

## NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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### June 29, 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC [will consider](#) six items at its July 16, 2020 Open Meeting, including: [an order and FNPRM](#) on improving broadband mapping data and implements certain aspects of the Broadband DATA Act; [an order and FNPRM](#) to combat unwanted and illegal calls and implements portions of the TRACED Act; and a [declaratory ruling and FNPRM](#) that would integrate provisions of the Secure Networks Act into its supply chain rulemaking.
- The OMB [approved](#) section 54.313 reporting requirements for high-cost recipients that were amended in the [2018 Rate-of-Return Order](#) and the [2019 CAF Phase II Transitions Order](#).
- The Wireline Competition Bureau, Office of Economics and Analytics, and the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force [released](#) an updated list of census blocks and a map of areas that have been deemed initially eligible for the RDOF Phase I auction.
- The WCB, RBTF, and OEA [granted](#) petitions by the CAF Phase II Coalition and Skybeam that requested compliance with the RDOF letter of credit rules, instead of the CAF II auction and rural broadband experiments.
- The WCB, RBTF, and OEA [granted](#) Charter's petition for waiver of the census block eligibility criteria rule for Phase I of the RDOF auction.
- [Comments](#) were filed on the [NPRM](#) establishing the 5G Fund. Replies are due July 27, 2020.
- The USDA and other agencies [released](#) a progress [report](#) detailing the accomplishments of the American Broadband Initiative. The USDA [invested](#) \$86 million in loans to six telecommunications providers for broadband in eight states, and [invested](#) \$12.5 million to provide broadband service in Georgia.
- The OMB [approved](#) the information collection requirements contained in the [order](#) establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection.
- Reps. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and Bob Latta (R-Ohio) [announced](#) a comprehensive package of [26 bills](#) that aim to streamline broadband infrastructure deployment.
- Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), et al. [introduced legislation](#) that invests \$100 billion to build broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities. House Democrats [introduced legislation](#) that proposes \$100 billion to promote competition for broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities.
- The Senate Commerce Committee held a [hearing](#) on oversight of the FCC.
- The WCB [granted](#) Inteliquent's [request](#) for a renewal of the [temporary waiver](#) until September 1, 2020, of the access stimulation definition contained in Part 61.

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### Other Key Upcoming Dates

- July 6 - Comments [due](#) on the [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges. Replies are due August 4, 2020.
- July 7 - Comments [due](#) on adjustment factor values for the [5G Fund](#). Replies are due August 6, 2020.

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## USF Reform

- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on June 26, 2020, announcing the Office of Management and Budget approved, for a period of three years, an information collection in section 54.313 (annual reporting requirements for high-cost recipients) that was amended in the [2018 Rate-of-Return Order](#) and the [2019 CAF Phase II Transitions Order](#). The amendments to section 54.313(f)(1)(i) and (m) are effective June 26, 2020. The FCC also revised this information collection, and Form 481 to reflect these new and revised requirements, and increased the burdens associated with existing reporting requirements to account for additional carriers that will be subject to those requirements.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of Economics and Analytics, in coordination with the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force issued a [public notice](#) on June 25, 2020, announcing the release of an updated list of census blocks and a map of areas that have been deemed initially eligible for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. They also released a list of the associated census block groups and annual reserve prices. The list of census blocks, census block groups, and the map can be found on the [Auction 904 website](#). They said the final list of eligible areas will be released no later than three weeks prior to the start of bidding in Auction 904. The FCC also issued a [news release](#) on the updated list.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau, in conjunction with the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and the Office of Economics and Analytics issued an [order](#) on June 26, 2020, addressing petitions filed by the CAF Phase II Coalition and Skybeam for waiver of the letter of credit rules for the CAF II auction and rural broadband experiments. Petitioners asked the Commission to allow them to instead comply with the letter of credit rules for the RDOF, rather than the LOC rules for their respective programs. The Bureau said because of the pandemic, which has increased consumer demand for broadband services and imposed financial hardship on the companies poised to fulfill such demand, it granted a waiver to all CAF II Auction 903 and RBE funding recipients until December 31, 2021.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau, in conjunction with the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and the Office of Economics and Analytics issued an [order](#) on June 25, 2020, granting a petition filed by Charter for waiver of section 54.802(a), which sets forth census block eligibility criteria for Phase I of the RDOF auction. Charter requested that the Bureau remove 2,127 census blocks from the Commission's eligible areas list for the RDOF auction because Charter has deployed or will soon deploy service to these blocks under a settlement agreement with the State of New York.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on June 26, 2020, granting, on its own motion, a limited waiver of the July 1, 2020 annual certification requirement under section 54.313(j)(1) for certain price cap and competitive ETCs who receive legacy high-cost support. The Bureau will allow these carriers to file FCC Form 481 once USAC amends the filing portal for these carriers. The Bureau said all other ETCs, however, must complete FCC Form 481 by July 1, 2020.
- Sens. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) [introduced](#) the [Accelerating Broadband Connectivity Act of 2020](#) on June 22, 2020. The legislation would: create a fund to be used by the FCC following the RDOF Phase I auction to incentivize winning bidders to complete their buildout obligations on an accelerated timeline; build upon the existing RDOF process to get high-speed broadband service to rural consumers much faster than the current timetable for deployment using RDOF dollars; and require service providers who receive funds from the ABC Fund to meet a series of accelerated milestones for their RDOF deployments.
- Peoples Telephone Cooperative filed a [letter](#) on June 25, 2020, in response to NextWave's challenge to the list of census blocks deemed initially eligible for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction. Peoples urged the Wireline Bureau to deny NextWave's challenge or investigate its accuracy.
- Comments were filed on June 25, 2020, on the [NPRM](#) establishing the 5G fund for rural America. [NTCA](#) suggested the Commission make up to \$2 billion of the funding available over 10 years to small existing providers who commit to upgrading their networks to provide 5G service in the most rural parts of the country. [Verizon](#) suggested the Commission: hold Phase I of the auction in 2022, after it has

