

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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May 26, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Comments [are due](#) July 6, 2020, on the [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges. Replies are due August 4, 2020.
- The FCC [will consider](#) four items at its June 9, 2020 Open Meeting, including a [public notice](#) that would establish procedures for the Phase I of the RDOF. The FCC also issued a [news release](#) on the RDOF procedures and included a draft timetable for availability of materials and deadlines for the auction
- Comments [are due](#) June 25, 2020, on the [NPRM](#) seeking comment to establish the 5G fund for rural America. Replies are due July 27, 2020.
- [Oppositions and comments](#) were filed on petitions for reconsideration by [Vermont DPS](#), the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#) and [Premier Communications](#) of the RDOF [order](#). Replies are due May 26, 2020.
- NTTA [agreed with NTCA](#) about the impacts of a resurgent budget control mechanism on RLECs receiving cost-based CAF-BLS and/or High Cost Loop Support.
- The FCC [approved](#) NECA's December 2019 [proposed revisions](#) to formulas used for average schedule interstate settlement disbursements, for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2020.
- The House Communications Subcommittee held a [teleconference](#) forum with [Chairman Pai](#) on consumer protection, broadband and spectrum issues related to the pandemic.
- The House passed [legislation](#) proposing over \$3 trillion in aid in response to the pandemic, including \$1.5 billion to close the homework gap, and \$4 billion for home connectivity needs. [summary of bill](#)
- The FCC and FTC [demanded](#) certain providers stop allowing COVID-19 robocall traffic into the U.S.
- Comments [are due](#) on June 19, 2020, on the [NPRM](#) on proposals to protect consumers from one ring scams. Replies are due July 6, 2020.
- [Comments were filed](#) on the [FNPRM](#) on additional measures to combat illegal spoofing. Replies are due May 29, 2020.
- The Senate Commerce Committee [approved](#) the nomination of John Chase Johnson to be inspector general of the FCC.
- [Comments were filed](#) on the [applicability](#) of section 4 of the Secure Networks Act to the FCC's supply chain rulemaking. Replies are due June 4, 2020. WTA, NTCA, et al. [asked](#) congressional leaders to include in any upcoming legislation full funding for the [Secure Networks Act](#). [press release](#)
- [Replies](#) were filed on [refreshing the record](#) in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- May 28 - Replies due on the state of competition in the communications marketplace. [public notice](#)

