsten](#) said the FCC should assess the probability of Charter fulfilling its commitment in each census block. They also asserted Charter commitments and census block boundaries are not completely coincident, and if the FCC declines to include Charter-committed census blocks in the RDOF auction, it is still possible that some households within such a Charter-committed census block could remain without access even if Charter builds out that census block. [public notice](#) | [all replies available](#)

- The Colorado Broadband Office sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 24, 2020, asking the FCC to extend the October 22, 2020 opening of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund 904 Auction and the Rural Tribal Window timeline, set to close on August 3, 2020, by 180 days respectively. It asserted the timelines considered reasonable pre-COVID-19 are simply unworkable as the rural communities attempt to respond to the pandemic.
- NTCA filed a [letter](#) on April 29, 2020, to respond to Frontier Communications' challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible in the RDOF Phase I auction. NTCA said it may be possible that Frontier did precisely what was necessary to meet the standards for reporting significant increased deployment during the eight-month period in the face of years of historical inaction in these areas, admitted shortcomings on interim universal service buildout obligations, and increasing financial struggles. NTCA said, however, such an achievement warrants validation and verification given the implications and urged the Commission to investigate the claims of coverage made by Frontier.
- WISPA and NRECA filed a [letter](#) on April 27, 2020, to respond to Frontier Communications' challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible in the RDOF Phase I auction. They questioned how it is possible Frontier was able to provide voice and 25/3 Mbps service in each of these 16,000 census blocks in just eight months, especially in light of Frontier's operational issues and financial woes that led to its filing of a bankruptcy petition on April 14, 2020. They requested the Commission initiate an inquiry into Frontier's claims.
- SEMO Electric Cooperative, et al. filed a [letter](#) on April 27, 2020, to respond to BPS Networks' challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible in the RDOF Phase I auction. SEMO, et al. asserted the challenge filed by BPS is fundamentally flawed and should be denied by the Commission, and the claims made by BPS should be fully investigated by the Commission.
- The Missouri Farm Bureau filed a [letter](#) on April 30, 2020, to respond to a challenge filed by BPS to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible in the RDOF Phase I auction. The MFB asked that the FCC investigate the claims made to determine the accuracy of the data and reported service levels and asserted absent FCC verification of data submitted by a provider, it is irresponsible to remove any census block from RDOF eligibility.
- In addition to challenges listed in previous editions of *REGScan*, challenges were filed by [Edge Broadband](#) ([attach](#)), [Consolidated](#) ([attach](#)) and [Cincinnati Bell and Hawaiian Telcom](#) on April 27 - 28, 2020, on April 27, 2020, to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. [public notice](#) | [all challenges available](#)
- Hughes filed a [letter](#) on April 29, 2020, to respond to ADTRAN's opposition to Hughes' proposal that the Commission allow RDOF auction bidders to propose to use multiple technologies within each bidding area. Hughes said while ADTRAN claimed Hughes' proposal would be difficult for an applicant to identify in advance which locations get which service, Hughes asserted there is no need for applicants to provide this information at the auction stage, and the bidder must simply specify the percentage of locations within each bidding area that it will serve at each performance and latency tier.
- No replies were filed 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](#)
- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-N.D.) and Sens. Kevin Cramer (R- N.D.) and John Hoeven (R-N.D.) on April 22, 2020, in response to their letter on Red River Telephone's [request](#)

for a revised A-CAM II offer and waiver of election deadline. Pai said the Wireline Competition Bureau released a public notice on the petition on March 30, 2020, and will receive the Bureau staff's assessment of the record once the comment period has completed.

- No replies were filed on Red River Telephone's [request](#) for a revised A-CAM II offer and waiver of election deadline. [public notice](#)
- No comments were filed 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.

