

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

May 29, 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- [Comments were filed](#) on the NPRM portion of the March 23, 2018, [Report and Order, Third Order on Reconsideration, and NPRM](#) on high-cost USF rate-of-return reform. Replies due June 25, 2018. [FR](#)
- The [Order on Reconsideration](#) on the procedures to be used in the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process [is effective](#) June 21, 2018. The Order increased the maximum distance between speed test measurements to 800 meters and the associated buffer radius to 400 meters. The FCC also released a [Public Notice](#) announcing release of an updated version of the map of areas presumptively eligible for Mobility Fund Phase II support, and [announced](#) its intent to publicly release a list of the handsets designated by each mobile wireless provider in the MF II challenge process. The FCC also [granted](#) Sen. Joe Manchin III a waiver to participate as a challenger in the MF II challenge process.
- GVNW, Home Telephone, et al. [discussed](#) the proposal to change the current competitive overlap rules in the [NPRM](#) on high-cost universal service support for rate-of-return companies. They asserted there is no need to alter the 100 percent overlap process, and asserted the FCC's concerns about the current process for determining competitive overlap can be easily addressed.
- Mescalero Apache Telecom [expressed concern](#) with the condition in the [Report and Order](#) that limits relief from the FCC's operations expense limitation rule to those carriers who have not deployed broadband service to 90 percent or more of housing units served.
- NTCA [discussed](#) the two [draft NPRMs](#) on intercarrier compensation arbitration. NTCA urged the FCC to retain a disciplined focus on arbitration issues, and to decline to venture into broader sweeping debates. NTCA also urged the FCC to act on its forbearance [petition](#) on transmission contributions and the pending NPRM on the continued imposition of a local rate floor. Frontier also [discussed](#) its concerns with the draft [FNPRM](#) on 8YY access charge reform.
- CenturyLink filed a [letter](#) detailing its direct interconnection proposal.
- The FCC [announced](#) establishment of a portal for ISP transparency disclosures.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [Order](#) approving the average schedule formulas filed by NECA on [December 21, 2017](#), and revised on [February 26, 2018](#).
- ITTA and USTelecom [discussed](#) the [NPRM](#) to allow model-based rate-of-return carriers to elect incentive regulation for their lower-speed business data services offerings.
- The FCC released a [Report and Order and NPRM](#) addressing regulatory fee issues raised in the 2017 [FNPRM](#) and seeks comment on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2018. Comments are due June 21, 2018; replies are due July 6, 2018.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- June 4 - Comments due on the [Third FNPRM](#) on rural call completion. Replies are due June 19, 2018.
- June 7 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on robocalls. Replies are due July 9, 2018. [FR](#)
- June 25 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on high-cost rate-of-return USF reform.