collected better maps; divide the 5G Fund budget evenly between Phase I and Phase II to leverage lessons learned as the 5G ecosystem develops; and ensure consistency between mapping parameters and test procedures. The [California PUC](#) suggested the FCC delay holding an auction after collecting better mobile broadband coverage data from states in 2021 but not wait until 2023. The PUC also said the FCC should also work with states in setting a process to prioritize rural areas. The [New York PSC](#) supported Option A for determining location eligibility, which proposes to commence the 5G Fund Phase I auction in 2021 and identifies eligible areas based primarily on the degree of rurality of the area using existing datasets and prioritizing areas that have historically lacked 3G and 4G LTE services. The [Mass. DTC](#) said the FCC should not adopt Option A for determining locations' eligibility and should instead base eligibility for the Fund on accurate data. It also suggested the FCC establish a challenge process by which any third party can submit data that challenges 5G data provided by Fund recipients. [CTIA](#) said the FCC should move expeditiously to determine the areas eligible for 5G Fund support based on a new coverage data collection as required by the Broadband DATA Act. Replies are due July 27, 2020. [FR](#) | [all comments available](#)

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Congressional members representing Kansas on June 15, 2020, in response to their letter expressing concerns with the proposals in the 5G Fund NPRM. Pai said moving forward with the new mobile broadband data collection more quickly as they suggested would not materially change the timeline outlined in the NPRM because that timeline already assumes implementation as quickly as possible. Pai also said the FCC does not have the resources needed for any implementation.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. Joel Manchin (D-W.Va.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Jon Tester (R-Mont.), and Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) on June 15, 2020, to respond to their letter on the 5G Fund auction. Pai said the FCC cannot initiate a new mobile data collection until it receives Congressional funding. Pai said that the FCC can either move quickly to bring 5G to rural areas based upon existing data or can delay awarding funding for 5G until it has collected and processed new mobile coverage data, and that the 5G NPRM seeks comment on both approaches.
- The Rural Wireless Association released a [report](#) on June 24, 2020, on rural carriers' use of USF legacy support. RWA said it conducted a survey of its members who currently receive legacy support and asserted the report shows these USF recipients have either expanded coverage and/or upgraded facilities since 2013 when support levels were frozen. RWA claimed many of these are still struggling to deploy next generation technologies, and suggested the FCC use the 5G Fund to help these carriers bring 5G to rural America.
- Standing Rock Telecommunications filed a [petition for waiver](#) on June 25, 2020 of section 54.307(e)(7) to allow USAC to accept a late-filed FCC Form 525 Competitive Carrier Line Count Report from Standing Rock for the period ending September 30, 2019, and to direct USAC to disburse to Standing Rock high-cost support for the third quarter of 2019 according to such line count report. Standing Rock said its Form 525 for the third quarter of 2019 was due March 30, 2020, but due to the need to attend to broadband and other customer service needs of members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe during the COVID-19 pandemic, Standing Rock missed the filing deadline and submitted Form 525 on April 2, 2020.

