

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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August 5, 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC adopted eight items at its August 1, 2019 [Open Meeting](#), including: an [NPRM](#) proposing to establish a new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund that would target support to areas that lack 25/3 Mbps broadband service and distribute \$20.4 billion in high-cost USF support over 10 years using a two-phase reverse auction; a [report and order and second FNPRM](#) establishing a new Digital Opportunity Data Collection to collect geospatial broadband coverage data from fixed providers, adopting a crowdsourcing process on the accuracy of the maps, making targeted changes to the existing Form 477 to reduce filing burdens, and seeking comment on enhancing the new data collection; a [report and order](#) overhauling the RHC Program; and a [second report and order](#) amending the Truth in Caller ID rules to implement the anti-spoofing provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act. Some items are not yet released.
- [Comments were filed](#) on the [NPRM](#) proposing to establish an \$11.42 billion cap on the USF. Replies are due August 26, 2019. [Order](#)
- Tri-County and NTCA [said](#) TCT's data shows staff and labor hours beyond the estimated time per response for the network testing data collection and reporting requirements.
- ITTA [discussed](#) its comments filed on the [public notice](#) on A-CAM II location adjustments, and said A-CAM support recipients should have flexibility regarding when or if to raise location discrepancy issues. TDS also [discussed](#) A-CAM II location adjustments, and said further analysis is necessary to decide on the appropriate remedy in the event of location shortfalls. Reasnor Telephone [supported](#) the proposals in the [public notice](#), but suggested added allowances of flexibility for carriers to work with the FCC to ensure location data sources and associated subsidies are correct.
- The FCC issued an [Order](#) granting two requests in USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from UNE analog loop and avoided-cost resale obligations for price cap ILECs.
- The FCC [publicly](#) released the list of CLLI codes of price cap ILEC wire centers that are subject to the relief granted in the [UNE Transport Forbearance Order](#).
- The FCC [seeks comment](#) on NTCA's [Petition](#) for a waiver of the updated minimum service speed standard applicable to fixed wireline broadband internet access service eligible for support under the Lifeline program. Comments are due August 29, 2019; replies are due September 13, 2019.
- [Comments were filed](#) on CTIA, et al.'s [Petition](#) asking the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phase-down in Lifeline support for voice services. Replies are due August 15, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- The D.C. Circuit Court [granted](#) NECA and NTCA's [motion](#) to file an amicus brief in support of the FCC in the case addressing the Irregulars, et al.'s [petition for review](#) of the FCC's [order](#) that extended the separations freeze. Amici for Respondents briefs are due September 19, 2019.
- USAC filed [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections](#) for the 4Q 2019.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Aug. 26 - Replies [due](#) on the [NPRM](#) on establishing a cap on the USF.

