July 17, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC adopted nine items at its July 13, 2017 Open Meeting, including a Second FNPRM to address ongoing rural call completion problems; a Notice of Inquiry on methods to authenticate telephone calls to secure telephone networks against illegal robocallers; a Notice of Inquiry that explores methods by which reassigned telephone number data could be made available to callers to avoid making unwanted calls to consumers; and a Forfeiture Order fining Dialing Services $2.88 million for facilitating unlawful robocalls (Statements).

- The Commission will consider five items at its August 3, 2017 Open Meeting, including a Public Notice to initiate the pre-auction process for the CAF Phase II auction; an Order on Reconsideration and Second Report and Order that lays out the challenge process for the Mobility Fund Phase II; and an FNPRM that looks at Form 477 to improve the value of the data.

- The Senate will convene a hearing on July 19, 2017, on the reappointment of Chairman Pai and former Commissioner Rosenworcel and the appointment of FCC General Counsel Brendan Carr to be FCC Commissioners. Pai, Rosenworcel, and Carr submitted answers to their questionnaires.

- Comments were filed on the NPRM that asks whether the Commission should change the current local service rate floor methodology or eliminate the rate floor and its accompanying reporting obligations. Replies are due July 24, 2017.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice announcing urban rate surveys for 2018 will be due August 11, 2017.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an Erratum amending Appendix A of the July 7, 2017 ETC Reporting Streamlining Order.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice announcing the updated June 30, 2016 Form 477 data will be used for the competitive overlap challenge processes for CAF BLS and the Alaska Plan.

- Comments were filed on the updated list of census blocks eligible for the CAF Phase II auction in states where price cap carriers accepted the statewide offers of model-based CAF Phase II support.

- Chairman Pai sent a letter to USAC directing it to immediately implement safeguards to mitigate waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an Order denying Windstream, et al.’s Motion for a stay of the effective date of the FCC’s business data services rules, pending judicial review.

- The Small Company Coalition submitted information on federal regulatory compliance reporting, and expressed support for the July 7, 2017 Report and Order that eliminated certain reporting requirements.

- Comments were filed on the Restoring Internet Freedom NPRM. Comments due today, July 17, 2017.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- July 17 - Comments due on the NPRM proposing to return internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service. Replies are due August 16, 2017.
- July 17 - Replies due on the Wireline Infrastructure NPRM, NOI, and Request for Comment.
- July 21 - Replies due on ITTA and USTelecom’s Petition for Rulemaking to review rate regulation of BDS offered by model-based rate-of-return carriers. Public Notice
- July 21 - Oppositions due to NCTA’s Petition for Reconsideration of the Part 32 Order.
- July 31 - Comments due on refreshing the record on access charge reform for 8YY calls since the 2011 Transformation Order. Replies due August 15, 2017. Public Notice
USF Reform

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice on July 10, 2017, announcing it will soon begin the urban rate survey for 2018, which will be used to develop voice and broadband reasonable comparability benchmarks that will be in place in 2018. The Bureau will be collecting the rates offered by a sample of providers of fixed services identified using December 2016 FCC Form 477 data, and there will be separate samples for fixed voice and fixed broadband services with up to 500 urban census tracts in each. The Bureau said because some providers serve many urban census tracts, these providers may receive surveys for multiple census tracts. Notifications that a provider is required to complete a survey will be sent via email to each selected provider’s FCC Form 477 contact person and certifying official on or around July 10, 2017, and completed surveys will be due on August 11, 2017.