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ICC

- Intrado Communications filed a [petition](#) on April 27, 2020, for a temporary waiver of 61.3(bbb)(1)(i)(B) and 61.3(bbb)(1)(ii), to ensure it is not deemed to be engaged in access stimulation due to the exponential increase in demand for conference calling services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Intrado said it is requesting the waiver for the same reasons and under the same terms under which the Commission [granted](#) a similar waiver to Intelliquent.
- WideVoice filed a [letter](#) on April 29, 2020, claiming the Commission is arbitrarily applying and waiving its new rules on access stimulation. It asserted since the issuance of the access arbitrage [order](#), the Commission is applying the new rules according to its discretion rather than the actual language of the order and the amended access stimulation regulations. WideVoice claimed the specific access stimulation tests and solutions it and others proposed, and then rejected by the Commission in its order, are now being used by the Commission to create new de facto access stimulation rules for just a small sub-group of carriers.
- Peerless Network and Teliax filed a [letter](#) on April 27, 2020, to express opposition to USTelecom's [proposal](#) on 8YY access charges. They asserted USTelecom's proposal fails to be a consensus of the entire industry, but rather a consensus of USTelecom's member companies that seek to off-set revenue losses caused by USTelecom's proposed rate reductions with increases in the SLCs or through CAF ICC support. They asserted if the Commission adopts reforms in the proceeding, they should be appropriate, measured, and holistic. Peerless Network and Teliax also [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on April 28, 2020, to discuss similar issues.
- T-Mobile [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 24, 2020, regarding 8YY access charges. T-Mobile claimed USTelecom's [proposal](#) would establish the ILEC tandem as the network edge, thereby perpetuating voice technology and associated access charge regimes. T-Mobile urged the Commission to accept USTelecom's proposal solely as a glide path to eliminating all access charges for 8YY calling and to adopt a single, nationwide uniform tandem rate of \$0.0017 during this interim period. It suggested the FCC make the complete elimination of the access charge regime in favor of end-to-end IP a top priority by initiating a formal proceeding to achieve this end.

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Broadband

- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on April 30, 2020, the extension of his Keep Americans Connected Pledge until June 30, 2020. The FCC said since launching the pledge last month, more than 700 broadband and telephone service providers committed for 60 days to not terminate service due to non-payment of bills as a result of the coronavirus, waive any late fees, and open their Wi-Fi hot spots to any Americans that need them. Pai is now asking providers to extend these offerings to consumers and small businesses until the end of June.

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Tina Smith (D-Minn.), on April 24, 2020, to respond to their letter urging Commission action to ensure students in Minnesota have access to high-speed internet to continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pai said over 700 providers have taken his Keep Americans Connected pledge and that he asked companies to take additional steps to maintain connectivity, including improving low-income broadband programs and relaxing data caps. Pai sent similar [letters to](#) Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.), in response to their letter that asked for information on Commission plans to expand access to broadband and assist Americans with remote education, work, and healthcare during the pandemic.
- Reps. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D- N.J.), James E. Clyburn (D- S.C.), and 10 Democratic members of the House Rural Broadband Task Force and Energy & Commerce Committee [proposed](#) on April 30, 2020, a plan to connect all Americans to affordable broadband Internet. The plan includes: investing \$80 billion over five years to deploy secure and resilient broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved rural, suburban, and urban areas across the country, while prioritizing persistent poverty communities; and investing \$5 billion over five years for low-interest financing of broadband deployment, among other things.
- Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 24, 2020, to ask that the FCC work with broadband service providers and Congress to increase access to mobile broadband hotspots across rural America. They urged Chairman Pai to work with the companies that stepped up by taking the Keep Americans Connected Pledge to provide a comprehensive report on the current distribution of hotspots by April 27, 2020, to understand where hotspots have been deployed, where they will be deployed, and where they could be deployed with a little help from the federal government to improve access for more Americans who lack affordable, reliable broadband service during the COVID-19 pandemic. [press release](#)
- Sen. Gary Peters (D- Mich.), and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), sent a [letter](#) to Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) on April 30, 2020, calling for increased investments in rural broadband infrastructure to support coronavirus response efforts in underserved communities. They said many healthcare centers, schools and small businesses in rural and tribal communities have had difficulties carrying out their daily operations without reliable, efficient broadband access. [press release](#)
- Comments were filed on April 27, 2020, on the state of competition in the communications marketplace for its second communications marketplace report. [NTCA](#) said any assessment of competition in the broadband marketplace, and FCC policy that flows from that assessment, should be based on the analytical construct that fixed and mobile broadband services are complements to, rather than substitutes for, one another. [USTelecom](#) said the RDOF program holds promise for connecting the remaining Americans who lack access to broadband. It said in conjunction with this effort, the FCC should move quickly to establish the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric as a core element of its Digital Opportunity Data Collection. USTelecom also attached its recent Industry Metrics and Trends 2020 report. [ACA Connects](#) suggested the FCC take additional steps to promote competitive entry and expansion in the fixed broadband marketplace by further streamlining attachments to investor-owned utilities' poles. [CTIA](#) asserted metrics such as investment, usage, connections, and deployment of advanced networks all lead to the conclusion that competition is robust in the wireless industry, and that consumers, businesses, and the U.S. economy are reaping the benefits. [INCOMPAS](#) supports the FCC collecting and assessing accurate and verifiable data that measures the availability of both fixed and mobile broadband networks. It asserted the experience of using these services are distinctly different, and the Commission should continue to treat fixed and mobile as separate services rather than as substitutes. [Google Fiber](#) suggested the FCC continue to support competitive entry by ensuring innovative providers have access to infrastructure and explore ways to spur communications providers to improve access to critical communications by all consumers, including by raising speeds, offering symmetric service, and ensuring transparent pricing. Replies are due May 28, 2020. [public notice](#), [public notice](#) | [all comments available](#)
- INCOMPAS and 200 consumer and public interest organizations, small ISPs and technology companies sent a [letter](#) to Congress on April 29, 2020, to urge it to include policies that support