USF Reform

- Tri County Telephone and NTCA [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on July 31, 2019, to discuss network performance measurement testing. TCT said in preparing for the performance measurement obligations, it has undertaken a detailed study of its service area, available equipment, and methods of deploying testing-capable equipment to its participating subscribers. NTCA said the data assembled by TCT informs the FCC's current inquiry as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act on the estimated time per response and demonstrates numerous staff and labor hours beyond the estimates will be necessary to comply with the requirements. NTCA also said the data may inform the FCC's analysis as the various petitions for reconsideration and application are reviewed.
- ITTA [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on July 29, 2019, to discuss its comments filed on the [Public Notice](#) on approaches to identifying and resolving apparent discrepancies between the number of model-determined funded locations that A-CAM I and II support recipients are expected to serve and the actual number of locations that support recipients can serve. ITTA reiterated A-CAM support recipients should have flexibility regarding when or if to raise location discrepancy issues. ITTA elaborated on the ways that conducting location discrepancy resolution processes later in the A-CAM term, with up-to-date location information, would be most effective and potentially minimize the efforts associated with such processes for carriers and Commission staff. ITTA also said the CAF Phase II auction and A-CAM programs are distinguishable from each other and suggested the FCC address Phase II auction and A-CAM locations discrepancies separately.
- TDS Telecommunications and Matthey Consulting [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Special Counsel and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on July 30, 2019, to discuss the [Public Notice](#) on approaches to identifying and resolving apparent discrepancies between the number of model-determined funded locations that A-CAM I and II support recipients are expected to serve and the actual number of locations that support recipients can serve. TDS urged A-CAM funding not be reduced on a pro rata basis where the number of actual locations is less than predicted locations, saying the cost of serving an area does not meaningfully decrease when there are fewer actual locations than anticipated. It also said further analysis is necessary to decide on the appropriate remedy in the event of location shortfalls, and it would be premature for the FCC to adjudicate location shortfalls years in advance of the end of the support term for A-CAM recipients.
- Reasnor Telephone filed [comments](#) on August 1, 2019, on the portion of the June 5, 2019 [public notice](#) on approaches to identifying and resolving apparent discrepancies between the number of model-determined funded locations that A-CAM I and II support recipients are expected to serve and the actual number of locations that support recipients can serve. Reasnor supported the proposals in the public notice, but with added allowances of flexibility for carriers to work with the FCC to ensure location data sources and associated subsidies are correct. Reasnor said it should have access to the list of locations to compare with its actual service area, and urged the FCC to permit the Bureau to revise A-CAM II offers with significant funded location shortfalls and to address and clarify that separate locations, no matter how billed, should be eligible for subsidies. [All comments available.](#)

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Broadband

- The FCC issued a [Memorandum Opinion and Order](#) on August 2, 2019, granting two requests in USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from UNE analog loop and avoided-cost resale obligations for price cap ILECs. The FCC found the public interest is no longer served by maintaining legacy regulatory obligations and their associated costs regarding the requirement for price cap ILECs to unbundle two-wire and four-wire analog voice-grade copper loops, including the attached TDM equipment, and the requirement that price cap ILECs offer for resale at wholesale rates telecommunications services that the ILEC offers at retail to non-carrier customers. [News release](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on August 1, 2019, publicly releasing the list of Common Language Location Identification (CLLI) codes of price cap ILEC wire centers that are

subject to the forbearance granted in the [UNE Transport Forbearance Order](#). The Bureau said it received no objections to its [announcement](#) on releasing this list.

- The FCC [placed an item](#) on circulation on August 2, 2019, entitled “Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, Notice of Inquiry.”
- INCOMPAS [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Commissioners Rosenworcel, O’Rielly, and Starks on July 25, 2019, to discuss the draft Digital Opportunity Data Collection [Order and Second FNPRM](#). INCOMPAS discussed the requirement for fixed broadband providers to submit polygons and said “facilities-based” should be defined so that it includes only those providers relying upon their own facilities, not through the purchase or lease of last-mile facilities from others, and fixed providers be defined as facilities-based providers that offer the defined broadband service to end-user locations over their own last-mile facilities. It also opposed a date certain for sunseting any part of the Form 477 in the FNPRM, explained the importance of the subscription data in the Form 477, and discussed the need to improve the Form 477 instructions with respect to broadband network availability so that they are consistent with paragraph 13 in the draft Order.
- NCTA, Cox Communications, GCI, and Charter Communications [met with](#) Commissioner O’Rielly’s Legal Advisor on July 24, 2019, to discuss the draft Rural Digital Opportunity Fund [NPRM](#) and the draft Digital Opportunity Data Collection [Order and Second FNPRM](#). NCTA, et al. said moving to a reporting regime based on polygon shapefiles would address the overstatement of coverage that results under the FCC’s current census block approach in a manner that providers and the FCC should be able to implement in a timely manner. They also expressed support for the proposal to incorporate crowdsourcing to supplement the review of Form 477 filings by Commission staff. They suggested additional questions be added to the RDOF NPRM, such as how the FCC should gather information on broadband deployment that is being funded by other agencies to ensure that any new funding from the Commission is efficiently directed to unserved areas. On July 25, 2019, Cox and Comcast met with Chairman Pai’s Special Counsel to discuss the same issues.
- Next Century Cities [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel’s Legal Advisor on July 24, 2019, to discuss the draft Rural Digital Opportunity Fund [NPRM](#) and the draft Digital Opportunity Data Collection [Order and Second FNPRM](#). They discussed Louisville, Kentucky’s SpeedUp project, which collects speed and cost data from residents in order for the city to get an accurate account of broadband availability. It suggested municipal leaders engaged in similar endeavors be included in planning discussions with the FCC to ensure the new federal data collection framework would both incorporate input from and be helpful to local leaders. On the RDOF item, they discussed concerns about developing a program based on 25/3 Mbps speeds, asserting it’s a minimum requirement that will be inadequate when the program reaches full bloom. They also asserted that using flawed data to determine which communities will qualify for Phase I or Phase II of the program could exclude disconnected communities from much needed broadband deployment resources.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on July 31, 2019, announcing comments are due August 30, 2019, on the [NPRM](#) on issues that may affect the deployment of broadband to multiple tenant environments, including exclusive marketing and wiring arrangements, revenue sharing agreements, and state and local regulations. The NPRM also seeks comment on the FCC’s legal authority to address broadband, telecommunications, and video deployment and competition in MTEs. Reply comments are due September 30, 2019.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on July 30, 2019, announcing it will host a workshop on August 20-21, 2019, for Tribal governments, employees, and members to provide information that will help Tribal Nations identify and evaluate opportunities to develop more robust broadband, telecommunications, and broadcast infrastructure and services in Tribal communities. The workshop will also include information on the USF programs, including the new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and the related Tribal engagement obligation for High Cost Fund recipients. The workshop will be held at the Department of the Interior Building in Billings, Montana.