- Comments were filed on July 10, 2017, on the NPRM that asks whether the Commission should change the current local service rate floor methodology or eliminate the rate floor and its accompanying reporting obligations. NTCA supported elimination of the voice service rate floor, but said should the FCC decide to retain the rate floor, amending the underlying methodology to utilize a two-standard deviation approach to the calculation of the floor would produce adherence to the universal service principle of “reasonable comparability.” NTCA also said the Commission should reduce the frequency with which the rate floor is calculated to mitigate its burden on consumers, small carriers, and state commissions. WTA said on a cost-benefit basis the section 54.318 rate floor and its accompanying reporting obligations should be eliminated. It asserted the rate floor is inequitable and unnecessary, and that its costs increasingly outweigh its intended benefits. It said, however, to the extent the Commission believes that retention of a rate floor remains necessary, WTA proposed such rate floor be calculated at an amount equal to two standard deviations below the urban voice rate determined by survey, and that such rate floor be re-calculated no more frequently than once every five or more years. USTelecom supported elimination of the rate floor, but said if the FCC determines to keep the rate floor, its use could be made less of a burden on carriers if the rate floor were calculated with some other methodology than at the exchange level, such as using a company’s highest local rate in the state. USTelecom also said it makes sense that the rate floor should be set at a local rate that is below the urban rate. ITTA supported an exploration of whether to disaggregate the current single national rate floor, suggesting a state-specific rate floor could permit individual states greater flexibility to address the particular circumstances of serving customers within their jurisdiction. ITTA also said there is merit in permitting carriers to charge a rate that is one standard deviation below the average urban rate. Reply comments due July 24, 2017. All comments available to date.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice on July 10, 2017, announcing the updated June 30, 2016 Form 477 data, released June 6, 2017, will be used for the competitive overlap challenge processes for CAF BLS and the Alaska Plan. The Bureau also made available a list by study area of the competitors that report broadband service in each census block pursuant to that data set. The Bureau said this announcement of the data set that will be used for the competitive overlap challenge processes does not initiate a challenge process for either CAF BLS or the Alaska Plan, and therefore no action is required at this time by either competitors or ETCs. The Bureau will provide additional information at a later date about those challenge processes.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an Erratum on July 14, 2017, amending Appendix A of the July 7, 2017 ETC Reporting Streamlining Order by removing paragraph (4) of section 54.313(a) and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

- The Small Company Coalition filed a letter on July 11, 2017, to submit a Federal Regulatory Compliance Reporting Summary. The SCC lauded the FCC’s July 7, 2017 Report and Order that eliminated several unnecessary and duplicative reporting requirements. It said in 2015 it evaluated reporting requirements and assessed the number of labor hours consumed by each requirement, claiming such reporting consumes approximately 23 weeks of full time work per year – or over five months of full time labor. The SCC said it is cognizant of the FCC’s need for information, but believes this function should not constitute such a drain on member company limited resources.
• AT&T filed a letter to provide feedback on the list of census blocks filed by USTelecom that were originally included in the CAF Phase II offer but were identified as not in price cap carriers’ study areas. AT&T attached two files listing CBs originally included on the USTelecom list that AT&T now reclaims and CBs originally included in AT&T’s Phase II offer that it has identified as not in an AT&T study area. AT&T also submitted directly to USAC a list of extremely high-cost census blocks where it plans to deploy broadband during the term of its support.

• Comments were filed on July 7, 2017, to update the list of census blocks identified in the June 8, 2017 Public Notice as eligible for the CAF Phase II auction in states where price cap carriers accepted the statewide offers of model-based CAF Phase II support. Alexicon filed on behalf of 15 RLECs, notifying the FCC of census blocks on the list that are within their service area boundaries. It noted certain census blocks appeared to be contained only in part in the RoR carriers’ study areas, and therefore Alexicon calculated the percentage of each census block shown in both lists contained in the RoR carrier study area. It said a block had to be at least sixty percent contained in the RoR carrier’s area in order to be included on the lists contained in Exhibit A. Blackfoot Telephone identified six census blocks falling within its study area boundaries and one that is intersected by its boundary. Blackfoot said it has two exchanges that are islands within its study area, and providing voice and broadband service to Alta, Montana and Powell, Idaho requires Blackfoot to rely on a price cap network for transport. John Staurulakis, Inc. filed amended comments on behalf of a group of RLECs on July 7, 2017. It said the RLECs have identified the blocks listed in Attachment A as completely or partially within rate-of-return study areas, and request the FCC deem all of the blocks as “claimed” by the RoR carrier listed next to the block number and take whatever steps necessary to ensure the blocks are not included in the CAF Phase II auction. All comments available to date.