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## ICC

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on June 23, 2020, granting Inteliquent's [request](#) for a renewal of the [temporary waiver](#) until September 1, 2020, of the access stimulation definition contained in Part 61. As requested by Inteliquent, the waiver is extended to Inteliquent's preexisting customers' traffic originating or terminating to six urban LATAs. The bureau said the waiver will ensure Inteliquent is not classified as an access-stimulating LEC and will not have to assume financial responsibility for any charges imposed by an intermediate access provider related to traffic terminating in those LATAs during the period covered by this waiver.

- The Enforcement Bureau issued a [memorandum opinion and order](#) on June 24, 2020, granting in part AT&T's [formal complaint](#) against 123.Net d/b/a Local Exchange Carriers of Michigan alleging LEC-MI improperly billed and collected end office charges with respect to toll free wireless calls that were placed to AT&T's toll free customers. The Bureau found LEC-MI charged for services that it did not provide, it unlawfully billed and collected these charges and granted AT&T a refund in the amount of \$972,394, plus interest, for charges it paid from February 2012 through April 2014.
- The Pricing Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on June 26, 2020, rejecting LTE Wireless' tariff transmittal filed on June 12, 2020. The PPD said the proposed tariff is defective because the pricing provisions violate the Commission's USF/ICC Transformation Order and related benchmarking rules, and the dispute resolution provisions would impose unjust and unreasonable terms on LTE Wireless's customers.
- USTelecom [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on June 22, 2020, to urge the FCC to adopt its 8YY [reform proposal](#). USTelecom also emphasized the importance of a recovery mechanism and reasonable transition schedule for reforms.
- ACAM Broadband Coalition members Great Plains Communications, Hargray Communications, Consolidated Companies, Ritter Communications and Farmers Mutual [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's legal advisor on June 22, 2020, regarding 8YY access charge reform. They asserted any transition of RoR carriers' originating 8YY access traffic to bill and keep must be accompanied by a mechanism to compensate for all access revenues lost as result. They said for extremely rural RoR carriers with significant amounts of transport mileage in their networks, moving 8YY access to bill and keep without a revenue replacement mechanism would be problematic.

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## Broadband

- The USDA [announced](#) on June 24, 2020, it is investing \$86 million in loans to six telecommunications providers to build, expand and improve broadband services in Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. The funding is through the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan [Guarantees program](#).
- The USDA [announced](#) on June 25, 2020, it is investing more than \$12.5 million to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved rural areas in Georgia. DoveTel Communications will use the funding to deploy a FTTP network. This investment is part of the \$100 million in grant funding made available for the ReConnect Program through the CARES Act.
- The USDA, along with other government agencies, [released](#) a progress [report](#) on June 25, 2020, detailing the accomplishments of the American Broadband Initiative one year after the release of the initial ABI Milestones [Report](#). The report noted the USDA's ReConnect program awarded more than \$744 million to support more than 80 broadband projects benefiting more than 430,000 rural residents in 34 states. It also noted the FCC and USDA established processes to coordinate awards for rural broadband deployment to ensure that USDA-funded grants do not overlap with the FCC's RDOF or 5G Fund for Rural America programs.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on June 29, 2020, announcing the Office of Management and Budget approved, for a period of three years, the information collection requirements contained in the [report and order](#) that established the Digital Opportunity Data Collection. The order made targeted changes to the existing Form 477 data collection to reduce reporting burdens for all filers and incorporate new technologies. Paragraphs 44 through 51 of the order are effective on June 29, 2020.
- Reps. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and Bob Latta (R-Ohio) [announced](#) on June 25, 2020, a comprehensive package of 26 bills that aim to streamline broadband infrastructure deployment. The bills will promote new and upgraded infrastructure deployments, incentivize competition and consumer choice, right-size

regulations for building infrastructure across industries, and facilitate broadband deployment on federal lands. [Summary of the bills. Commissioner Carr](#) issued a statement in support of the bills.