Robocalls

- The Professional Association for Customer Engagement, Noble Systems, and Sirius XM Radio [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Advisor and staff from the Wireline Competition and Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureaus on July 25, 2019, to discuss its comments on the [Third FNPRM](#) on robocalls. PACE asserted the [FNPRM](#) conflates SHAKEN/STIR-based blocking with analytics-based blocking, claiming these are not the same. PACE said a safe harbor should be limited to terminating carriers who correctly apply a SHAKEN/STIR-based blocking system, but block an otherwise permissible call due to erroneous or missing SHAKEN/STIR attestation information. PACE also discussed the costs and potential benefits of a critical call list or, in the alternative, an individual consumer exception list.
- Numeracle, NetNumber, and Everbridge [met with](#) Consumer and Governmental Affairs and Enforcement Bureau staff on July 30, 2019, to discuss a proposed requirement for companies seeking a safe harbor to use vetted caller information to improve accuracy. They also discussed what they say are the shortcomings of SHAKEN/STIR for identification of calling parties in complex call-origination use cases.

ICC

- CenturyLink filed a [letter](#) on July 31, 2019, to address AT&T's July 2, 2019 filing on CenturyLink's [Petition for Declaratory Ruling](#) that over-the-top VoIP providers and their LEC partners perform the functional equivalent of end office switching and may collect end office local switching access reciprocal compensation. CenturyLink asserted it does not matter whether AT&T's core argument in this proceeding, i.e., that a LEC must provide the last-mile connection to the end user to be entitled to assess end office charges, is correct or not. CenturyLink claimed end office charges apply either way.
- BTC, d/b/a Western Iowa Networks, Goldfield Access Network, Great Lakes Communication, Northern Valley Communications, OmniTel Communications, and Louisa Communications filed a [letter](#) on August 1, 2019, to respond to Comcast's [letter](#) asserting the FCC should adopt the "prong 1" proposal in the [Access Stimulation NPRM](#) and not adopt its proposed "prong 2" direct connection remedy. BTC, et al. claimed Comcast's evidence supports the conclusion that reforms in the Connect America Fund Order adopted in 2011, and implemented over a period of several years, reduced the access charges associated with access stimulation to ensure the rates are just and reasonable. BTC, et al. asserted the FCC should retain the access stimulation rules that are already in place and close this docket.