USF Reform

- The FCC issued a [news release](#) on May 18, 2020, announcing the FCC will consider final procedures for the \$16 billion Phase I Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction at the June 9, 2020 Open Meeting. The FCC also included a draft timetable for availability of materials and deadlines for the auction.
- Oppositions and comments were filed on May 18, 2020, on petitions for reconsideration by [Vermont DPS](#), the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#), and [Premier Communications](#) of the RDOF [report and order](#). [WISPA](#) asserted the Commission should reject the Vermont DPS' arguments that would allocate RDOF Phase I support to areas where states have also allocated broadband deployment support for 25/3 Mbps or better broadband service. WISPA also opposed the Illinois Broadband Office's suggestion on eliminating the 25/3 Mbps performance tier. [Hughes Network Systems](#) opposed the [Illinois Office of Broadband](#)'s request that the FCC eliminate the 25/3 Mbps bidding tier in the RDOF auction. [ACAM Business Coalition](#) agreed with Premier that the FCC has not settled the issue of what areas will be included in Phase II of the RDOF auction. [all oppositions and comments available](#). Replies are due May 26, 2020. [public notice](#) | [FR](#)
- The [NPRM](#) seeking comment to establish the 5G fund for rural America was published in the [Federal Register](#) on May 26, 2020. The Commission seeks comment on establishing the 5G Fund for Rural America, including two proposed options for the fund: identifying those areas that would be eligible for support based primarily on the degree of rurality of each area, and then prioritizing support in areas that have historically lacked 3G and 4G LTE services, or wait to identify eligible support areas until the Commission develops improved mobile coverage data through the Digital Opportunity Data Collection proceeding. Comments are due June 25, 2020; replies are due July 27, 2020.
- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, the Office of Economics and Analytics, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on May 18, 2020, releasing carrier-specific 4G LTE coverage maps derived from data submitted pursuant to the Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process Order. They said because AT&T objected to the release of its coverage maps, they did not release AT&T's maps at this time. They also released a version of the Mobility Fund Phase II investigation staff report with unredacted maps.
- The National Tribal Telecommunications Association filed a [letter](#) on May 21, 2020, to support for NTCA's [letter](#) that expressed concern about the impacts of a resurgent budget control mechanism on RLECs receiving cost-based CAF-BLS and/or High Cost Loop Support. NTTA agreed with NTCA's concerns that applying a new budget control mechanism factor, to be effective July 1, 2020, will serve to frustrate small rural carriers' ability to function during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Smith Bagley Inc. filed a [letter](#) on May 15, 2020, to respond to Frontier's challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the RDOF Phase I auction. SBI urged the Commission to either investigate Frontier's claims or reject them outright.
- Northeast Rural Services filed a [letter](#) on May 15, 2020, responding to Junction Internet's challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the RDOF Phase I auction. NRS asserted the claims made by Junction Internet in its challenge should be fully investigated by the Commission.
- SEMO Electric Cooperative, et al. filed a [letter](#) on May 18, 2020, to reply to BPS Networks' challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible in the RDOF Phase I auction. SEMO, et al. asserted BPS deliberately misrepresented the broadband and voice services it offers in an attempt to keep approximately \$100 million of RDOF Phase I subsidies away from its competitors.
- Zirkel Wireless filed a [letter](#) on May 19, 2020, to respond to Yampa Valley Electric Association's [letter](#) on Zirkel's challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible in the RDOF Phase I auction. Zirkel asserted the evidence in its challenge and the additional information it is submitting outweigh the allegations and misstatements in Yampa Valley's filings.

- Charter Communications filed a [letter](#) on May 18, 2020, to supplement its [challenge](#) to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. Charter provided details about census blocks in which it recently received Broadband Infrastructure Grants from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.
- WISPA [spoke with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks on May 13, 2020, regarding the proposed auction procedures for Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. WISPA urged the Commission to permit applicants proposing to use fixed wireless technology to be eligible to bid in the Gigabit performance tier. It also reiterated support for using census block groups as the minimum geographic bidding unit for the auction.
- Viasat filed a [letter](#) on May 20, 2020, attaching a paper it emailed to Office of Engineering and Technology staff on a Software Defined-Wide Area Network (SD-WAN) approach for the RDOF auction. Viasat asserted this approach satisfies the FCC’s requirements for the low-latency tier, and that includes one or more terrestrial components, as well as a geostationary and/or low-earth orbit satellite component. Viasat [spoke with](#) Office of Economics and Analytics and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on May 19, 2020, to discuss the [paper](#).
- Juniper Networks filed a [letter](#) on May 20, 2020, on the [NPRM and order](#) proposing to establish the 5G Fund for rural America. It asserted the proposed 35/3 Mbps is not sufficient for support recipients, and recommended speeds ranging from a minimum of 50/5 Mbps to 1 Gbps depending on the typical use case as a way to future proof the program. It also recommended the Commission consider the needs and abilities of rural cooperatives and their customers when establishing the parameters of the 5G fund.
- Fond du Lac Communications filed a [request for waiver](#) on May 20, 2020, of the filing deadline for its letter of credit and bankruptcy code opinion letter in connection with the CAF Phase II auction. FDLC asserted the public interest would be served by a grant of the waiver because it would further the Commission’s CAF Phase II objective of closing the digital divide for all Americans, including those residing on Tribal reservations.