- Rep. James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.), members of the House Rural Broadband Task Force and House Democrats [introduced](#) the [Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act](#) on June 24, 2020, which invests \$100 billion to build high-speed broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities and ensure that the resulting internet service is affordable. The legislation provides \$80 billion to deploy high-speed broadband infrastructure nationwide, a \$50 monthly discount on plans for low-income consumers, and over \$1 billion to establish grant programs for states to close gaps in broadband adoption, among other things.
- House Democrats [introduced](#) legislation on June 22, 2020, entitled the [Moving Forward Act](#). The bill proposes \$1.5 trillion for rebuilding U.S. communities with infrastructure and innovation, including \$100 billion to promote competition for broadband internet infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities, among other things.
- Governors from 11 states sent a [letter](#) to President Trump and Congressional leaders on June 25, 2020, asking them pass a package that provides digital access to all Americans. They said as COVID-19 continues to impact both urban and rural communities, they are concerned about the compromised digital access that threatens entire communities. They said rural communities are particularly less prepared to mitigate the pandemic itself, in large part because of the lack of access to broadband.
- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.) on June 15, 2020, on the availability of high-speed broadband service in West Virginia, and the importance of collecting more accurate broadband deployment data. Pai agreed that updated and accurate broadband deployment data is critical to bridging the digital divide, and noted the FCC launched the Digital Opportunity Data Collection last August. Pai also said the FCC cannot complete its work on the maps until it has an independent appropriation to cover the costs of fulfilling the Commission's responsibilities. Pai said the FCC will need at least \$65 million for start-up costs and to implement the measure for one year.
- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on June 22, 2020, announcing the next meeting of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee will be held on July 29, 2020, via conference call. At this meeting, the BDAC will hear reports from the Increasing Broadband Investment in Low Income Communities, Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Job Skills and Training Opportunities, and Disaster Response and Recovery working groups.
- NCTA, Charter Communications, Comcast, and Cox [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on June 22, 2020, regarding broadband mapping issues. They expressed support for the Commission's adoption of a polygon shapefile broadband reporting system in the Digital Opportunity Data Collection Order and said the steps the Commission took on this issue largely track the requirements enacted by Congress in the Broadband DATA Act. They asked the Commission to provide sufficient time for reporting entities to transition to this new polygon reporting methodology after the Commission has established the necessary parameters and intake method portal.
- The League of California Cities, the League of Oregon Cities and the City of Glendora, California, et al. filed a [petition for review](#) with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on June 22, 2020, of the [declaratory ruling](#) that clarified FCC rules implementing section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act of 2012 to accelerate the deployment of advanced wireless networks. Petitioners asserted the FCC's new rules and changes to its existing rules unlawfully preempt local and state government authority promulgated without response to the arguments advanced by petitioners.
- Reps. Bob Latta (R-Ohio), Mike Doyle (D-Pa.), Rick Larsen (D-Wash.) and Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) [introduced](#) a bill on June 25, 2020, which would modernize the federal spectrum management systems and direct the NTIA to establish goals for the modernization of the infrastructure used by covered agencies and submit a report to Congress that contains NTIA's plan to modernize and automate its spectrum management infrastructure.

- CTIA [released](#) a [report](#) on June 23, 2020, on how wireless networks handled the increase in mobile voice and data traffic during the pandemic. CTIA said voice traffic increased from 20% to 40% on wireless networks, and major wireless providers also saw a 25% increase in texting. It also said mobile data traffic was up nearly 20% and mobile download speeds in the U.S. increased slightly in April.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on June 22, 2020, Audra Hale-Maddox will become the new chief of staff for the FCC's Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force. Nathan Eagan, who has been the chief of staff of the task force since 2018, has moved to the Office of General Counsel.

