

## NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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

### September 3, 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC [announced](#) it is ready to authorize CAF Phase II Auction 903 support for the 375 winning bids identified in attachment A of the public notice. Applicants are required to submit irrevocable standby letter(s) of credit and Bankruptcy Code opinion letter(s) by September 10, 2019.
- [Reply comments were filed](#) on the [NPRM](#) proposing to establish an \$11.42 billion cap on the USF, which is the sum of the authorized budgets for the four USF programs in 2018.
- Comments [are due](#) September 30, 2019, on NECA's [2020 Modification of the Average Schedule Universal Service High Cost Loop Support Formula](#). Replies are due October 15, 2019.
- The [second report and order](#) that amended the Truth in Caller ID rules to implement the anti-spoofing provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act [is effective](#) February 5, 2020.
- [Reply comments were filed](#) on the [FNPRM](#) proposing revisions to FCC rules implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and on issues pertaining to implementation of SHAKEN/STIR.
- USAC filed the [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Quarterly Contribution Base](#) for fourth quarter 2019.
- Nominations [are due](#) October 28, 2019, for six board member positions on the USAC board of directors, for a three year term.
- Comments were filed by the [Oregon PUC](#) and [TCA](#) 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](#)
- The FCC issued a [report and order and FNPRM](#) that adopted a schedule of regulatory fees to assess and collect \$339,000,000 in regulatory fees for fiscal year 2019. Fees [are due](#) September 24, 2019. The FNPRM seeks comment on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. Comments are due 30 days after Federal Register publication; replies due 60 days after FR.
- The Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet will hold a field [hearing](#) on rural broadband in South Dakota on September 5, 2019.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released its [Voice Telephone Services](#) report and [Internet access services](#) report.

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### Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 20 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to establish a new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Replies due October 21, 2019. [FR](#)
- Sept. 23 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on enhancing the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection. Replies are due October 7, 2019.

## USF Reform

- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, Wireline Competition Bureau, and Office of Economics and Analytics issued a [public notice](#) on August 26, 2019, announcing they are ready to authorize CAF Phase II Auction 903 support for the 375 winning bids identified in attachment A of the public notice. They said to be authorized to receive the total 10-year support amounts listed in attachment A, the long-form applicants identified are required to submit acceptable irrevocable standby letter(s) of credit and bankruptcy code opinion letter(s) from their legal counsel for each state where they have winning bids that are ready to be authorized by 6:00 p.m., September 10, 2019.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. Charles E. Grassley (R Iowa) and Joni Ernst (R Iowa) on August 20, 2019, in response to their letter asking the FCC to address Northeast Iowa Telephone and Western Iowa Telephone's [Petition for Clarification or Declaratory Ruling](#) on the definition of locations under the A-CAM for residences that also serve as businesses. Pai said the Wireline Competition Bureau sought comment on the petition on June 20, 2019 and the comment period recently closed on July 25, 2019. Pai said FCC staff are reviewing the record and expects there will be a recommendation in the coming weeks.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to ten members of Congress on August 21, 2019, in response to their letter regarding broadband mapping and 4G LTE in rural areas. Pai said the FCC launched an investigation last year into whether certain carriers violated the Mobility Fund II reverse auction's mapping rules by submitting incorrect coverage maps. Pai said the FCC suspended the program while conducting this investigation and expects that Commission staff will soon conclude this investigation, after which the Commission will consider the next appropriate steps.
- Hughes Network Systems [met with](#) Commissioner Starks' chief of staff on August 29, 2019, to provide a status update for the CAF and Rural Digital Opportunity Fund funding and the status of funding for the satellite industry as a whole. It also discussed its September 2018 [petition for clarification](#) of the [Network Performance Testing Order](#).
- Sandwich Isles Communications filed [comments](#) on August 29, 2019, on the [NPRM](#) proposing to establish a new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. SIC responded to statements in paragraph 46 and footnote 87 of the NPRM. SIC attached a copy of a letter from the Hawaiian Homes Commission that SIC says confirms SIC is an ETC. SIC asserted the FCC already identified SIC as an ETC for interstate USF, and the designation has not been revoked. SIC claimed it does not need ETC certification from the Hawaii PUC since there is no intrastate USF. SIC also claimed it has never received the universal service funds it is supposed to receive for the second half of 2015.