• NTCA filed a letter on July 14, 2017, to discuss what it claims is a disconnect between the Lifeline and High Cost USF programs that is leaving a large number of rural consumers stuck in the “digital divide.” It argued careful coordination of the respective missions of these programs in rural America is essential to the success of statutory universal service goals, claiming the success of the Lifeline program in rural America is largely dependent on a properly functioning High Cost universal service program as a predicate. NTCA said the artificially constrained and arbitrary High-Cost budget is undermining the goals of both the High-Cost and Lifeline programs, as well as the Schools and Libraries and Rural Health Care programs, and it urged the Commission to reconsider the sufficiency of the budget for the existing High Cost program that is based upon arbitrarily time-locked support levels now more than six years old and which fails to advance quality and affordable communications for users of all kinds across rural America.

• Vantage Point filed a letter on July 7, 2017, on behalf of Premier Communications, to provide a list of census blocks Premier will be using to meet its CAF II build-out obligations. It noted Premier purchased Consolidated’s exchanges in 2016, which are subject to Consolidated’s CAF II deployment obligations, and combined with Premier’s exchanges created a “location gap” of 50 locations in its Heartland exchanges. It noted the 2014 CAF Order allowed price cap carriers to substitute extremely high-cost locations in adjacent census blocks for locations in eligible census blocks, provided the total number of locations served is equal to or greater than the number of supported locations in the eligible census blocks.

• Hughes Network Systems met separately with Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Clyburn and O’Rielly on July 6 and 7, 2017, to discuss CAF Phase II competitive bidding. Hughes asserted the current bid-weighting matrix in the CAF Weighting Order places emphasis on very high speeds and low latencies that is out of proportion to the value that these characteristics have for real consumers in the marketplace. Hughes urged the Commission to adopt a revised bid-weighting matrix that more appropriately weights speed and latency consistent with their consumer utility. Hughes also provided a paper authored by Scott Walsten, of the Technology Policy Institute, which argued the bid weighting matrix should include time-to-deployment in the scoring matrix.

• The Utilities Technology Council, Ozarks Electric Cooperative, North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, and Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative met separately with Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly and Clyburn on July 10, 2017, to report on their progress in deploying broadband networks and offering broadband services to their customers in Arkansas and South
Carolina. They also urged the FCC to move forward with the CAF Phase II reverse auction and to affirm the weighting factors the Commission recently adopted for the reverse auction.

- Viaero Wireless met with Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Clyburn on July 11 and 12, 2017, to discuss its Petition for Waiver of performance default requirements applicable to Mobility Fund Phase I public interest obligations, filed July 29, 2016. It said while the FCC has not yet acted on Viaero’s Petition, USAC has, without providing any due process, imposed upon Viaero a 10% default penalty by offsetting funds due to Viaero as a result of its successful construction of other census tracts, unrelated to those that are the subject of Viaero’s Petition. Viaero claimed the difficulties in obtaining access were not apparent on the date Viaero participated in MF Phase I, but became clear as the Forest Service decided to revise its master plan in 2014 and thereafter, and said the insurmountable problems presented by the Forest Service and BLM are detailed in Viaero’s Petition.

Broadband

- Chairman Pai sent letters to 102 Members of Congress on July 6, 2017, in response to their letter urging the FCC to ensure sufficient resources are available to enable the USF mechanisms to work as designed and to give rural Americans the opportunity to obtain affordable broadband and to advance broadband deployment in high-cost rural areas. Pai said the FCC is working through a punch list of lingering issues from the RoR Reform Order, and he enumerated some recent actions. He suggested something more fundamental may be needed, saying if the Order is not carrying out its stated purpose of advancing broadband deployment in rural America, the FCC cannot ignore that problem. Pai sent a similar letter to Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) on July 6, 2017, in response to her letter asking the FCC to continue to work on the CAF so it can provide the reliable support necessary to aid rural providers in expanding broadband services.

- The Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureau issued an Order on July 13, 2017, denying a request from the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, et al. for an extension of time to file reply comments on the NPRMs in the Wireline and Wireless Infrastructure Deployment proceedings. The Bureaus said the number of initial comments, the complexity of the issues they address, and the range of proposed rule changes do not justify the requested extension.