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## Robocalls

- The FCC released a [call blocking report](#) on June 25, 2020, on the availability and effectiveness of call blocking tools offered to consumers. The FCC said based on data submitted by a variety of commenters, it found that call blocking tools are now substantially available to consumers at no or low cost. The report also discussed call labeling, which allows consumers to choose which calls to answer by displaying categories for potentially unwanted or illegal calls such as “spam” or “scam likely” on the caller ID display and highlights the Commission's aggressive enforcement action against illegal robocallers.
- The [order](#) adopting a rule ending the FCC's practice of warning most robocallers before issuing penalties for violating the law and for harassing consumers with unwanted robocalls was published in the [Federal Register](#) on June 26, 2020. Section 1.80 (forfeiture proceedings) will be effective July 27, 2020.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on June 26, 2020, to announce Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection associated with [rules](#) governing information to be provided to the reassigned numbers database. The FCC also announced compliance with the rules for aging numbers and maintaining records of the most recent date of permanent disconnection is now required and that it will publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the compliance date for reporting. Compliance with sections 52.15(f)(1)(ii) and (f)(8)(central office code administration), 52.103(d)(lag times), and 64.1200(l)(1)(delivery restrictions) is required as of July 27, 2020.
- Sens. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Tom Carper (D-Del.) [sent letters](#) to Chairman Pai, U.S. Attorney General William Barr, IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig, and FTC Chairman Joseph J. Simons on June 25, 2020, asking them to take action against COVID-19 scammers and robocallers. They also asked for information as to how all agencies are working together to take enforcement action against the scammers.
- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on June 22, 2020, announcing the first meeting of the FCC's Hospital Robocall Protection Group will be held on July 27, 2020. The agenda for the first meeting will include introducing members and establishing working groups. The meeting is open to the public via [live broadcast](#).
- In addition to comments listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, comments were filed on June 19, 2020, on the [NPRM](#) implementing the TRACED Act's requirements to further protect consumers from one-ring scams. [INCOMPAS](#) suggested any new set of measures to combat one-ring scams should be minimal and the Commission should instead focus on consumer education efforts where a lack of awareness about the nature of these calls persist. [Transaction Network Services](#) asserted the FCC does not need to adopt new rules to allow for the blocking of one-ring scam calls but could adopt a meaningful safe harbor for voice service providers and their vendors when they engage in good faith blocking practices. [CTIA](#) said the FCC should: encourage continued blocking of illegal calls; develop best practices to combat one-ring scams; and adopt a safe harbor that mitigates liability for providers'

good faith efforts to block, label or attest to calls based on reasonable analytics. Replies are due July 6, 2020.

- AT&T filed a [letter](#) on June 25, 2020, to express support for the selection of USTelecom's Industry Traceback Group as the registered consortium for conducting robocall tracebacks. It asserted because the ITG meets or exceeds all of the criteria necessary to be selected as the registered consortium, the FCC should do so without further delay.
- Numeracle and NetNumber [spoke separately with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau staff and Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on June 9 and 10, 2020, to discuss how service providers will comply with the TRACED Act's authenticate caller ID requirement. They said after reviewing the attestation levels, they compared two proposed solutions for elevating signing to A level attestations for enterprises through the delegated certificate and central telephone number database from the ATIS SIP Forum IPNNI Joint Task Force's study of full attestation alternatives for enterprises.

## Open Internet

- The Competitive Enterprise Institute [released](#) a [report](#) on June 25, 2020, recommending Congress preempt state-level net neutrality regulations and codify the internet's status as an information service, in order to aid in economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. CEI asserted this would encourage investment in U.S. broadband infrastructure by eliminating the threat of state and federal regulation.

## Other Universal Service

- The FCC [announced](#) on June 24, 2020, it has approved an 12th set of COVID-19 telehealth program applications in the amount of \$29.41 million for providers in Indiana, New York, Missouri, New Jersey, Georgia, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Florida, Texas, California, Michigan, Ohio, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Texas, Washington, Connecticut, Arizona, Louisiana, Minnesota, Illinois, Maine, West Virginia, Oklahoma, Iowa, the District of Columbia, Arkansas, Virginia, and Utah.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on June 25, 2020, to announce the closing of the filing window for the COVID-19 telehealth program. The Bureau said based on the applications received to date, demand for funding exceeds available Program funds and, as a result, the public interest is not served by imposing burdens on health care providers who may prepare new applications that cannot be funded under the current appropriation.
- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on June 26, 2020, releasing a more detailed version of its April 2020 [notice of apparent liability](#) against TracFone for violations of Lifeline program rules. The FCC said the original NAL was redacted due to TracFone's request for confidential treatment of materials it submitted during the investigation, but the majority of TracFone's request was denied in the original NAL. The FCC also said because TracFone did not submit a petition for reconsideration or seek judicial stay of the denial of confidentiality, the less redacted version of the NAL is now being made public.
- Chairman Pai [sent letters](#) to 144 members of Congress on June 15, 2020, to respond to their letter that urged the FCC to work with the USDA and Dept. of Health and Human Services to help ensure those who are newly eligible for the SNAP program or Medicaid due to job loss or income reduction are informed of their eligibility for the Lifeline program. Pai said the FCC has coordinated with various agencies to share Lifeline materials for distribution and partnered with NARUC at the state level to spread awareness of the Lifeline program.
- TruConnect filed a [letter](#) on June 23, 2020, to provide recommendations for temporary changes to the Lifeline program during the pandemic. TruConnect asked the FCC to continue its waiver of certain

requirements, including recertification and reverification and disconnection requirements, the 30 day non-usage requirement and expanding data available to Lifeline subscribers.