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## Broadband

- The Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet will hold a field [hearing](#) in South Dakota on September 5, 2019, entitled Transforming Rural America: A New Era of Innovation. This hearing will examine the innovations high-speed broadband services bring to rural America in a variety of sectors such as agriculture, education, health care, and small business. The hearing will also explore the need to bring additional reliable broadband connectivity to rural America. Commissioner Carr will be one of the witnesses.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to 20 members of Congress on August 19, 2019, in response to their letter on broadband mapping. Pai said the FCC adopted a report and order at the FCC's August Open Meeting that will result in more granular and more accurate broadband maps through the creation of the Digital Opportunity Data Collection. Pai said this collection will require broadband providers to report where they actually offer service below the census block level, having USAC independently test the validity of that data, and incorporating public feedback to ensure up to date and accurate broadband deployment maps.

- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Cindy Axne (D Iowa) on August 20, 2019, in response to her letter on broadband mapping data and the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Pai said the FCC adopted at its August 1, 2019 Open Meeting, a new Digital Opportunity Data Collection that would yield more granular and more accurate broadband maps and provides for regular updates of the filed data to ensure that the maps are current. Pai also said these updated maps will be used to focus funding to expand broadband through future initiatives such as the second phase of the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to ten members of Congress on August 21, 2019, in response to their letter on the need for accurate broadband availability data to solve the rural broadband gap. Pai said the FCC adopted a new Digital Opportunity Data Collection at its August 1, 2019 Open Meeting that revamps the broadband mapping process. He also agreed that unlicensed spectrum in the TV white spaces presents an opportunity for better wireless broadband services, and said the FCC issued a decision in March resolving outstanding issues in this area.
- Chairman Pai [spoke](#) at the University of Mississippi Tech Summit on August 28, 2019, on the progress in next-generation technologies and closing the digital divide. Pai said the FCC is pursuing the 5G FAST plan that frees up airwaves for the commercial marketplace, promotes wireless infrastructure deployment, and modernizes regulations. He said in 2018, fiber was deployed to more new homes in the United States than any year ever, and average fixed broadband speeds are up substantially. Pai also said last year the FCC allocated about \$1.5 billion to connect over 713,000 unserved rural homes and businesses nationwide through a reverse auction, and earlier this month, the FCC proposed to create the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which would provide \$20.4 billion over the next decade to support high-speed broadband networks in rural America.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued its report on [Internet access services](#) on August 28, 2019, which summarized information on internet access connections in the United States as of December 31, 2017, as collected by FCC Form 477. The report indicates internet connections increased by about 4% between December 2016 and December 2017 to 421 million. Mobile internet connections increased 4.5% year-over-year to 313 million in December 2017, while the number of fixed connections grew to 108 million, up about 2% from December 2016.
- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on August 26, 2019, announcing the next meeting of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee will be held September 19, 2019. At this meeting, the BDAC will receive status reports and updates from its three working groups: Disaster Response and Recovery, Increasing Broadband Investment in Low-Income Communities, and Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Job Skills and Training Opportunities.
- USTelecom, ITTA, WISPA and CostQuest Associates [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on August 27, 2019, to present their [report](#) summarizing the key findings and methodology from their broadband mapping proof of concept pilot in Missouri and Virginia.
- Comments were filed on 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. [Public Knowledge and New America's OTI](#) said the FCC should prohibit any kind of exclusive agreement between landlords and BIAS providers as well as require landlords to let any provider offer services in the buildings, and make facilities and inside wiring that is not in use available to any provider. They also said the FCC should first address its deficiency of authority, and claimed the most efficient way of doing this is reclassifying broadband as a Title II service. [NCTA](#) asserted competition in the marketplace for broadband service to MTEs is thriving, and the Commission should not disrupt this marketplace by mandating sharing of wiring or facilities used to provide broadband or regulating exclusive marketing, exclusive wiring, and revenue sharing arrangements. NCTA said to the extent the FCC does regulate this marketplace, it must apply the regulations to all areas of MTEs and all broadband providers. [Wireless Infrastructure Association](#) asserted the FCC's current approach to MTE deployment is working well, and said the Commission should focus further actions on continuing to remove barriers to broadband deployment, clarifying terms, making new spectrum available, and analyzing ways to streamline the permitting process for in-building distributed antenna systems networks. Reply comments are due September 30, 2019. [public notice](#) | [all comments available](#).