broadband availability, including increased funding for adoption, network sustainability, and deployment for areas still lacking access, in upcoming COVID-19 stimulus packages. [press release](#)

- Next Century Cities [spoke with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's advisors on April 24, 2020, regarding COVID-19 emergency response measures, broadband data collection, universal service programs, and long-term broadband infrastructure deployment strategies. It said due to the pandemic, broadband connectivity has become critical and universal programs such as E-Rate and Lifeline, even more important. It said the FCC could potentially utilize funds using section 254 to designate broadband as a specialized service to support schools. It also said the FCC would benefit from broadband data collection procedures that collects information from network providers and works with state governments, local officials, and consumers.
- Pew Research Center [released](#) the [results of a study](#) on April 30, 2020, on the role of the internet and cellphones amid the coronavirus outbreak. Pew Research surveyed 4,917 U.S. adults from April 7 to 12, 2020, and found 53% of adults say the internet has been essential for them personally during the pandemic and another 34% describe it as important, but not essential.
- The National Tribal Telecommunications Association filed a [motion](#) on April 30, 2020, requesting an extension of time to file Rural Tribal Priority Window applications. NTTA said due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is requesting the Commission extend the closing of the Rural Tribal Priority Window by 90 days, or to November 2, 2020.
- Dominion Energy Virginia and Dominion Energy North Carolina [spoke with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai and Wireline Competition Bureau staff and to advisors to [Commissioners Carr, Starks, and O'Reilly](#) on April 30, 2020, to state the Commission should not expand the scope of its pole attachment jurisdiction under section 224 to include utility owned light poles, as [CTIA requested](#). Dominion asserted any such action by the Commission would violate the statute, and permanently derail the initiatives of Dominion, and utility companies like Dominion to develop innovative multi-stakeholder solutions that readily accommodate the deployment of 5G equipment and services.

Robocalls

- The FCC released an [NPRM](#) on April 28, 2020, seeking comment on proposals for implementing the TRACED Act's requirements to further protect consumers from the one-ring scam by allowing voice service providers to block calls highly likely to be associated with a one-ring scam. It also asks how the FCC can work with federal, state, and foreign law enforcement and government agencies to combat one-ring scams; and ways to build on existing consumer education and outreach efforts, among other things. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 45 days after publication. [news](#)
- The Enforcement Bureau released an [order](#) on May 1, 2020, ending its practice of warning most robocallers before issuing penalties for violating the law and for harassing consumers with unwanted robocalls. Warnings were required by law until the [TRACED Act](#) was enacted in December 2019. The order extended the statute of limitations during which robocallers can be fined for TCPA and for spoofing violations and the FCC now has four years to propose fines for spoofing and intentional robocall violations. The order also increased the maximum fines for intentional robocall violations. [news release](#)
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on April 29, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a new information collection associated with the [report and order](#) that created a comprehensive database to enable callers to verify whether a telephone number has been disconnected before calling that number. PRA comments are due May 29, 2020.
- The Enforcement Bureau issued an [erratum](#) on April 27, 2020, to correct Appendix A (final rules) in the March 27, 2020, [report and order](#) that amended the rules to establish 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.