- The FCC issued a Public Notice on July 11, 2017, announcing the next meeting of the Technological Advisory Council will be September 19, 2017. The Council will discuss progress on work initiatives discussed at the previous meeting. The FCC said the TAC is helping the Commission to continue the momentum spurred by the National Broadband Plan to maximize the use of broadband to advance national interests and create jobs.

- Microsoft announced on July 11, 2017, it released a white paper on ways to eliminate the rural broadband gap within the next five years. Microsoft suggested a model that uses a combination of the TV white spaces spectrum, fixed wireless, and satellite coverage will reduce the initial capital and operating costs by roughly 80 percent compared with the cost of using fiber cables alone, and by approximately 50 percent compared with the cost of current LTE fixed wireless technology. Microsoft claimed TV white spaces is expected to provide the best approach to reach approximately 80 percent of this underserved rural population, particularly in areas with a population density between two and 200 people per square mile. Microsoft also asserted satellite coverage is expected to be the most cost-effective solution for most areas with a population density of less than two people per square mile, and LTE fixed wireless for most areas with a density greater than 200 people per square mile. Microsoft said this model for expanding broadband coverage will bring the total national cost of closing the rural broadband gap to roughly $10 billion.

- The U. S. Conference of Mayors sent a letter to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Reilly and Clyburn on July 13, 2017, to convey the organization’s newly adopted policy statement on “The Need
to Preserve Local Government and Consumers Rights in the Broadband Era” that was adopted at the Conference of Mayors’ 85th Annual Meeting. It said this policy statement underscores the responsibilities and duties of mayors as owners, operators, and managers of local public rights-of-way, and said these responsibilities and duties will remain at the end of the FCC’s proceeding and, as such, must be fully respected.

- The House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Bill on a voice vote on July 12, 2017. The legislation, among other things, includes $6.94 billion for rural electric and telephone infrastructure loans, the same level as fiscal year 2017. Press release

Open Internet

- Comments were filed on July 14, 2017, on the NPRM proposing: to return internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service; to return to the FCC’s original classification of mobile broadband internet access service as a private mobile service; and seeks comment on the existing rules governing ISPs’ practices. The Institute for Local Self-Reliance opposed any changes in existing FCC rules that would jeopardize the open and neutral quality of the internet, and supported the existing Title II classification for internet access. The ACLU said it opposes the current proposal to overturn the 2015 Open Internet Order because it would eliminate net neutrality protections critical to protecting each individual’s right to access an uncensored internet. It urged the Commission to reject final adoption of the proposal. Citizens Against Government Waste said it supports the FCC’s reconsideration of the Open Internet Order, and should the Restoring Internet Freedom Order be approved by the Commission, a free and open internet will be reinstated, while economic growth will flourish through a light-touch regulatory approach to internet governance. Replies are due August 16, 2017. List of all comments available to date.

- The Georgetown Center for Business and Public Policy released a policy paper on July 10, 2017, entitled The Effect of Title II Classification on Wireless Investment, authored by Anna-Maria Kovacs, on July 10, 2017. The paper asserted it is not net neutrality that hinders investment in wireless infrastructure, but the invocation of common-carrier regulation, and claimed it is important to reverse the Title II designation of BSPs, while still protecting internet freedom.

- The Free State Foundation filed a letter on July 14, 2017, to submit into the Restoring Internet Freedom docket a paper entitled An Assessment of the FCC’s Proposal to Conduct a Cost-Benefit Analysis, authored by Theodore R. Bolema. The paper claimed the benefits of eliminating the Title II public utility-like regulatory regime outweigh the costs and that leaving the 2015 Open Internet Order in place will result in substantial foregone investment.

- A group of organizations and trade associations filed a letter on July 11, 2017, to say the 2015 decision to treat broadband like a public utility has resulted in a decline in broadband investment. They urged the Commission and Congress to enact policies that promote a thriving, open, and innovative internet that encourages economic growth while removing the archaic Title II public utility-style regulation of broadband.