USF Reform

- Comments were filed on May 25, 2018, on the [NPRM](#) on revising the high-cost budget for RoR carriers, extending a new offer of model-based support, fully funding carriers that have already accepted A-CAM support, and changes to the budget control mechanism, among other things. [WTA](#) proposed a RoR high-cost support budget totaling \$2.426 billion for 2018 and for gradual annual increases that ultimately reaches a \$2.975 billion in 2026. WTA also supported a second ACAM glide path offer, in which support is offered at the same \$200 per location funding cap provided to existing ACAM glide path recipients, and that otherwise qualified RLECs that were ineligible for the initial 2016 ACAM glide path offer be allowed to participate. [NTCA](#) said, among other things, the FCC should establish a high-cost USF budget that reflects reasonable expectations as to demands over time based upon the approved design of the components of the USF programs, and is sized sufficiently to ensure “reasonable comparability” in terms of services and pricing. [USTelecom](#) supported fully-funding the current rate of return mechanisms as well as making an additional A-CAM offer and other measures that provide stability and predictability as well as stimulate broadband deployment in rural areas. USTelecom also supported the Commission’s proposal to adopt an inflation factor adjustment which will increase the budget from \$1.23 billion to \$1.35 billion, however, it said such an adjustment will not be enough to keep up with the increased costs associated with building a network in unserved and underserved portions of a service territory in rural America. [All comments available to date](#). Reply comments are due June 25, 2018.
- The FCC [published](#) in the Federal Register on May 22, 2018, the [Order on Reconsideration](#) issued on April 30, 2018, on the procedures to be used in the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process. The Order increased the maximum distance between speed test measurements to 800 meters (approximately one-half of one mile) and the associated buffer radius to 400 meters (approximately one quarter of one mile). The Order is effective June 21, 2018.
- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, together with the Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus released a [Public Notice](#) on May 22, 2018, announcing release of an updated version of the map of areas presumptively eligible for Mobility Fund Phase II support. The updated map is available on the [Commission’s website](#). This version of the map also shows an update to the areas presumptively ineligible for MF-II support due to qualifying, unsubsidized coverage reported by a single mobile provider and reflects adjustments to underlying coverage and subsidy data, resulting in an increase in area presumptively eligible for support in the MF-II auction.
- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, in conjunction with the Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus issued a [Public Notice](#) on May 25, 2018, announcing its intent to publicly release a list of the handsets designated by each mobile wireless provider in the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process for challengers to use when conducting speed tests in areas deemed presumptively ineligible for MF-II support. The Task Force said the information is currently only available through USAC’s challenge portal and said making this information public would cause no competitive harm to the providers. The Task Force said it will release a list of the selected handsets by provider on June 5, 2018, for each provider from which it has not received a confidentiality request.
- The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issued an [Order](#) on May 25, 2018, granting U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III a waiver to participate as a challenger in the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process, subject to certain conditions. The Bureau instructed USAC to grant the users identified in Sen. Manchin’s [Petition for Waiver](#) access to the challenge process portal.
- U.S. Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), and Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), [introduced](#) S. 2955, [the “Mobile Accuracy and Precision Broadband Act”](#) on May 24, 2018. The bill seeks to improve the accuracy of the FCC mobile broadband coverage map and ensure that federal resources are targeted to unserved communities that do not have access to reliable mobile broadband service. The legislation would require the FCC to: extend the challenge process window by 90 days to ensure that challengers with limited resources and personnel have enough time to challenge the map; and

disclose the eligible handsets that each mobile wireless service provider has approved for challengers to use in the challenge process, among other things.

- GVNW, Home Telephone, Madison Telephone, Harrisonville Telephone, Egyptian Telephone Cooperative Association, and Alhambra-Grantfork Telephone [spoke with](#) the Chiefs of Staff to Commissioners Rosenworcel and Carr on May 17, 2018, to discuss the proposal to change the current competitive overlap rules in the March 23, 2018, [NPRM](#) on high-cost universal service support for rate-of-return companies. They asserted there is no need to fundamentally alter the 100 percent overlap process, and said the FCC's concerns as expressed in the NPRM about the current process for determining 100 percent competitive overlap can be easily addressed. They also claimed the suggested auction mechanism is contrary to the FCC's own policy with respect to high-cost universal service support to competitive areas.
- Mescalero Apache Telecom [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on May 21, 2018, to express concern with the condition in the April 5, 2018, [Report and Order](#) that limits relief from the FCC's operations expense limitation rule to those carriers who have not deployed broadband service to 90 percent or more of housing units served. MATI claimed this condition unnecessarily harms MATI and its customers, all of whom reside on Tribal land. MATI asserted this condition was adopted without sufficient explanation as to why it is necessary, without record support for such a condition, and with no notice that the Commission was contemplating such an action.
- GCI filed a [Reply](#) on May 23, 2018, in support of its [challenge](#) to ACS's proposed CAF Phase II locations in partially-served census blocks. GCI asserted the Commission should conclude that the locations identified by GCI as already served are not eligible for ACS to deploy to in fulfillment of its [ACS CAF II Order](#) obligations. GCI also said ACS should not be permitted to identify additional locations in partially served census blocks at this stage, with no opportunity for other providers to review the locations to determine whether they are in fact unserved.

[Back to Highlights](#)