- New Lisbon Telephone filed a [letter](#) on April 30, 2020, to state it is excluded from the benefits of SHAKEN since it has no practical options for interconnecting with the PSTN using SIP technology. It asserted equal access to the SHAKEN trust network and compliance of the TRACED act by June 2021 will only be achieved if one or more the following changes occur: all local tandem providers offer SIP interconnection at the existing interconnect points; the cost burden for inter-LATA transport to reach a distant SIP interconnect to the PSTN is not placed on local telephone service providers; and out-of-band SHAKEN is widely deployed as an option for TDM interconnections that will not be upgraded.

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Other Universal Service Programs

- USAC filed the [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections](#) for the third quarter of 2020 on May 1, 2020. USAC indicated the total high-cost support mechanism funding requirements are projected to be \$206.7 billion. ([appendices are available](#) on USACs website).
- The FCC [announced](#) on April 27, 2020, a joint effort with the Department of Education, to promote the use of \$16 billion in funding from the recently enacted [CARES Act's Education Stabilization Fund](#) for remote learning. The FCC said the agencies will work with governors, states, and local school districts as they leverage funding to best help students learning from home during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [public notice](#) on April 30, 2020, granting, denying and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on E-Rate, rural health care, USF contributions, and the high cost fund. Among these resolutions includes a grant of Penasco Valley Telephone's [petition](#) for waiver of the March 1, 2019 deadline for certifying broadband locations in the HUBB system. Petitions for reconsideration or applications for review of these decisions must be filed within 30 days of the public notice.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on April 27, 2020, designating Fond du Lac Communications, Inc. as an eligible telecommunications carrier in CAF-eligible areas within Minnesota. The Bureau said designation is conditioned upon, and limited to, FDLCI's authorization to receive CAF Phase II support and effective only upon such authorization. In areas where FDLCI is not eligible to receive CAF Phase II auction support, the Bureau designated FDLCI as a Lifeline-only ETC. The Bureau also waived, on its own motion, the requirement that FDLCI submit on or before February 25, 2019, proof of its ETC designation in all areas where it is authorized to receive support. The Bureau will release a separate public notice regarding CAF II auction funding authorization.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released an [order](#) on April 29, 2020, waiving on its own motion, until June 30, 2020, the requirement that consumers seeking to demonstrate income-based qualification for the Lifeline program must provide at least three consecutive months of documentation to confirm their income. The Bureau also extended its prior waivers of the Lifeline recertification, reverification, general de-enrollment, and usage requirements until June 30, 2020, and directed USAC to pause any involuntary de-enrollment of existing subscribers until that date. [news release](#)
- The FCC [announced](#) on April 29, 2020, it has approved a fourth set of COVID-19 telehealth program applications in the amount of \$4.2 million for providers in Georgia, Colorado, Washington, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Minnesota, and Michigan.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on May 1, 2020, to announce beginning May 2, 2020, the COVID-19 Telehealth program will no longer accept PDF form applications, and going forward, all applications must be submitted through the online portal, available at <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau sent a [letter](#) to USAC on April 30, 2020, to notify it that the bureau has approved the Schools and Libraries Funding Year 2020 Program Integrity Assurance FCC Form 471 Review Procedures, subject to further modifications and/or instruction from the Commission.