Universal Service

- Comments were filed on July 29, 2019, on the [NPRM](#) proposing to establish an \$11.42 billion cap on the Universal Service Fund, which is the sum of the authorized budgets for the four USF programs in 2018. [WTA](#) asserted that Congress has delegated to the FCC the authority to establish the four separate, existing predictable and sufficient USF programs but not the authority to subject them to a single overall budget. WTA said the FCC should continue to administer its separate USF programs via separate budgets without subjecting them to cost-effectiveness metrics, trade-offs, and funding re-prioritizations. [NTCA](#) asserted an overall cap on the USF would be inconsistent with the congressional mandate to ensure specific, predictable and sufficient support for each program. NTCA said the FCC can achieve its goal with a periodic review of USF budgets to ensure that each program is contributing meaningfully over time toward the goals of universal service and delivering appropriate payback for the resources devoted to it. [ITTA](#) said if the FCC adopts an overall cap, it must immunize high-cost program disbursements from reduction if the cap is exceeded. [USTelecom](#) said the FCC should not cap a program's support below its current authorized budget without full examination of the program, and said commitments made in the high-cost fund should not be subject to retroactive limiting budget decisions. [Gila River Telecommunications](#) opposed an overall cap, stating it would pit interests from across the various funds against one another in an effort to preserve much-needed funding streams. [GVNW](#) said the establishment of an overall cap on the USF would be contrary to Congress' intent and the Act, and could stifle the very broadband deployment the Commission seeks to promote throughout the country. [Alaska Communications](#) urged the FCC to evaluate the appropriateness and level of any

cap, and said a more appropriate course would be contributions reform. [INCOMPAS](#) said the FCC's current cap and budget processes for the USF programs are sufficient and an overall USF cap is not needed. It expressed concern that the proposed implementation of an overall cap will jeopardize the ability of each of the USF programs to meet their individual requirements. [All comments available to date](#). Replies are due August 26, 2019. [Order](#)

- USAC filed the [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Fund Size Projections](#) for the fourth quarter of 2019 on August 2, 2019. USAC indicated the total high-cost support mechanism funding requirements are projected to be \$1.363 billion. (Appendices are available on [USACs website](#).)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on July 30, 2019, seeking comment on NTCA's [Petition](#) for a waiver of the updated minimum service speed standard applicable to fixed wireline broadband internet access service eligible for support under the Lifeline program. NTCA asserted given the recent [Public Notice](#) announcing new minimum standards commencing December 1, 2019, combined with the decrease in Lifeline support for voice services scheduled to take effect on the same date, it asked the FCC to grant the relief requested. Comments are due August 29, 2019; replies are due September 13, 2019.
- Comments were filed on July 31, 2019, on CTIA, the National Hispanic Media Coalition, et al.'s [Petition](#) asking the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phase-down in Lifeline support for voice services. [NTCA](#) said the increase in the minimum service and speed standards have forced Lifeline customers to transition to higher speed or higher data usage plans, at a higher price, while the amount of Lifeline support that can be applied has remained the same, or in the case of voice services, will decrease by \$2 per month on December 1, 2019. [Sprint](#) said waiver of the rules will ensure that Lifeline service remains affordable and that MSS standards are phased in on a gradual and manageable basis. [TracFone](#) said the upcoming changes to the minimum service standards will drastically limit customer choice and are anti-competitive. It urged the Commission to pause implementation until it has released the state of Lifeline marketplace report. [NASUCA](#) said subscribership and USF disbursement information show there is still significant demand by Lifeline consumers for Lifeline voice services and the scheduled decreases in support would make Lifeline voice service more expensive for those who do not have a choice of Lifeline broadband, do not want it, or cannot afford it. The [Oregon PUC](#) requested the Commission consider the effects of increasing minimum service standards not only on mobile Lifeline services, but on fixed BIAS as well. [Access Humboldt et al.](#) said losing no-cost voice-only service leaves consumers without access to 911 and recent USAC data shows nearly 42 percent of Lifeline customers still subscribe to voice-only service. [Randolph May, President of Free State Foundation](#), said given developments since the Commission devised the mandates, implementation on the existing schedule may not be reasonable. [All comments available to date](#). Replies are due August 15, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) on July 31, 2019, granting, denying, and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on E-rate and USF contributions. Petitions for reconsideration or applications for review of these decisions must be filed within 30 days of the Public Notice.
- USAC filed a [fifth update](#) to the Lifeline National Verifier Plan on July 31, 2019, which was created in response to the 2017 Lifeline Modernization Order. USAC indicated this updated version describes the systems and processes of the National Verifier, provides a status of the project, and details the work that remains to make it a success.
- The National Grange sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Rosenworcel, and Carr on July 31, 2019, to urge them to maintain support for voice services in the Lifeline program at the December 1, 2018 levels and not to eliminate it as proposed for 2021. It asserted if the FCC eliminates this, over 3.8 million Lifeline subscribers could be negatively impacted.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on August 2, 2019, seeking comment on the proposed eligible services list for the schools and libraries universal service support program for funding year 2020. Comments are due September 3, 2019; replies are due September 18, 2019.