ICC

- NTCA [met separately with](#) Legal Advisors to Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr on May 21, 2018, to discuss the two [draft NPRMs](#) on intercarrier compensation arbitration, which will be considered at the FCC's June 7, 2018 Open Meeting. NTCA urged the Commission to retain a disciplined focus on arbitration issues, and to decline to venture into broader sweeping debates regarding network edges and "end states" for compensation. NTCA asserted such matters should instead be addressed through separate further notices more properly designed and developed to initiate substantive debate and to analyze the implications of any such wide-ranging proposals. NTCA also urged the Commission to take action on its forbearance [petition](#) on transmission contributions and to act on the pending NPRM on the continued imposition of a local rate floor.
- Frontier [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on May 22, 2018, to discuss its concerns with the draft [FNPRM](#) 8YY access charge reform, which will be considered at the FCC's June 7, 2018 Open Meeting. Frontier claimed the Commission proposes a drastic overhaul of the toll-free calling system instead of a narrowly tailored proposal to reduce arbitrage. Frontier explained it is likely a small number of bad actors that are the cause of any arbitrage problems and said there are several proposals that could curb abusive practices in the interim while the Commission contemplates reform. Frontier said if, however, the Commission pursues more comprehensive 8YY reform, a sufficient transition period and an access recovery mechanism are necessary and should be contemplated not only for originating end office and tandem switching and transport charges, but also for database query charges.
- CenturyLink filed a [letter](#) on May 21, 2018, detailing its direct interconnection proposal. CenturyLink proposes the Commission to establish a rule providing that carriers have the duty to permit requesting carriers to directly interconnect their networks for the termination of access traffic; or if the carrier receiving a request for direct interconnection for the termination of access traffic nevertheless prefers

to receive such traffic through indirect interconnection, to bear financial responsibility for the costs of receiving traffic from the point of direct interconnection they prefer. CenturyLink claimed adoption of this proposal will improve efficiency, eliminate incentives for wasteful arbitrage, and enhance competition by aligning Commission policy with sound economic principles.

- CenturyLink [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Commissioners O’Rielly, Rosenworcel, and Commissioner Carr’s Chief of Staff on May 22 and 24, 2018, to discuss its direct interconnection [proposal](#) filed on May 21, 2018. CenturyLink asserted its proposed rule would align the responsibility for determining how terminating access traffic should be routed with the financial responsibility for that decision. CenturyLink claimed this will encourage efficient network deployment and investment decisions, reduce incentives to engage in regulatory arbitrage, enhance competition and market efficiency, and reduce disputes. CenturyLink also claimed the FCC has ample authority to adopt the proposed rule under sections 251(a) and 251(b).
- Aureon Network Services filed a [letter](#) on May 25, 2018, in the proceeding [investigating](#) the lawfulness of its tariff revisions filed on February 22, 2018. Aureon filed confidential information regarding its centralized equal access tandem and its points of interconnection, in response to a request from the FCC’s Pricing Policy Division.
- To date, no comments were filed on SDN’s [Petition for Waiver](#) and Minnesota Independent Equal Access Corporation’s [Petition for Expedited Temporary Waiver](#) of section 69.3(f)(1), which requires them to submit their biennial access tariff filings with an effective date of July 1, 2018. [Public Notice](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

Open Internet

- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on May 21, 2018, to announce, as required by the Restoring Internet Freedom [Order](#), establishment of a portal for ISP transparency disclosures. ISPs choosing to submit their required disclosures to the FCC should do so electronically through <http://www.fcc.gov/isp-disclosures>. The portal will be available May 29, 2018 for both ISPs and consumers searching for any disclosures submitted to the FCC.
- Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Pat Toomey (R-Penn.) sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on May 21, 2018, to urge the Commission to identify and address fraudulent comments filed in the Restoring Internet Freedom proceeding. [press release](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

Call Completion

- The FCC published a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on May 22, 2018, seeking PRA comments on a revision of currently approved information collections associated with rural call completion. The FCC said the information is to determine whether long distance providers are complying with their sections 201 and 202 obligations to provide telephone service to both rural and nonrural customers on a just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory basis. PRA comments are due July 23, 2018.

Broadband

- The Senate Committee on Appropriations [approved](#) the [FY2019 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill](#) on May 24, 2018, which provides \$145.1 billion in funding to support federal agriculture, conservation, and nutrition programs. The legislation provides \$425 million for the rural broadband loan and grant pilot program, among other things.