- Sens. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) [announced](#) on April 30, 2020, their plan to introduce a companion [bill](#) to the [Emergency Educational Connections Act of 2020](#), recently introduced by Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), aimed at ensuring all K-12 students have adequate home internet connectivity and devices during the coronavirus pandemic. They said the bill will increase the \$2 billion appropriation in the House bill to \$4 billion.
- One hundred and forty-four members of Congress [sent a letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 28, 2020, to urge FCC coordinate with the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services to ensure the millions of Americans who are now eligible for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or Medicaid, due to job loss or reduction in income, are informed that they are also eligible for the FCC's Lifeline program. Commissioner Starks issued a [statement](#).
- The Navajo Nation filed an [emergency petition](#) on April 27, 2020, seeking a waiver of the E-rate rules to the extent necessary to allow the Navajo Nation to take emergency steps to connect its students and residents to the Internet during the COVID-19 pandemic, including: enhanced community use of existing E-rate-supported broadband through the installation of mobile WiFi towers; installation of mobile WiFi towers in locations that are not served by E-rate-supported facilities; and digital bookmobiles that bring portable library services to the Nation's residents.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on April 29, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a revision to a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Forms 481, 497, 555, 5629, 5630 and 5631, as a result of the November 2019 Lifeline [order](#). The order restored the traditional state and federal roles in designating ETCs and eliminated the Lifeline Broadband Provider category, codified a requirement that enrollment representatives must register with USAC before interacting with USAC's systems, and implemented several process and procedural changes to further bolster program integrity efforts. PRA comments are due May 29, 2020.
- HCA Healthcare filed a [letter](#) on April 27, 2020, to express support for the American Hospital Association's [petition](#) seeking partial reconsideration of the [report and order](#) adopting a \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program.
- The American Dental Association sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 27, 2020, to ask the Commission to extend the COVID-19 Telehealth program to all dental practices, regardless of size, location, or for-profit status.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sent [a letter](#) to Chairman Pai on April 24, 2020, to express support for the American Hospital Association's [petition](#) seeking partial reconsideration of the [report and order](#) adopting a \$200 million COVID-19 telehealth program.
- Funds for Learning filed a [letter](#) on April 24, 2020, on a report it shared with Chairman Pai's advisors and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on the need to connect millions of K-12 students to the Internet from their home and how the E-Rate program can swiftly and securely deliver funding to schools and libraries.
- Infinity Communications and Consulting filed a [letter](#) on April 23, 2020, to express support for proposals filed in comments and replies to its [petition](#) seeking reconsideration of the E-rate Category 2 [report and order](#), and to address USAC's March 23, 2016 [Schools and Libraries news brief](#) discussing schools with only part-time students. Infinity said between the proposals and the solutions USAC outlined it believes that the Commission has satisfactory solutions at its disposal for the three scenarios raised in Infinity's petition.
- Comments were filed on April 29, 2020, 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. [WISPA](#) said the coalition should be authorized to reduce their letters of credit to a value equal to one year of support and the Commission should waive the requirement that

the LOC commitment be included in the Stage 2 application. Comments Filed on Request for Waiver of LOC Rules for PR, USVI Fund. [Viya](#) opposed the request and said if granted it would undermine the integrity of the PR-USVI Fund. [PRTC](#) urged the Commission to proceed with caution as it decides whether and, if so, how much to relax the letter of credit requirements and bank eligibility criteria. The [Puerto Rico Public Service Regulatory Board](#) supported the petition. Replies are due May 13, 2020. [public notice](#) | [all comments available](#)

- No replies were filed on two petitions seeking study area waivers filed by West River Telecommunications Cooperative. [public notice](#)

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Misc.

- Ronan Telephone filed [reply comments](#) on April 24, 2020, 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. Ronan supported the application and said it is interested in providing Siyeh with wholesale services and other advanced services if the application is approved. [public notice](#)
- The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on May 1, 2020, extending the timeframe for determining whether to issue final designations of Huawei and ZTE as covered companies, which would have the effect of prohibiting the use of USF support to procure or otherwise support equipment or services produced or provided by those two companies. The deadline is June 30, 2020.
- The Rural Wireless Association [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on April 24, 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.
- China Telecom filed a [motion](#) on April 27, 2020, seeking a 60-day extension of time to respond to the Commission's [order to show cause](#) that directed it 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.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- 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 18 - Oppositions due to petitions for reconsideration of the RDOF [report and order](#) filed by the [Vermont Department of Public Service](#), the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#), and [Premier Communications](#) are due. Replies are due May 26, 2020. [public notice | FR](#)
- 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 26 - Replies due to oppositions to petitions for reconsideration of the RDOF [report and order](#) filed by the [Vermont Department of Public Service](#), the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#), and [Premier Communications](#). [public notice | FR](#)
- 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.
- May 29 - PRA comments due on a new information collection associated with the [report and order](#) that created a comprehensive database to enable callers to verify whether a telephone number has been disconnected before calling that number. [notice](#)
- May 29 - PRA comments due on a revision to a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Forms 481, 497, 555, 5629, 5630 and 5631, as a result of the November 2019 Lifeline [order](#). [notice](#)
- 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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