- The Writers Guild of America West sent a letter to Chairman Pai on July 12, 2017, to state the 2015 Open Internet rules preserve the internet as an open communications platform by instituting rules that prohibit blocking, throttling, paid prioritization and other discriminatory conduct. WGAW also claimed the open internet will not continue to thrive without enforceable rules, and expressed opposition to the proposal to reclassify broadband internet access as an information service.

 Universal Service
Chairman Pai sent a letter to USAC on July 11, 2017, directing it to immediately implement safeguards to mitigate waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. Pai directed USAC to identify the top ten ETCs with the highest number of potentially ineligible subscribers according to GAO’s study and audit them to determine whether they are properly verifying the eligibility of their subscribers. He also directed USAC to identify and review every address associated with 500 or more subscribers, and develop a process to identify ETCs with material discrepancies that cannot be adequately explained between the NLAD and claimed support on their Form 497 submissions. Chairman Pai also directed USAC to act on deceased subscribers, exact duplicates, and sales agent accountability. He directed USAC to provide a report on implementation of these safeguards by August 8, 2017.

No comments filed on Leech Lake Telecommunications ETC designation Petition. Replies are due July 28. Public Notice

Misc.

The FCC adopted the following items at its July 13, 2017 Open Meeting: a Second FNPRM (News) to address ongoing problems in the completion of long-distance telephone calls to rural areas; a Notice of Inquiry (News) on methods to authenticate telephone calls to secure telephone networks against illegal robocallers; a Notice of Inquiry (News) that explores methods by which reassigned telephone number data could be made available to callers to avoid making unwanted calls to consumers; an NPRM (News) outlining steps to further curtail slamming and cramming; a First Report and Order (News) to update and amend the equipment authorization program; a Report and Order (News) to address use of the 76-81 GHz band to support a broad range of vehicular radar uses; and an Order on Reconsideration and FNPRM (News) to address licensed and unlicensed wireless microphone operations in the TV bands and various other frequency bands. The FCC also adopted a Memorandum Opinion and Order (News) that addresses exceptions filed to an Initial Decision granting a program carriage complaint, and a Forfeiture Order (News) fining Dialing Services $2.88 million for facilitating unlawful robocalls (Statements).

The Commission released the tentative agenda on July 13, 2017, for its August 3, 2017 Open Meeting. The Commission will consider: a Public Notice to initiate the pre-auction process for the CAF Phase II auction; an Order on Reconsideration and Second Report and Order that lays out the challenge process for the Mobility Fund Phase II; an FNPRM that looks at Form 477 to improve the value of the data; a Notice of Inquiry that explores opportunities for next generation services, particularly for wireless broadband, in the 3.7 GHz to 24 GHz spectrum range; a Second Report and Order and FNPRM that would adopt unified construction, renewal, and service continuity rules for the Wireless Radio Services; a Memorandum Opinion and Order that waives the requirement that satellite news trucks, and other temporary-fixed satellite earth stations transmitting digital video, comply with the DVB-CID standard if the earth station uses a modulator that cannot meet the DVB-CID standard through a software upgrade; a Hearing Designation Order; and an enforcement action.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will convene a hearing on July 19, 2017, on the reappointment of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and former FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel, and the appointment of FCC General Counsel Brendan Carr to be an FCC Commissioner. Pai, Rosenworcel, and Carr submitted answers to their questionnaires.

The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an Order on July 10, 2017, denying Windstream et al.‘s Motion that requested a stay of the effective date of the FCC’s business data services rules, pending judicial review. The Bureau said petitioners failed to demonstrate that they are likely to succeed on the merits, that they will suffer irreparable injury, or that the balance of the equities favors granting a stay, and denied the Motion.

Reps. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.) and Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) sent a letter to Reps. Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) on July 12, 2017, to inquire about the progress being made by the
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology in scheduling an oversight hearing for the FCC by the end of this month. They noted the FCC has not yet appeared before the Committee, or any House committee, to testify this year.

- The FCC published a Notice in the Federal Register on July 14, 2017, making a minor correction to a date in the changes to the separations rules contained in its June 2, 2017 Notice.