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ICC

- The FCC placed an order on reconsideration [on circulation](#) on May 20, 2020, entitled “Updating the Intercarrier Compensation Regime to Eliminate Access Arbitrage.”
- NTCA and Vantage Point Solutions [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on May 14, 2020, regarding 8YY access reform. They discussed interconnection and network edge issues arising out of the potential transition of any transport rate elements to bill-and-keep in connection with 8YY access charge reform. They asserted the infliction of increased costs on RLECs as larger entities leverage reform of transport rate elements to remake existing interconnection arrangements is of significant concern and must not be overlooked.
- Intrado Communications [spoke with](#) Commissioner Carr’s legal advisor on May 18, 2020, to discuss 8YY access charge reform, provide updates on Intrado’s efforts in response to COVID-19, and call authentication and call-blocking. It said positions addressed in the meeting were consistent with its May 13, 2020 [letter](#). Intrado also spoke with [Commissioner Starks and O’Rielly’s](#) legal advisors to discuss the same issues.
- Wide Voice filed a [letter](#) on May 20, 2020, in support of Inteliquent’s [request](#) for a renewal of the [temporary waiver](#), until September 1, 2020, of the access stimulation definition contained in Part 61. Wide Voice asserted since the Commission has allowed Inteliquent’s traffic ratio to increase to a 33:1, it will be inflicting substantial consumer harm if it does not grant Inteliquent a continued waiver of the Order and the access stimulation regulations. Wide Voice also asserted the Commission should extend this waiver to all conferencing traffic, exempting it from CLEC traffic measurement ratios, as this growth is not isolated to Inteliquent.

- The FCC placed an [item on circulation](#) on May 21, 2020, entitled “Northern Valley Communications, LLC, Tariff F.C.C. No. 3.”

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Broadband

- The House Communications and Technology Subcommittee held a [teleconference](#) forum with Chairman Pai on May 19, 2020, to discuss consumer protection, broadband and spectrum issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pai [discussed](#) the Keep Americans Connected Pledge, in which 774 providers pledged that no consumer or small business would have service cut off or be charged late fees because of disruptions caused by the pandemic. Pai said the networks in the United States are handling the surge in traffic well and networks can handle the increase because of investments and improvements in infrastructure in recent years. He also discussed the COVID-19 telehealth program and consumer protection issues.
- The House passed [H.R. 6800, the Heroes Act](#) on May 15, 2020, which proposes over \$3 trillion in aid in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The bill, among other things, proposes \$1.5 billion to close the homework gap by providing funding for Wi-Fi hotspots and connected devices for students and library patrons, and \$4 billion for emergency home connectivity needs. [summary of bill](#) | [press release](#)
- The [Universal Broadband Act](#), introduced by Reps. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.), Don Young (R-Alaska), T.J. Cox (D-Calif.), et al. has been released. The bill proposes to expand the USF contribution base to include broadband services, rather than solely from telephone services. It also requires the FCC to set the contribution rate as needed to meet universal service goals and serve all Americans, create reporting requirements to ensure the FCC is meeting their build out goals, and prioritize unserved areas, and further ensure tribal areas are served. [press release](#)
- Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) sent [a letter](#) to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and U.S. Small Business Administrator Jovita Caranza on May 15, 2020, to ask them to confirm telecommunications cooperatives organized under 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code are eligible to obtain loans through the Paycheck Protection Program. They said telecom cooperatives provide voice and broadband connectivity which are essential to Americans working from home and relying on distance learning and telehealth services. [press release](#)
- Organizations representing rural and Native communities sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel and Starks on May 15, 2020, to discuss the lack of broadband in these areas. They recommended requiring Lifeline providers to offer unlimited voice, text and data services to subscribers during the pandemic, and for six months after, extending the 2.5 GHz Tribal priority window for tribal access to unclaimed spectrum access, and encouraging ISPs to offer free or subsidized broadband service to tribal governments and other entities on reservations. They also recommended the FCC establish a Tribal broadband fund.
- AT&T [spoke with](#) staff from the Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureaus and Office of Economics and Analysis on May 13, 2020, to present a proposal to implement the [Broadband DATA Act](#) and to improve the quality of mobile wireless availability maps. AT&T urged the Commission to define the service levels to be displayed by each propagation map but not to mandate the parameters or values that a provider must use to create those maps. AT&T also proposed the Commission require providers to create two maps showing the combined availability of voice and broadband service at two service levels.
- The Competitive Carriers Association [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on May 13, 2020, to offer recommendations for the collection of mobile wireless data. It also suggested the FCC adopt an