- Union Telephone sent a [letter](#) to Commissioner O'Rielly on July 30, 2019, expressing concern with two proposed projects in its service areas that it claims are overbuilding through public subsidization. Union detailed the two projects, one in Sweetwater County, Wyoming, proposing to use grants from the USDA's Reconnect Program, and the other in Daggett County, Utah, involving E-rate funds. Union said to avoid similar overbuilds in the future, any application for federal funding ought to be vetted to prevent redundancy and inefficiency. It also recommended the FCC require E-rate applicants to notify all ETCs within a prescribed geographic radius in writing upon filing the FCC Form 470 and to incorporate proof of notification in the application for funding.
- The Government Accountability Office released a [report](#) entitled "FCC Should Assess Making Off-School Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal Support" on July 29, 2019. The GAO said rules for the FCC's E-rate program may limit schools' ability to provide wireless access off-premises as this is not eligible for E-rate support, and schools that provide such access using existing services supported by E-rate must reduce their E-rate discounts. The GAO recommended the FCC take steps to assess and publish the potential benefits, costs, and challenges of making off-premises wireless access eligible for E-rate support. The GAO noted the FCC agreed with this recommendation.
- Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) [introduced](#) a Rural Health Agenda on August 1, 2019, that includes three bills aimed at addressing health care delivery challenges in Rural America. The *Rural America Health Corps Act* would enhance the National Health Service Corps to include a Rural America Healthcare Corps to incentivize academic medical centers and health care graduates to rotate through underserved communities. The *Rural Health Innovations Act* incentivizes communities to leverage their existing resources to provide for the community's urgent care needs and the *Telemedicine Across State Lines Act* would create uniform, national best practices for the provision of telemedicine across state lines. The bills are not yet available.
- Sens. Ron Wyden (D Ore.) and John Hoeven (R N.D.) sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on July 30, 2019, urging delay of the draft Rural Health Care [Order](#), which will be considered at the FCC's August 1, 2019 Open Meeting. They asserted the proposal will lead to increased confusion and funding delays for rural health care applicants and providers, saying, for instance, it does not address the need for more funding, set forth the methodology for calculating the rural and urban rates, nor provide adequate maps to determine the rural area boundaries needed to determine pricing, and instead delegates rate-setting to USAC. [Press release](#)
- The FCC [published](#) in the Federal Register on July 30, 2019, the [NPRM](#) that was issued on July 11, 2019, proposing a connected care pilot. Comments are due August 29, 2019; replies are due September 30, 2019.
- USAC sent a [letter](#) to Wireline Competition Bureau staff on July 31, 2019, to provide non-confidential analysis of RHC Program (including both the Healthcare Connect Fund and Telecommunications Program) gross demand, which had been requested by Bureau staff.
- GCI [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on July 30, 2019, to provide clarification on GCI's July 25, 2019 [letter](#) on the draft Rural Health Care [Order](#)'s proposal to set rural and urban rates for the telecommunications program for Alaska. GCI clarified its proposal to create four delineations within the "Extremely Rural" designation is intended to identify and associate with each, individual Extremely Rural community one of the four types of backhaul technology deployed and available in the community. GCI asserted these delineations would add an essential level of granularity to aid USAC and the Commission's program administration and oversight efforts.
- GCI filed a [letter](#) on July 29, 2019, to respond to certain ex partes filed on the draft Rural Health Care [Order](#). GCI asserted there is a consensus for a need for more subcategories within the extremely rural tier in Alaska. GCI also said USTelecom's [proposal](#) to permit rates in a tariff or publicly available service guide/guidebook and for which the service provider has a retail customer is warranted, but said there is no rational basis for excluding HCF and E-rate rates from the exception proposed by USTelecom.