- The FCC placed an [item on circulation](#) on June 23, 2020, entitled “Application for Review of a Decision of the Wireline Competition Bureau By GCI Communication Corp.; Rural Healthcare Universal Service Support Mechanism.”
- The Consumer Technology Association [spoke with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Carr, Starks and Rosenworcel on June 24, 25, and 26, 2020, regarding efforts its members companies have undertaken relating to the COVID-19 telehealth program.
- GCI filed a [petition](#) on June 23, 2020, for a waiver to permit the rural health care telecommunications program service substitution rule, which is currently scheduled to go into effect for funding year 2021, to be applied to FY 2020. GCI requested the bureau reinstate the rural health care [order's](#) determination the rule go into effect for FY 2020 because the effective date was pushed back only to allow OMB approval, which has now occurred.
- ATN International filed a [letter](#) on June 25, 2020, to respond to the PR-USVI Fund Coalition's [letter](#) on its [petition](#) for waiver of certain rules related to eligibility and letters of credit for applicants participating in the Stage 2 fixed competitive process of the Puerto Rico Fund- USVI Fund. ATN asserted the petition is an attempt by financially unqualified entities to defer or avoid financial qualification requirements and as such, the petition should be denied.

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#### **Misc.**

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on June 26, 2020, for its July 16, 2020 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider a [second report and order and third FNPRM](#) that would establish requirements to ensure that the Commission collects accurate and granular data on the availability of broadband service through the Digital Opportunity Data Collection, and would seek comment on additional measures to implement the requirements of the Broadband DATA Act. The FCC will also consider: [a third report and order, order on reconsideration, and fourth FNPRM](#) to combat unwanted and illegal calls and implement portions of the TRACED Act; a [declaratory ruling and second FNPRM](#) that would integrate provisions of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 into its existing supply chain rulemaking proceeding; a [report and order](#) that would designate 988 as the 3-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; a [sixth report and order and order on reconsideration](#) to further improve vertical (or Z-Axis) location accuracy for wireless 911 calls; an [NPRM](#) that would ensure that priority service programs operate effectively for emergency workers as technology evolves; and a [second report and order](#) that would modernize the leased access rate formula by adopting a tier-based calculation. Chairman Pai wrote a [blog post](#) on June 24, 2020, on items the FCC will consider at the meeting.
- The Senate Commerce Committee held a [hearing](#) on June 24, 2020, entitled “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission.” Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, Rosenworcel, Carr and Starks testified and provided written statements. [Pai](#) discussed the RDOF, the Keep America Connected pledge, and the COVID-19 Telehealth Program. [O’Rielly](#) discussed broadband expansion and spectrum; [Rosenworcel](#) discussed broadband mapping, the RDOF, and closing the homework gap; [Carr](#) discussed 5G, telehealth, and spectrum; and [Starks](#) discussed connectivity issues and Lifeline.
- The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on June 24, 2020, seeking comment on a [petition](#) for rulemaking and declaratory ruling filed by CTIA and USTelecom to simplify filing requirements for *pro forma* assignment and transfer of control applications. Comments are due July 24, 2020; replies are due August 10, 2020.
- WorldNet Telecommunications filed a [letter](#) on June 24, 2020, attaching a declaration in response to inquiries from Commission staff posed to WorldNet in ex parte meetings on March 10-12, 2020 and



April 9, 2020. WorldNet said eliminating dark fiber as a UNE would impose substantial cost, and require significant resources to accommodate.