FNRPM on issues that currently lack consensus, including how to adopt an efficient challenge process, the relationship between mobile and fixed wireless, and how to account for mobile deployments that are not 4G LTE, including both 3G and 5G networks.

- CTIA, AT&T, T-Mobile, US Cellular, and Verizon [spoke with](#) staff from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics on May 14, 2020, on the collection of mobile wireless broadband deployment data. They expressed support for adoption of the specifications in the Broadband DATA Act regarding propagation maps for 4G LTE reflecting not less than 5/1 Mbps at the cell edge with 90% probability and 50% cell loading factor, and encouraged the Commission to seek input to provide further guidance on implementation of these parameters.
- American Tower Corporation filed a [letter](#) on May 19, 2020, on the [draft item](#) addressing petitions of the [WIA](#) and [CTIA](#) that seek to clarify certain laws surrounding the siting of macro wireless facilities. American Tower asserted these clarifications, along with the Commission's ongoing initiatives, will likely help remove barriers to infrastructure deployment and speed delivery of advanced wireless communications services across the country.

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Robocalls

- The FCC and FTC sent letters to [RSCOM, LTD](#), [Intelepeer Cloud Communications](#), and [PTGi International Carrier Services](#) alleging they are allowing COVID-19 robocalls into the U.S., and demanded they cut off this traffic or face consequences. The FCC and FTC said the providers have 48 hours to comply or domestic providers will begin blocking all calls from them. They also sent a [letter](#) to USTelecom to ask its members to begin blocking calls from these providers if the robocalls do not stop within 48 hours. [news release](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on May 22, 2020, announcing the comment due dates on the [NPRM](#) on proposals for implementing the TRACED Act's requirements to further protect consumers from one ring scams. The NPRM was published in the [Federal Register](#) on May 20, 2020. Comments are due June 19, 2020; replies are due July 6, 2020.
- In addition to comments listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, comments were filed on May 15, 2020, on the [FNPRM](#) on additional measures to combat illegal spoofing, including further implementation of the TRACED Act. [WTA](#) suggested the Commission set rules that preserve existing meet points for interconnection and protect RLECs from having to interconnect at distant locations. WTA also claimed extending the implementation period for RLECs to implement STIR/SHAKEN on the IP portions of their network will allow additional time for them to choose and test vendor solutions. [USTelecom](#) asserted the Commission must implement a robocall mitigation program in which every voice service provider certifies for all traffic not signed with STIR/SHAKEN, it has an appropriate robocall mitigation program in place that is designed to prevent the origination of illegal calls, identify if its network is being used to generate such illegal calls, and mitigate such activity once detected. [Verizon](#) asserted the Commission should impose obligations on all entities carrying voice and avoid imposing overly-prescriptive requirements that constrain service providers' implementation flexibility. Replies are due May 29, 2020. [all comments available](#)
- Brightlink filed a [letter](#) on May 15, 2020, regarding obstacles to STIR/SHAKEN deployment. Brightlink said although its network is 100% IP, it must exchange calls with multiple TDM interconnects to the PSTN, for which IP is not an option. Brightlink suggested an out-of-band SHAKEN remedy, which allows identity tokens to be exchanged across the internet directly between originating and terminating service providers.