- The FCC issued a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on May 22, 2018, making a correction to the description of the Part 51 rules in the May 14, 2018 [Notice](#) that announced the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for a period of three years, the information collection associated with certain Part 51 rules contained in the November 29, 2017 [Report and Order](#). The FCC stated the May 14, 2018 Notice incorrectly referred to the Commission's discontinuance rules rather than its network change disclosure rules. The correction is effective May 22, 2018.
- USTelecom, Verizon, AT&T, CenturyLink, Economists Incorporated, and CMA Strategy Consulting [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on May 17, 2018, to discuss USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs. They asserted USTelecom's Petition meets the "complete-as-filed" standard, contrary to claims by certain parties. USTelecom assured FCC staff of its willingness to submit additional confidential and proprietary data, explanations of its data analyses, and other supporting evidence into the record. USTelecom also said it will not oppose any of the motions seeking an extension of time to file comments and replies in the docket.
- USTelecom filed an [Opposition](#) on May 21, 2018, to INCOMPAS' [Motion to Dismiss](#) USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations placed on ILECs. USTelecom claimed INCOMPAS's assertion that the Petition is not complete-as-filed is based on a misreading of the scope and purpose of the relevant rule. USTelecom asserted although the Petition is complete-as-filed, USTelecom will file the confidential information at issue as soon as the Commission issues an appropriate protective order and will not oppose giving INCOMPAS and others ample time to consider that material. USTelecom also attached a description of the UNE data noted in its economic analysis, an explanation of how the data were analyzed to develop allocation and averages by UNE type, and an explanation of how commercial wholesale prices used in the analyses were developed.
- INCOMPAS filed a [Reply](#) on May 22, 2018, to USTelecom's [Opposition](#) to INCOMPAS' [Motion to Dismiss](#) USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations placed on ILECs. INCOMPAS said the FCC should dismiss USTelecom's Petition for Forbearance for violation of the complete-as-filed rule. INCOMPAS said, alternatively, it should grant an extension of at least 60 days after protective orders are in place, data is filed, and interested parties have been allowed a sufficient time to complete the protective order clearance process.
- INCOMPAS, Windstream, and Granite Telecommunications [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on May 17, 2018, to discuss INCOMPAS' [Motion to Dismiss](#) and [Motion](#) for an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations placed on ILECs. They asserted USTelecom's Petition violated the Commission's "complete-as-filed" rule by failing to include the confidential data and interviews on which the Petition and the accompanying economic report relied. They asserted the Commission should dismiss the Petition for its noncompliance with procedural requirements, and at minimum, direct USTelecom to file all the underlying data, adopt a protective order, and reset the comment period.
- The California Public Utilities Commission filed a [Motion](#) on May 18, 2018, to request an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs. The PUC requested an extension of 90 days for the comments, until September 5, 2018, with reply comments due 45 days later, on October 22, 2018.
- The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable filed a [Motion](#) on May 21, 2018, to request an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs. The PUC requested an extension of 90 days for the comments, until September 5, 2018, with reply comments due 30 days later, on October 5, 2018.
- The Michigan Public Service Commission filed a [Motion](#) for an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs. The PUC requested an extension of 60 days for the comments, until August 6, 2018, with reply comments due 30 days later, on September 5, 2018. The Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission filed a similar [Request](#) for extension.

- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission filed a [Motion](#) on May 25, 2018, to request an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs. The PUC requested an extension of 90 days for the comments, until September 5, 2018, with reply comments due 45 days later, on October 22, 2018.
- California ISP Association filed a [letter](#) on May 24, 2018, in support of INCOMPAS' [Motion](#) for an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations placed on ILECs.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy filed a [letter](#) on May 18, 2018, in support of several motions for an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs.
- Access Point, BullsEye Telecom, Metropolitan Telecommunications, New Horizon Communications, and Xchange Telecom filed a [letter](#) on May 18, 2018, in support of INCOMPAS' [Motion to Dismiss](#) and [Motion](#) for an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations placed on ILECs. Access Point, et al asserted that if the Commission declines to dismiss the Petition, it must require USTelecom to submit the necessary information and data and reset the comment period.
- U.S. TelePacific filed a [letter](#) on May 22, 2018, supporting INCOMPAS' [Motion to Dismiss](#) and [Motion](#) for an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations placed on ILECs. TPx claimed USTelecom's failure to include the information and data violates the Forbearance Procedures Order, and said even if the Commission were to conclude that the Petition does not violate the complete-as filed rule, USTelecom's failure to submit for the record relevant information is inconsistent with the APA. TPx also supported the requests filed by CALTEL, the California PUC, the Ohio PUC, and the Massachusetts DTC, for the FCC to reset the comment period to ensure that parties have sufficient time to analyze the underlying data.
- The Northwest Telecommunications Association filed a [letter](#) on May 18, 2018, in support of the motions filed by NARUC, CALTEL, and INCOMPAS for an extension of time to file comments on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs.
- CTIA [met with](#) Commissioner Carr and his Legal Advisor on May 16, 2018, to discuss siting policies at the federal, state, and local levels and their key role in helping to ensure the U.S. is 5G-ready. CTIA urged the Commission to ensure the wireless industry has reasonable access to public rights-of-way and publicly owned assets, and urged the Commission to establish clear timelines for the entire local review process, with enforceable remedies; clarify actions that prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting wireless service; and ensure that fees charged by state and local governments are cost-based, non-discriminatory, and transparent.
- ADT Security Services filed a [letter](#) on May 23, 2018, to express concerns with the draft [Report and Order](#) proposing to revise section 214(a) discontinuance processes, network change disclosure processes, and the Part 68 customer notification process, which will be considered at the FCC's June 7, 2018 Open Meeting. ADT requested that FCC revise the draft Order to require that either the ILEC's replacement interconnected VoIP service or the other facilities-based voice service on which the ILEC intends to rely to qualify for streamlining be interoperable and compatible with critical safety applications such as alarm and home medical monitoring services.
- Verizon [met with](#) Commissioner Carr and his Legal Advisor on May 21, 2018, to discuss actions the Commission should take to place reasonable limits on state and local governments to promote access to state and local rights-of-way and municipally owned poles, and to speed local zoning processes. Verizon asserted the Commission should clarify that sections 253 and 332(c)(7) bar state or local actions that erect substantial barriers to wireless facilities deployment, and that fees for access to rights-of-way and municipal poles that exceed cost violate sections 253(a) and (c). Verizon also asked the Commission to adopt a 60- day shot clock for acting on small cell applications and to deem applications granted when the applicable section 332(c)(7) shot clock expires.