- The Wireless Infrastructure Association filed a [petition](#) on August 27, 2019, seeking clarification that section 6409(a) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act) and the implementing regulations apply to all state and local authorizations required to deploy new or replacement transmission equipment on existing wireless towers or base stations, and that the section 6409(a) shot clock begins to run when an applicant makes a good faith attempt to request local approval, among other things. WIA also filed a [petition](#) asking the FCC to update its rules to ensure that collocations requiring limited compound expansions qualify for relief under section 6409(a) and the FCC's implementing regulations, and require that fees associated with eligible facilities requests for the provision of telecommunications services must be cost-based. [press release](#)

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## Robocalls

- The [second report and order](#) that amended the Truth in Caller ID rules to implement the anti-spoofing provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act was [published](#) in the Federal Register on August 30, 2019. In the order, the FCC revised its caller ID spoofing rules to cover communications originating outside the United States directed at recipients within the United States, expanded the scope of communications covered by its caller ID spoofing rules, and adopted a number of definitions, including text message, text messaging service, and voice service, among other things. The order is effective February 5, 2020.
- In addition to reply comments that were listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, replies were filed on August 23, 2019, on the [FNPRM](#) proposing revisions to FCC rules implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and on issues pertaining to implementation of SHAKEN/STIR. [WTA](#) said RLECs cannot transition to an all-IP voice network until the tandems they interconnect with are upgraded, RLECs will have no option but to continue to submit and receive their voice traffic in TDM format. WTA also said any potential safe harbor should only allow for a call to be blocked if it is between two framework participants and the call fails authentication. [ITTA](#) said the FCC should adopt a safe harbor that immunizes from liability call blocking based on reasonable analytics, whether or not combined with SHAKEN/STIR implementation. ITTA also said the FCC should refrain from imposition of a SHAKEN/STIR implementation requirement on all voice service providers in the event not all major voice service providers succeed in voluntary SHAKEN/STIR implementation by the end of 2019. [AT&T](#) said a flexible safe harbor would avoid unintended negative consequences that could stifle providers' innovation and experimentation in the robocall mitigation space and/or provide bad actors the means to circumvent robocall mitigation efforts. [All replies available](#).
- Somos filed a [letter](#) on August 29, 2019, to respond to the Numbering Administration Oversight Working Group's [request](#) for an extension of the September 13, 2019 deadline for NAOWG to complete its work on the technical and operational issues of the reassigned numbers database. Somos also responded to USTelecom, et al.'s [request](#) for the FCC to reconsider its decision to merge the administration of the reassigned number database with the consolidated NANP Administrator and Pooling Administrator functions under a single contract and a single administrator. Somos asserted the FCC should not grant NAOWG another extension, and that adding administration of the RND to the NANPA/PA's responsibilities will result in cost savings.

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## ICC

- Wide Voice filed a [letter](#) on August 26, 2019, in response to Inteliquent's [letter](#) on proposed solutions to access arbitrage. Wide Voice said it supports Inteliquent's proposal to cap mileage to 10 miles, but said the FCC should not adopt the proposed revised triggers, which Inteliquent defines as a 6:1 inbound to outbound traffic ratio and greater than 1 million monthly minutes per end office, claiming these would likely lead to new forms of arbitrage resulting from efforts by carriers to manage traffic balances. Wide Voice asserted a mileage cap should be one of the triggers rather than the result of a trigger, and suggested that where greater than 10 miles of transport is billed (and the current traffic

trigger is also tripped), the prong 1 and prong 2 remedies would be invoked; where 10 miles or less of transport is billed, prong 1 and prong 2 remedies would not be triggered.