- WorldNet Telecommunications filed a [second request](#) on August 2, 2019, seeking action on its [Petition](#) for clarification or, in the alternative, reconsideration of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund [Order](#). WorldNet seeks assurance and/or clarification it will be afforded an equivalent financial benefit as that afforded by the FCC to other Puerto Rico providers when it determined in the Order not to offset advance payments against future support. WorldNet urged the FCC to issue an order clarifying and establishing for WorldNet additional emergency funding equivalent to what was provided to other Puerto Rico providers pursuant to the “no offset of advance payments” decision.
- Chickasaw Telephone filed a [Petition](#) on July 30, 2019, seeking a waiver of the study area boundary freeze in order to redefine its study area to include previously unassigned area territory within the State of Oklahoma where no other carrier is authorized to provide telecommunications service and where it has been serving as a part of its Sulphur exchange.

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Misc.

- The FCC adopted the following items at its August 1, 2019 [Open Meeting](#): an [NPRM](#) proposing to establish a new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund that would target support to areas that lack 25/3 Mbps broadband service and distribute \$20.4 billion in high-cost USF support over 10 years using a two-phase reverse auction framework; a [report and order and second FNPRM](#) establishing a new Digital Opportunity Data Collection to collect geospatial broadband coverage data from fixed providers, adopting a “crowdsourcing” process on the accuracy of the maps, making targeted changes to the existing Form 477 to reduce filing burdens, and seeking comment on enhancing the new data collection (statements: [Pai, Rosenworcel, Starks, O’Rielly](#) and [Carr](#)); a [report and order](#) overhauling the Rural Health Care Program by streamlining and simplifying the way health care providers apply for and calculate USF support amounts; a [second report and order](#) amending the Truth in Caller ID rules to implement the anti-spoofing provisions of the RAY BAUM’S Act; a [report and order](#) creating a new, optional streamlined application process designed for a class of satellites referred to as “small satellites;” a [report and order](#) addressing calls to 911 made from multi-line telephone systems, pursuant to Kari’s Law, the conveyance of dispatchable location with 911 calls, as directed by RAY BAUM’S Act, and the consolidation of the FCC’s 911 rules; a [public notice](#) adopting procedures for the auction of certain toll-free numbers in the 833 code; and a [third report and order](#) addressing issues raised by a remand from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals concerning how franchising authorities may regulate incumbent cable operators. Some of these items are not yet released.
- The FCC [deleted](#) from its August 1, 2019 Open Meeting agenda the [NPRM](#) proposing to modernize the LPFM technical rules to provide more regulatory flexibility for licensees. The FCC said the item has already been released.
- The D.C. Circuit Court issued an [Order](#) on August 1, 2019, granting NECA and NTCA’s [motion](#) to file an amicus brief in support of the FCC in the case addressing the Irregulars, et al.’s [petition for review](#) of the FCC’s [order](#) that extended the separations freeze. The Court also amended the briefing schedule. Respondent’s briefs are now due September 12, 2019; Amici for Respondents briefs are due September 19, 2019; and final briefs are due October 31, 2019.
- Sens. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Mark Warner (D-Va.) introduced the *Manufacturing, Investment, and Controls Review for Computer Hardware, Intellectual Property and Supply (MICROCHIPS) Act* ([S. 2316](#)) on July 30, 2019. The bill would: direct the Director of National Intelligence, DOD and other relevant agencies to develop a plan to increase supply chain intelligence within 180 days; establish a National Supply Chain Security Center within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to collect supply chain threat information and disseminate it to agencies with the authority to intervene; and make funds available under the Defense Production Act for federal supply chain security enhancements. [Press release](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on July 29, 2019, granting 214 applications filed by Accipiter Communication d/b/a Zona Communications and Wyyerd Group that requested