- The Communications Workers of America [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Wireline Advisor, Commissioner [Rosenworcel](#) and [O'Rielly](#) and their Legal Advisors, [Commissioner Carr's Chief of Staff](#), and [Wireline Competition Bureau staff](#) on May 18 and 21, 2018, to discuss the Commission's one touch, make ready pole attachment proposals. CWA recommended the FCC: streamline the current pole attachment timeline; exclude complex make-ready work from the OTMR regime; provide existing attachers a streamlined timeline to complete so-called non-complex make-ready work; and honor existing attachers' collective bargaining agreements.
- CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, Florida Power & Light Company, and Virginia Electric and Power Company filed a [letter](#) on May 25, 2018, in response to recommendations of the BDAC's Competitive Access to Broadband Infrastructure Working Group, and various other proposals and comments on pole make-ready processes. The utility companies urged the FCC to reform the current make-ready process through its adoption of OTMR for "simple" projects in the communications space, and to amend its rules consistent with the proposals of the BDAC, and the principles they attached to their letter. They, however, opposed the recommendation of the BDAC to require that pole owners include in their individual agreements, upon request, a "Most Favored Nation" provision similar in nature to that mandated for all network interconnection agreements executed pursuant to section 252(i).
- InSite Wireless Group [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly and his Legal Advisor on May 22, 2018, at the WIA's Connect (X) Connectivity Expo in Charlotte, North Carolina. InSite discussed issues involving the likely impact upon communities and residences if the FCC were to preempt local zoning ordinances pertaining to the deployment of wireless infrastructure (including towers, DAS, and small cells) outside of the public right-of-way. InSite also discussed the principles of collocation and the impact that such preemption would have on business.
- Vertical Bridge Holdings [met with](#) Commissioner O'Reilly and his Legal Advisor on May 22, 2018, to discuss streamlining of broadband deployment and the continued need for zoning controls. It also discussed the potential merger of T-Mobile and Sprint and the potential effects such a merger would have.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Universal Service

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Protective Order](#) on May 23, 2018, in the [proceeding](#) that proposes ways to ensure that USF support is not used to purchase equipment or services from companies posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. The Order sets forth procedures to limit access to proprietary or confidential information that may be filed in this proceeding, and more strictly limit access to certain particularly competitively sensitive information.
- The FCC published a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on May 22, 2018, seeking PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collections associated with FCC Forms 470 and 471. The FCC said the information on FCC Forms 470 and 471 is necessary so that the Commission and USAC have sufficient information to determine if entities are eligible for funding pursuant to the schools and libraries support mechanism. PRA comments are due July 23, 2018.
- USTelecom [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Special Counsel on May 24, 2018, to discuss the [NPRM](#) proposing ways to ensure that USF support is not used to purchase equipment or services from companies posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. USTelecom said issues in the NPRM are similar to discussions currently taking place at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Commerce, and in Congress. It urged the Commission to closely coordinate with its federal government counterparts as it develops and considers the record in this proceeding.