## Universal Service

- Reply comments were filed on August 26, 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. [NTCA](#) said the High-Cost Program has guardrails in place to ensure that support is directed to where it is needed most, is sufficient but no greater than necessary to achieve the purpose behind that spending and that support recipients are accountable for their use of distributed funds. NTCA said to the extent the FCC is concerned that budget caps within the individual programs or other measures require further consideration, a review of those individual mechanisms can be undertaken. [WTA](#) asserted Congress has delegated to the FCC the authority to establish the four separate existing USF programs, but not the authority to subject them to a single overall budget that pits them against each other. WTA said the four existing USF programs all are subject to separate budgets that can meet all of the NPRM's stated budgetary goals more effectively, efficiently and flexibly than the proposed aggregated overall budget. The [California PUC](#) requested the FCC not to adopt an overall cap on the USF nor an individual cap on the federal Lifeline program, and said these caps will not promote the FCC's universal goals and will not enhance sustainability or accountability in the USF. The PUC said, instead, the FCC should better target funding by taking measures to improve data collection in the USF programs, improve data verification, and ensure program obligations are met by program participants. [GVNW](#) said it is not good public policy to establish an overall cap on USF because there are other alternatives to budget for the sufficient distribution of funds for each of the programs to ensure that the programs can advance their particular area of need. The [CWA](#) said the FCC should not establish a financial cap on the USF as it would substantially harm the millions of people who rely on the support provided by these programs and leave behind the more than 19 million Americans who still lack access to broadband. [New America's Open Technology Institute](#) said the proposed overall USF cap is unnecessary and would harm the FCC's efforts to bridge the digital divide. [Andrew G. Place, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania PUC](#), said the proposed adoption of a proposed overall cap on the budget of the federal USF is premature, and said the FCC already has the flexibility, and has exercised it, to address support funding issues that concern each of the constituent programs in the federal USF mechanism. He suggested the FCC reform the federal USF contribution base and methodology. He noted these are his own views and do not reflect the views of the members of the Pa. PUC or those of its staff. [All replies available.](#)
- Chairman Pai sent letters to [Sen. Michael Bennet](#) (D-Colo.) and [17 members of Congress](#) on August 20 and 21, 2019, to respond to their letters expressing concern over the proposed USF budget caps. Pai said the NPRM seeks comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than \$3 billion above current USF program disbursements, and would be adjusted for inflation. In the letter to the members of Congress, Pai said an overall cap could help limit the overall contributions burden and will provide regulatory and financial certainty to both recipients of and contributors to the fund.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on August 30, 2019, seeking comment on NECA's [2020 Modification of the Average Schedule Universal Service High Cost Loop Support Formula](#). These modifications are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2020, and remain in effect through December 31, 2020. Comments are due September 30, 2019; replies due October 15, 2019.
- USAC filed the [Federal Universal Service Support Mechanisms Quarterly Contribution Base](#) for fourth quarter 2019 on August 30, 2019. The total projected collected interstate and international end-user revenue base to be used in determining the contribution factor for the USF support mechanisms for fourth quarter 2019 is \$11,017,439,561, down from \$11,483,305,614 in the previous quarter.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on August 27, 2019, seeking nominations for six board member positions on the USAC board of directors, for a three year term. The Bureau seeks nominations for representatives for: libraries that are eligible to receive discounts; cable operators, schools that are eligible to receive discounts, commercial mobile radio service providers, state consumer advocates and incumbent local exchange carriers. Nominations are due October 28, 2019.