- INCOMPAS [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's senior counsel and legal advisor on June 17, 2020, to discuss the availability of UNE dark fiber used by its members. INCOMPAS asserted UNE dark fiber is integral to its members' competitive broadband deployment, and if the UNE dark fiber proposal in the pending [NPRM](#) is adopted, they will be without continued access to ILEC dark fiber transport. INCOMPAS claimed there are few alternatives and where there are, the record shows replacing this dark fiber would be extremely expensive and difficult.
- In addition to comments listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, comments were filed on June 19, 2020, on [NTIA's letter](#) that provided additional information for the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to consider in the [proceedings](#) seeking to finalize the designations of Huawei and ZTE as national security threats to the integrity of communications networks and the communications supply chain. [USTelecom](#) said to maintain harmony with the executive branch, the FCC should designate Huawei and ZTE as covered companies and revisit its definition of covered equipment to better align with federal statutes. [NTCA](#) expressed support for NTIA's recommendation that the FCC seek congressional funding to reimburse providers for the cost to remove and replace covered equipment and this funding must be sufficient to allow providers to purchase equipment that will support advanced levels of service. NTCA also asserted the FCC must coordinate its actions with other federal agencies. [Huawei](#) argued all the allegations against it in NTIA's letter are legally irrelevant to the proceeding. [public notice](#) | [all comments available](#)
- Replies are due June 29, 2020, on the [NPRM](#) proposing to collect \$339,000,000 in regulatory fees for FY 2020.
- Replies are due June 29, 2020, on a section 214 application requesting consent to transfer control of Citizens Telephone Company and Citizens Long Distance Company to Green Hills Telephone. [public notice](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on June 26, 2020, granting an application filed by Piratel for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service.

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## Upcoming Filing Dates

- July 3 - Comments due on Voyant Communication's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. [public notice](#)
- July 6 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on implementing the TRACED Act's requirements to further protect consumers from one-ring scams. [FR](#)
- July 6 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges. Reply comments are due August 4, 2020. [FR](#)
- July 6 - Comment due on Ooma's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. [public notice](#)
- July 7 - Comments due on the [public notice](#) seeking comment on adjustment factor values for the [5G Fund](#). Reply comments are due August 6, 2020.
- July 7 - Replies due on the Connect America Fund Phase II Coalition's [petition for waiver](#) of the CAF II location adjustment rules. [public notice](#)

- July 10 - Comments due on the National Lifeline Association's [petition](#) for a declaratory ruling revoking the Texas PUC's National Lifeline Accountability Database opt-out certification and providing other relief. Replies are due July 27, 2020. [public notice](#)
- July 12 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on what rules the FCC needs to guide registration of a single consortium to conduct private-led efforts to traceback the origin of illegal robocalls. Replies are due July 27, 2020. [FR](#)
- July 13 - Comments due on refreshing the record in its 2012 USF contribution methodology [FNPRM](#) regarding one-way VoIP providers. Replies are due July 27, 2020. [public notice](#)
- July 13 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the 2017 [business data services order](#). [notice](#)
- July 16 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection on tariff review plans. [Federal Register](#)
- July 22 - 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](#)
- July 24 - Comments due on a [petition](#) for rulemaking and declaratory ruling filed by CTIA and USTelecom to simplify filing requirements for *pro forma* assignment and transfer of control applications. Replies are due August 10, 2020. [public notice](#)
- July 27 - Replies due on the 5G Fund [NPRM](#). [FR](#)
- July 27 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on what rules the FCC needs to guide registration of a single consortium to conduct private-led efforts to traceback the origin of illegal robocalls. [FR](#)
- July 27 - Replies due on the National Lifeline Association's [petition](#) for a declaratory ruling revoking the Texas PUC's National Lifeline Accountability Database opt-out certification and providing other relief. [public notice](#)
- July 27 - Replies due on refreshing the record in its 2012 USF contribution methodology [FNPRM](#) regarding one-way VoIP providers. [public notice](#)
- Aug. 3 - PRA comments due on a new information collection on Alaska Plan end of term commitments. [FR](#)
- Aug. 4 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on detariffing telephone access charges. [Federal Register](#)
- Aug. 6 - Reply comments due on the [public notice](#) seeking comment on adjustment factor values for the [5G Fund](#).
- Aug. 10 - Reply comments due a [petition](#) for rulemaking and declaratory ruling filed by CTIA and USTelecom to simplify filing requirements for *pro forma* assignment and transfer of control applications. [public notice](#)
- Aug. 17 - Paperwork Reduction Act comments due on extension of a currently approved collection associated with Part 59 infrastructure sharing. [notice](#)
- Aug 17 - PRA comments due on a revised information collection relating to the COVID-19 [telehealth order](#) (FCC Forms 460, 461, 462 and 463). [notice](#)

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