Open Internet

- Reply comments were filed on May 20, 2020, on refreshing the record in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings. The Bureau seeks comment on how changes adopted in the RIF [order](#) might affect: public safety; the regulation of pole attachments in states subject to federal regulation; and the Lifeline program. [USTelecom](#) asserted the issues remanded by the court do not justify abandoning the Commission's decision to return to Title I classification and said the benefits of the regulatory framework established by the RIF order vastly outweigh any potential costs. [AT&T](#) asserted Title II regulation would subvert, rather than promote, public safety communications, and Lifeline and pole attachment issues provide no basis for Title II regulation. AT&T recommended the Commission reaffirm the classification of broadband internet access as a Title I information service. [Verizon](#) asserted the light-touch regulatory regime benefits innovation, investment, and the broadband ecosystem as a whole and there is no need for the Commission to revisit its decision to restore the information service classification for broadband. [NCTA](#) asserted comments in this proceeding show support for the Commission to conclude the RIF order is fully warranted from the perspective of public safety, pole access, and the Lifeline program. [INCOMPAS](#) suggested the Commission reconsider the RIF order, including its repeal of net neutrality protections and its oversight of interconnection policy. [WISPA](#) said the Commission should use its statutory authority to extend the benefits of the RIF order to better promote competition and broadband deployment in underserved areas. [public notice](#) | [order](#) | [all replies available](#)
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. Kamala D. Harris (D-Calif.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) on May 7, 2020, to respond to their letter that asked the FCC to reconsider its [denial](#) of a [request](#) for a further 60 day extension of time to file comments in the proceeding seeking to [refresh the record](#) in the Restoring Internet Freedom and Lifeline proceedings. Pai said the parties did not timely file the request and noted parties were provided over two months to file comments, and reply comments are due May 20, 2020.

Other Universal Service Programs

- The FCC [announced](#) on May 21, 2020, it will partner with the Institute of Museum and Library Services to promote the use of \$50 million in funding from the CARES Act to help address the digital divide during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The FCC said they will team up to raise awareness of these funds among libraries and tribal organizations so they can be used to increase broadband access in their communities.
- The FCC [announced](#) on May 20, 2020, it approved a seventh set of COVID-19 telehealth program applications in the amount of \$16.87 million for providers in North Carolina, Florida, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Alabama, the District of Columbia, Colorado, Louisiana, Iowa, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Oregon, West Virginia, Texas, California, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Indiana.
- The [public notice](#) announcing the filing of petitions for reconsideration of the COVID-19 telehealth [report and order](#) was published in the [Federal Register](#) on May 22, 2020. Petitions were filed by the [American Hospital Association](#) and the [American Dental Association](#). Oppositions are due June 8, 2020; replies are due June 16, 20
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on May 22, 2020, to clarify the new certification requirement regarding third party sales commissions, adopted in the RHC promoting telehealth [report and order](#), applies only to invoices for services competitively bid for funding year 2020 and future funding years.
- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.) on May 14, 2020, to respond to her letter which urged the Commission to take steps to ensure all Americans eligible for the Lifeline program due to the COVID-19 pandemic have access to the support they need. Pai also [sent letters](#) to Sens.

Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Edward Markey (D-Mass.), Michael F. Bennet (D-Colo.), and Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) on May 11, 2020, to respond to their letter which urged the Commission to take whatever steps are necessary to avoid Lifeline subscribers being cut off from the program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pai said the Commission has waived a number of Lifeline rules to help subscribers stay connected and both the FCC and USAC have increased efforts on program outreach.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on May 22, 2020, to announce the launch of the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier for all new enrollments in Puerto Rico. Beginning June 23, 2020, ETCs in Puerto Rico will be required to use the national verifier's eligibility determination process for all consumers applying for Lifeline service and must cease using legacy eligibility processes for prospective Lifeline subscribers.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on May 20, 2020, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a new information collection (Form 5634) for the Stage 2 competitive proposal process of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund. PRA comments are due June 19, 2020.
- Replies were filed on May 20, 2020, 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. [NTTA](#) supported the petitions and asserted SiyCom has demonstrated that it is ready, willing, and able to take on the role and responsibility of the ETC serving Browning, Montana and the Blackfeet Reservation. [Ronan Telephone](#) said as a provider in the region, it is interested in supporting the area by providing wholesale services including switching for voice services, connectivity to the Internet, transport, and other advanced services as needed by SiyCom. [public notice](#)
- [CTIA](#) filed comments on May 18, 2020, 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. [CTIA](#) expressed support for the Commission's proposal to modify the instructions to Form 499 consistent with the [wireless messaging declaratory ruling](#), which classified text messaging as an information service. [public notice](#)