- NARUC [met separately with](#) Commissioner Carr's Chief of Staff and Chairman Pai's Legal Advisor on May 18, 2018, to express support for the Lifeline [NPRM](#)'s recognition of the roles of states with respect to federal USF programs. NARUC said, however, it disagrees with the proposal to eliminate non-facilities-based resellers from the federal Lifeline program. NARUC said non-facilities-based carriers, currently serving 75 percent of eligible users, should continue to receive Lifeline funds because the potential to disrupt and even eliminate service to literally millions of eligible users.
- National Lifeline Association representatives from Boomerang Wireless, Easy Wireless and CGM [met separately with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Carr, O'Rielly, Rosenworcel on May 22, 2018, to discuss recent and proposed changes to the Lifeline program. NaLA said the proposed ban on wireless resellers must be rejected and the FCC must maintain facilities forbearance. NaLA also expressed support for a budget for the Lifeline program.
- The AARP and 66 entities filed a [letter](#) on May 23, 2018, to urge the Commission to reconsider certain Lifeline [proposals](#). They said the proposal that would exclude non-facilities based providers would drastically reduce the number of eligible service providers, cutting off nearly 70 percent of Lifeline households from their current carriers. They also expressed concern with implications of mandatory co-pays and an automatic self-executing budget cap, claiming such co-pays could prove especially troubling for older and rural Americans who are unbanked or underbanked.
- TracFone Wireless and Q Link Wireless [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's Legal Advisor on May 16, 2018, to discuss their concerns about the lack of mechanisms in the National Verifier design to permit carriers to assist consumers with navigating the National Verifier eligibility verification process when signing up online, rather than in the presence of an in-person agent.

[Back to Highlights](#)

State Actions

- A [bill](#) was introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly on May 23, 2018, to preserve net neutrality and appropriate funds for statewide broadband access. The bill would prohibit practices by ISPs such as blocking, throttling, or paid prioritization. The bill also states the Department of Justice shall establish a process for each Internet service provider having customers in the state to certify that the provider will not engage in practices inconsistent with net neutrality principles.

Misc.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [Order](#) on May 21, 2018, approving the average schedule formulas filed by NECA on [December 21, 2017](#), and revised on [February 26, 2018](#). The formulas will become effective July 1, 2018, and remain in effect through June 30, 2019. The interim revisions are effective for the period beginning January 1, 2018, though June 30, 2018.
- ITTA and USTelecom [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Legal Advisor on May 15, 2018, to discuss the [NPRM](#) to allow model-based rate-of-return carriers to elect incentive regulation for their lower-speed business data services offerings. They discussed prospective sources of empirical support for comments on the NPRM, and the options on which the NPRM seeks comment for a competitive market test for end-user channel terminations.
- The FCC released a [Report and Order and NPRM](#) on May 22, 2018, addressing regulatory fee issues raised in the 2017 [FNPRM](#) and seeks comment on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2018. The Report and Order adopted new tiers for calculating regulatory fees for submarine cable systems, declined to adopt a new regulatory fee for international section 214 authorizations, and retained the optional bulk rate calculation for determining the number of subscribers in multiple dwelling units used in the calculation of cable television regulatory fees. The NPRM seeks comment on the Commission's proposed regulatory fees for FY 2018, specifically, proposing to collect

\$322,035,000 in regulatory fees for FY 2018. Comments are due June 21, 2018; replies are due July 6, 2018.

- CenturyLink [met with](#) staff from the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, Wireline Competition Bureau, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau on May 23, 2018, to discuss the benefits of the SHAKEN protocols and the STIR specifications. CenturyLink also highlighted how the implementation and increasing deployment of these standards will benefit consumers, with impacts being visible beginning in 2019 and discussed additional ways of reducing unwanted robocalls and Caller ID spoofing.
- T-Mobile [spoke with](#) staff from the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, Wireline Competition Bureau, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau on May 24, 2018, to discuss T-Mobile's plans for implementation of SHAKEN/STIR. T-Mobile also discussed its Scam ID and Scam Block solutions to address the growing problem of fraudulent and unwanted calls.
- Bandwidth [met with](#) staff from the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, Wireline Competition Bureau, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau on May 23, 2018, to discuss its participation in a number of the industry efforts to develop solutions for identifying and stopping illegal robocalling. Bandwidth discussed the STIR/SHAKEN standards, Bandwidth's plans for implementation and perceived gaps in the current set of standards.
- Cox [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau staff on May 22, 2018, to discuss its plans to implement SHAKEN/STIR and its ongoing transition from a hybrid TDM-IP network to an IP network. Cox said its target date to begin testing SHAKEN/STIR for residential customers is late 2018 to early 2019 with broader implementation in 2019.
- No oppositions were filed to the U.S. Department of Justice's request for NRUF and LNP data in connection with its investigation of the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. [Public Notice](#)
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on May 24, 2018, to announce the next meeting of the Consumer Advisory Council will be held on June 8, 2018. The CAC will receive briefings from Commission staff on issues of interest to the Committee and may discuss topics on consumer protection and education, consumer participation in the FCC rulemaking process, and the impact of new and emerging communication technologies.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Upcoming Filing Dates