- In addition to reply comments reported in a previous edition of Reg Scan, replies were filed on July 7, 2017, on the NPRM proposing to collect $356,710,992 in regulatory fees for FY 2017 and proposing fee schedules. CenturyLink said the Commission should at a minimum adopt the proposals made in the Notice to reallocate 38 of the 51 FTEs in the Wireline Competition Bureau who work on USF issues from direct FTEs to indirect FTEs and reallocate four of the WCB FTEs that work on numbering issues to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau as direct FTEs for regulatory fee purposes. CenturyLink also said the FCC should adopt the additional proposals made by Frontier and ITTA. AT&T argued the FCC should avoid the proposed flat fee approaches, and should extend the existing per circuit IBC fees to include non-common carrier terrestrial circuits. AT&T also said the FCC should maintain the IBC per circuit fees for common carrier and non-common carrier satellite circuits. Level 3 said the FCC should assess regulatory fees on both common carrier and non-common carrier terrestrial IBCs, and agreed with the Submarine Cable Coalition that the FCC should adopt a flat fee mechanism, but does not support the Coalition’s proposal to assess that flat fee on international 214 authorizations. ACA claimed the proposed increase in the DBS subcategory rate will not harm consumers, and said the DBS providers have continued to participate in Media Bureau MVPD proceedings and continued to benefit from Media Bureau FTE work.

- The FCC issued a Notice in the Federal Register on July 11, 2017, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the FCC’s Electronic Tariff Filing System. As of June 2011, all ILECs and CLECs were required to file tariff filings electronically. PRA comments are due September 11, 2017.


- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a Public Notice on July 10, 2017, announcing the dates and times for the LNP Administrator Transition Contingency Rollback Planning Session and the 18th LNPA Transition Outreach and Education Plan webcast. The Rollback Planning Session is scheduled for July 12, 2017, at 2:00pm EDT, and interested parties can register for the session online. The TOEP webcast is scheduled for July 19, 2017, from 3:00-4:00 pm EDT, and will be hosted by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP, the TOM for the LNPA transition. Interested parties may register for the webcast online.

- The FCC deleted from its July 13, 2017 Open Meeting agenda the Report and Order that increases the required hours of video-described programming covered broadcast stations and MVPDs must provide to consumers. The FCC said this item has already been adopted.

Upcoming Filing Dates

- July 17 - Replies due on the NPRM and NOI on the regulatory impediments to wireless network infrastructure investment and deployment.

- July 17 - Replies due on the Wireline Infrastructure NPRM, NOI, and Request for Comment. FR, Public Notice
July 17 - Comments due on the NPRM proposing: to return internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service; to return to the FCC’s original classification of mobile broadband internet access service as a private mobile service; and seeks comment on the existing rules governing ISPs’ practices. Replies are due August 16, 2017.

July 17 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with sections 54.202 (additional requirements for Commission designation of ETCs), 54.307 (support to a CETC), 54.313 (annual reporting requirements for high-cost recipients), and 54.314 (certification of support for ETCs). Notice

July 17 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved formal complaint procedures for the Open Internet rules. Notice

July 17 - Comments due on a new information collection associated with its January 26, 2017 CAF Phase II New York Auction Order, which granted New York a waiver of the Phase II auction program rules, subject to certain conditions. Notice

July 21 - Oppositions due to NCTA’s Petition for Reconsideration of the Part 32 Order. NCTA seeks reconsideration of the way in which pole attachment costs are handled. Replies to oppositions are due July 31, 2017. FR

July 21 - Replies due on ITTA and USTelecom’s Petition for Rulemaking to review rate regulation of business data services offered by model-based rate-of-return carriers. Public Notice

July 21 - Comments due on the Public Notice seeking comment on proposed eligible services for the E-rate program for funding year 2018. Replies are due August 7.

July 24 - Replies due on the NPRM that asks whether the Commission should change the current local service rate floor methodology or eliminate the rate floor and its accompanying reporting obligation. Notice

July 24 - Comments due on the NOI on ways to facilitate greater consumer choice and enhance broadband deployment in multiple tenant environments. Replies are due August 22, 2017.