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Misc.

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on May 19, 2020, for its June 9, 2020 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider: a [public notice](#) that would establish procedures for the Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund; an [NPRM and order](#) that would explore new uses of the 70/80/90 GHz bands, including potential rule changes to allow for the provision of wireless backhaul for 5G and the deployment of broadband services to aircraft and ships; a [declaratory ruling and NPRM](#) that would clarify and seek comment on changes to the FCC's rules implementing section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act of 2012 in order to accelerate the deployment of communications infrastructure by facilitating the upgrade of existing sites for 5G networks; a [declaratory ruling](#) that would remove regulatory uncertainty concerning use of Broadcast Internet services provided by broadcast TV licensees as an ancillary and supplementary service, and a NPRM on modifying and clarifying existing rules to promote the deployment of Broadcast Internet services as part of the transition to ATSC 3.0; and an enforcement action. Chairman Pai wrote a [blog post](#) on items the FCC will consider at its June 9, 2020 Open Meeting. Commissioner Carr issued an [announcement](#) on the draft 5G upgrade order.
- The [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges was published in the [Federal Register](#) on May 21, 2020. The FCC proposes to eliminate ex ante pricing regulation and require detariffing of various end-user charges associated with interstate access service, and prohibits carriers from separately listing these charges on customers' telephone bills. Comments are due July 6, 2020; reply comments are due August 4, 2020. The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on May 21, 2020, announcing the comment due dates on the [NPRM](#).

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on May 21, 2020, approving NECA's December 2019 [proposed revisions](#) to formulas used for average schedule interstate settlement disbursements, for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2020.
- The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation [approved](#) the nomination of John Chase Johnson, to be Inspector General of the FCC on May 20, 2020.
- Comments were filed on May 20, 2020, on the applicability of section 4 of the Secure Networks Act to the Commission's rulemaking on protecting against national security threats to the communications supply. [WTA](#) asserted the Secure Networks Act directs Congress to have the FCC separate USF from the reimbursement program, and as a result, USF cannot be used to fund the program. WTA also opposed a 12-24 months transition timeline and recommended the Commission grant multiple individual extensions to make the transition from covered equipment more efficient, affordable, and less disruptive. [USTelecom](#) asserted the public notice does not seek comment upon the mismatch between the definitions between covered equipment and services in the Secure Networks Act and the Commission's own rulemaking. USTelecom asserted the Commission should clearly define the prohibited equipment subject to the Secure Network Act's rip and replace program before it adopts reimbursement procedures and certification. [CompTIA](#) asserted the Commission should create a list of categories of replacements, rather than a suggested list of replacements, and that the categories should be broad and technology-neutral. [Juniper Networks](#) recommended the Commission's list of suggested replacement technology refer to industry standards, best practices, and protocols, and that the Commission update the list on a biennial basis. Replies are due June 4, 2020. [public notice](#) | [FR](#) | [all comments available](#)
- WTA, NTCA, et al. sent a [letter](#) to Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and Sens. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) on May 21, 2020, asking them to include in any upcoming legislation, full funding for the [Secure Networks Act](#). They said funding for this act is critical to ensuring continued connectivity, consumer well-being, and addressing national security concerns identified by the government. [press release](#)
- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on May 21, 2020, announcing Chairman Pai appointed additional members to serve on the North American Numbering Council and its working groups: Numbering Administration Oversight, Interoperable Video Calling, Nationwide Number Portability, Toll Free Number Assignment Modernization, and Call Authentication Trust Anchor. The designated members are listed in appendix A.
- The International Bureau sent a [letter](#) to China Unicom on May 19, 2020, granting in part its [request](#) for an extension of time to respond to the [order to show cause](#) 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. The Bureau granted an extension to respond until June 1, 2020.
- The International Bureau sent a [letter](#) to Pacific Networks and ComNet on May 20, 2020, granting their [motion](#) for an extension of time to respond to the [order to show cause](#) 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. The bureau granted an extension to respond until June 1, 2020.
- Comments are due May 26, 2020, on an application filed by William Douglas DeVore and BHT Investments, requesting consent to transfer control of Bush-Tell from Mr. DeVore to BHTI. Reply comments are due June 2, 2020. [public notice](#)
- The Government Accountability Office [released](#) a [report](#) on May 18, 2020, examining the public comment process at ten federal agencies, including the FCC. The report said the FCC solicited feedback from public users as part of the ECFS replacement process, and while user groups said generally ECFS is easy to use, it can be difficult to navigate as the search function does not provide relevant or targeted results. The report also said the FCC is working to replace ECFS with a new system.