- May 29 - PRA comments due on revisions to Lifeline and ETC Forms 555, 481, 497, 5629, 5630 and 5631. The revisions implement the requirement that ETCs provide written notice to their customers who are currently receiving enhanced support but will no longer be eligible for enhanced Tribal support. [Notice](#)
- May 29 - CAF Phase I Round 2 challenges due on previously unidentified census blocks served by FairPoint. [Public Notice](#)
- June 1 - Comments due the [NPRM](#) proposing ways to ensure that USF support is not used to purchase equipment or services from companies posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. Replies are due July 2, 2018. [FR](#)
- June 4 - Comments due on the [Third FNPRM](#) on rural call completion. The FCC seeks comment on: proposed rules to implement the recently enacted Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of

2017, and sunsetting the recording and retention rules established in the RCC Order upon implementation of the RCC Act. Replies are due June 19, 2018.

- June 7 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on ways to address the problem of unwanted calls to reassigned numbers. Replies due July 9, 2018. [FR](#)
- June 7 - Comments due on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain ILEC regulatory obligations. Replies are due June 22, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- June 14 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with the 2017 Business Data Services [Order](#). [Notice](#)
- June 14 - PRA comments due on a new information collection associated with amended rules requiring that carriers honor privacy requests. [Notice](#)
- June 18 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to allow rate-of-return carriers receiving A-CAM support to voluntarily migrate their lower speed circuit-based business data service offerings to incentive regulation. Replies are due July 2, 2018. [FR](#)
- June 18 - Comments due on CenturyLink's [Petition](#) for a Declaratory Ruling as to the applicability of end office local switching access reciprocal compensation, under section 51.913, for traffic that originates from or terminates to an end user customer of an over-the-top VoIP provider that partners with a LEC to exchange traffic to and from the PSTN. Replies are due July 3, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- June 19 - Replies due on the [Third FNPRM](#) on rural call completion. The FCC seeks comment on: proposed rules to implement the recently enacted Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017, and sunsetting the recording and retention rules established in the RCC Order upon implementation of the RCC Act.
- June 21 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2018. Replies are due July 6, 2018.
- June 22 - Replies due on USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from certain ILEC regulatory obligations. [Public Notice](#)
- June 25 - Petitions due seeking to suspend or reject tariff filings made on 15 days' notice. Replies due June 28, 2018. [Order](#)
- June 25 - Replies due on the NPRM portion of the March 23, 2018, [Report and Order, Third Order on Reconsideration, and NPRM](#) on high-cost USF rate-of-return reform. [FR](#)
- July 2- Replies due the [NPRM](#) proposing ways to ensure that USF support is not used to purchase equipment or services from companies posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. [FR](#)
- July 2 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to allow rate-of-return carriers receiving A-CAM support to voluntarily migrate their lower speed circuit-based business data service offerings to incentive regulation. [FR](#)
- July 3 - Replies due on CenturyLink's [Petition](#) for a Declaratory Ruling as to the applicability of end office local switching access reciprocal compensation, under section 51.913, for traffic that originates from or terminates to an end user customer of an over-the-top VoIP provider that partners with a LEC to exchange traffic to and from the PSTN. [Public Notice](#)
- July 6 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2018.

- July 9 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) on ways to address the problem of unwanted calls to reassigned numbers. [FR](#)
- July 16 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the selection of USAC Board of Directors and ensuring that requests for review are filed properly with the Commission. [Notice](#)
- July 23 - PRA comments due on a revision of currently approved information collections associated with rural call completion. [Notice](#)
- July 23 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collections associated with FCC Forms 470 and 471. [Notice](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

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