consent to transfer control of Zona to Wyverd, and by CCI Network Services and Network Services Holdings that requested consent to transfer control of CCI to Network Services.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on July 30, 2019, seeking comments on an application filed by Consolidated Communications of Northern New England (CCNE) and Terabyte Holdings, pursuant to section 214, to transfer certain telecommunications assets of CCNE's operator service/directory assistance business to Terabyte. CCNE is a wholly owned subsidiary of Consolidated Communications Holdings. Comments are due August 13, 2019; replies are due August 20, 2019.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Aug. 6 - Comments due CallWorks' application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. [Public Notice](#)
- Aug. 15 - Replies due on a [petition](#) filed by CTIA, et al., asking the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phase-down in Lifeline support for voice services. [Public Notice](#)
- Aug. 15 - Replies due on a 214 application filed by Absaraka Cooperative Telephone and Inter-Community Telephone requesting approval for the transfer of certain assets owned by Absaraka to ICTC. [Public Notice](#)
- Aug. 13 - PRA comments due for information collection requirements for parts of sections 251 and 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that affect local competition. [FR](#)
- Aug. 13 - Comments due on a section 214 application filed by Consolidated Communications of Northern New England (CCNE) and Terabyte Holdings, to transfer certain telecommunications assets of CCNE's operator service/directory assistance business to Terabyte. Replies due August 20, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- Aug. 16 - Comments due the [NPRM](#) seeking comment on the permanent E-rate category two budget. Replies are due September 3, 2019 [FR](#)
- Aug. 20 - Replies due on a section 214 application filed by Consolidated Communications of Northern New England (CCNE) and Terabyte Holdings, to transfer certain telecommunications assets of CCNE's operator service/directory assistance business to Terabyte. [Public Notice](#)
- Aug. 23 - Replies are due on the [FNPRM](#) proposing revisions to FCC rules implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and on issues pertaining to implementation of SHAKEN/STIR. [FR](#)
- Aug. 26 - Replies due on the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) seeking comment on establishing an \$11.42 billion cap on the Universal Service Fund. [FR](#), [Order](#)
- Aug. 26 - Urban rate surveys due that will be used to develop voice and broadband reasonable comparability benchmarks that will be in place in 2020. [Public Notice](#)
- Aug. 28 - Comments are due on the establishment of a matching program the FCC will conduct with the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of the Lifeline program. [FR notice](#)
- Aug. 28 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection on telephone number portability. Comments are due August 28, 2019. [FR notice](#)
- Aug. 29 - Comments due on NTCA's [Petition](#) for a waiver of the updated minimum service speed standard applicable to fixed wireline broadband internet access service eligible for support under the Lifeline program. Replies are due September 13, 2019. [Public Notice](#)

- Aug. 29 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) proposing a connected care pilot. Replies are due September 30, 2019. [FR](#)
- Aug. 30 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) on the deployment of broadband to multiple tenant environments, including exclusive marketing and wiring arrangements, revenue sharing agreements, and state and local regulations, among other things. Replies are due September 30, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- Sept. 3 - Replies due the [NPRM](#) seeking comment on the permanent E-rate category two budget. [FR](#)
- Sept. 3 - Comments due on the proposed eligible services list for the schools and libraries universal service support program for funding year 2020. Replies are due September 18, 2019 [Public Notice](#)
- Sept. 13 - Replies due on NTCA's [Petition](#) for a waiver of the updated minimum service speed standard applicable to fixed wireline broadband internet access service eligible for support under the Lifeline program. [Public Notice](#)
- Sept. 18 - Replies due on the proposed eligible services list for the schools and libraries universal service support program for funding year 2020. [Public Notice](#)
- Sept. 30 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) proposing a connected care pilot. [FR](#)
- Sept 30 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) on the deployment of broadband to multiple tenant environments, including exclusive marketing and wiring arrangements, revenue sharing agreements, and state and local regulations, among other things. [Public Notice](#)

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