- Allstream Business filed a [letter](#) on May 18, 2020, attaching a declaration as a follow up to its March 20, 2020 [declaration](#) that was filed in response to the [NPRM](#) on updating the FCC's unbundling and resale rules. Allstream claimed CenturyLink has announced BDS rate increases and said this new declaration details the latest increases and their impact.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- 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 - Replies due on an application filed by William Douglas DeVore and BHT Investments, requesting consent to transfer control of Bush-Tell from Mr. DeVore to BHTI. [public 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 4 - Replies due on the applicability of section 4 of the Secure Networks Act to the Commission's rulemaking on protecting against national security threats to the communications supply chain. [public notice FR](#)
- 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](#)
- June 8 - Oppositions due to petitions for reconsideration of the COVID-19 telehealth [report and order](#) filed by the [American Hospital Association](#) and the [American Dental Association](#). Replies are due June 16, 2020. [public notice](#) | [Federal Register](#)
- June 12 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to collect \$339,000,000 in regulatory fees for FY 2020. Reply comments are due June 29, 2020.
- June 12 - Comments due on the establishment of a matching computer program the FCC and USAC will conduct with agencies from Nevada to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of the Lifeline program. [notice](#)

- June 12 - 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. [notice](#)
- June 12 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with high-cost universal service support filed on FCC Form 481. [notice](#)
- June 16 - Replies due to oppositions due to petitions for reconsideration of the COVID-19 telehealth [report and order](#) filed by the [American Hospital Association](#) and the [American Dental Association](#). [public notice](#) | [Federal Register](#)
- June 19 - PRA comments due on a new information collection (Form 5634) for the Stage 2 competitive proposal process of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund. [notice](#)
- June 19 – Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on implementing the TRACED Act's requirements to further protect consumers from one-ring scams was published in the on May 20, 2020. Replies are due July 6, 2020. [FR](#)
- June 25 – Comments due on the [NPRM](#) seeking comment to establish the 5G fund for rural America. Replies are due July 27, 2020. [FR](#)
- June 29 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to collect \$339,000,000 in regulatory fees for FY 2020.
- July 6 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on implementing the TRACED Act's requirements to further protect consumers from one-ring scams was published in the on May 20, 2020. [FR](#)
- July 6 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges. Reply comments are due August 4, 2020. [FR](#)
- July 13 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the 2017 [business data services order](#). [notice](#)
- July 27 – Replies due on the [NPRM](#) seeking comment to establish the 5G fund for rural America. [FR](#)
- Aug. 4 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges. [Federal Register](#)

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