July 28 - Replies due on Leech Lake Telecommunications ETC designation Petition. Public Notice

July 31 - Replies due on the NPRM on facilitating voice service providers’ blocking of illegal robocalls. Notice

July 31 - Comments due on refreshing the record on access charge reform for 8YY calls since the 2011 Transformation Order. Replies due August 15, 2017. Public Notice

July 31 - Replies due to oppositions to NCTA’s Petition for Reconsideration of the Part 32 Order. NCTA seeks reconsideration of the way in which pole attachment costs are handled. FR

July 31 - Comments due on Great Plains Communications’ Petition for waiver of sections 51.909(a)(4)(ii)(A) and 51.919(b) to use its actual interstate switched access revenues instead of projected revenues to calculate switched access rates and eligible recovery as it exits NECA’s switched and special access pools. Replies are due August 15, 2017. Public Notice

Aug. 3 - Comments due on the WCB Report presenting findings on rural call completion based on eight sets of reports submitted during the first two years of the data collection.

Aug. 7 - Replies due on the Public Notice seeking comment on proposed eligible services for the E-rate program for funding year 2018.
• Aug. 7 - Comments due on Alaska Communications Systems’ Petition requesting a ruling that GCI or its relevant subsidiary, a CLEC, be treated going forward as the sole incumbent LEC in the study area currently served by ACS of Anchorage. The Petition also requested the FCC rule ACS of Anchorage is no longer a dominant carrier and shall cease to be treated as an ILEC in that study area. Replies due August 21, 2017. Public Notice

• Aug. 9 - Comments due on the NPRM that proposes to eliminate the requirement that payphone operators conduct annual audits. Replies due September 8, 2017. FR

• Aug. 15 - Replies due on refreshing the record on access charge reform for 8YY calls since the 2011 Transformation Order. Public Notice

• Aug. 15 - Replies due on Great Plains Communications’ Petition for waiver of sections 51.909(a)(4)(ii)(A) and 51.919(b) to use its actual interstate switched access revenues instead of projected revenues to calculate switched access rates and eligible recovery as it exits NECA’s switched and special access pools. Public Notice

• Aug. 16 - Replies due on the NPRM proposing: to return internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service; to return to the FCC’s original classification of mobile broadband internet access service as a private mobile service; and seeks comment on the existing rules governing ISPs’ practices.

• Aug. 21 - PRA comments due on an information collection (Forms 183 and 184) that will be used to determine if applicants are eligible to participate in auctions for USF support, including the CAF Phase II auction, the Mobility Fund II auction, the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II, and the Remote Areas Fund. Notice

• Aug. 21 - PRA comments due on a revised information collection associated with the Tariff Review Plans. The revision is pursuant to the April 20, 2017 BDS Order, which detariffed certain business data services and modified the regulatory obligations for those BDS services that will remain tariffed. Notice

• Aug. 21 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with changes made in a 1999 Order that permitted price cap LECs to introduce new services on a streamlined basis, without prior approval or cost support requirements. Notice

• Aug. 21 - Replies due on Alaska Communications Systems’ Petition requesting a ruling that GCI or its relevant subsidiary, a CLEC, be treated going forward as the sole incumbent LEC in the study area currently served by ACS of Anchorage. The Petition also requested the FCC rule ACS of Anchorage is no longer a dominant carrier and shall cease to be treated as an ILEC in that study area. Public Notice

• Aug. 22 - Replies due on the NOI on ways to facilitate greater consumer choice and enhance broadband deployment in multiple tenant environments.

• Sept. 5 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with the April 28, 2017 Report and Order that reformed the business data services/special access regulations for incumbent and competitive LECs. Notice

• Sept. 8 - Replies due on the NPRM that proposes to eliminate the requirement that payphone operators conduct annual audits. FR

• Sept. 11 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the FCC’s Electronic Tariff Filing System. As of June 2011, all ILECs and CLECs were required to file tariff filings electronically. Notice

• Sept. 11 - PRA comments due on a new information collection associated with changes made in the FCC’s February 2017 Part 32 Report and Order. Notice