- Comments were filed on August 29, 2019, 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. The [Oregon PUC](#) said under NTCA's grandfathering proposal, current customers would be able to keep their BIAS plans that meet this year's minimum standards, but that will not help future Lifeline customers receive the discount on the same plans. The PUC said as an alternate solution to NTCA's proposal, it recommended the FCC consider removing the minimum speed standard for fixed BIAS plans eligible for Lifeline support and permit Lifeline customers to use their discount on any speed service that fits their individual needs and budgets. [TCA](#) said the FCC should not force Lifeline consumers to bear a higher cost of service by forcing them to subscribe to more expensive broadband service tiers to retain their Lifeline support. [all comments available](#). Replies are due September 13, 2019. [public notice](#)
- TruConnect [met with](#) Chairman Pai and his advisor, Commissioner O'Rielly, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on August 21, 2019, to discuss 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. TruConnect expressed support for the petition and asserted if the Bureau does not grant the petition, then Lifeline subscribers could expect an approximate \$30 per month immediate price increase causing many otherwise eligible subscribers to drop out of the program. TruConnect [discussed](#) the same issues with Commissioner Starks' chief of staff and legal advisor on August 22, 2019.
- The National Lifeline Association and Q Link Wireless [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on August 29, 2019, to discuss their support for 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 phasedown in Lifeline support for voice services. They said their discussions were consistent with statements made in recent ex partes.
- BTI Communications filed a [letter](#) on August 26, 2019, to respond to CGM's [letter](#) on BTI's [petition](#) seeking a waiver of USAC's application of section 54.404 to allow BTI to receive Lifeline support for its qualified customers. BTI provided an excerpt from its agreement with CGM, which it claims shows the comprehensive nature of the relationship between CGM and BTI, including performing a perform a detailed compliance review of customer's Lifeline processes, policies and data processing.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [public notice](#) on August 29, 2019, granting, denying, and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on E-rate. Petitions for reconsideration or applications for review of these decisions must be filed within 30 days of the public notice.
- Replies are due September 3, 2019, on the [NPRM](#) seeking comment on the permanent E-rate category two budget. [FR](#)
- Comments are due September 3, 2019, 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](#)
- Commissioner O'Rielly sent a [letter](#) to the superintendent of the Cochise County, Arizona Schools on August 26, 2019, regarding Cochise County Education and Technology Consortium's request for proposals under the FCC's E-rate funding program, for the construction of a wide area network to deliver fiber-based broadband to each of the schools and libraries in Cochise County. O'Rielly asserted the awarded contract appears to lead to wasteful and duplicative spending and asked for a response to his questions by September 21, 2019.
- INCOMPAS [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's advisor on August 27, 2019, express its opposition to the Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, et al.'s [petition](#) that asked the FCC to implement a rulemaking proceeding to include additional safeguards to the funding approval process for E-rate projects that overbuild existing USF-supported fiber networks. INCOMPAS asserted the petition should be dismissed for failure to submit the facts and data that support its allegations.

- Valley Telephone Cooperative [spoke by phone](#) with Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on August 27, 2019, to discuss potential waste in the E-rate program. Valley discussed the funding awarded to the Cochise County Educational Technology Consortium in Arizona. Valley urged the FCC to release an NPRM to address overbuild and waste concerns as described in Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, et al.'s [petition for rulemaking](#). Valley Telephone also [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on August 21, 2019, to discuss the same issues.
- The Texas Education Service Centers Regions 10, 11 and 15 filed a [letter](#) on August 28, 2019, on the Central Texas Telephone Cooperative et al.'s [petition](#) that asked the FCC to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to consider amending the E-rate program competitive bidding requirements. ESC provided details about the ESCs' individual projects and about the Texas Lone Star Network. ESC asserted that the fact that some fiber exists in an area is not a guarantee that it can serve the population of that area effectively and efficiently, and claimed additional FCC rules are not necessary to ensure that E-rate funding is being utilized in the best manner.
- The Utah Education and Telehealth Network sent a [letter](#) to Commissioner O'Rielly on August 26, 2019, to respond to Union Telephone's [letter](#) that expressed concern with two proposed projects in its service areas in Utah and Wyoming that Union claimed are overbuilding through public subsidization. UETN asserted its project in Utah is not an overbuild utilizing USF funds because there was no fiber serving these schools. UETN also claimed Union was notified of the project but chose not to bid.
- Comments were filed on August 29, 2019, on the [NPRM](#) proposing a connected care pilot. [USTelecom](#) said given that the broadband service provider typically has no direct relationship with the eligible health care provider or the patient, the Commission should model this pilot on the E-rate program and have funding paid directly to the health care provider so that broadband service providers are not artificially placed in the middle of these transactions. [CoBank](#) said low-income households and low-income veterans need affordable telecommunications and information services to benefit from telehealth, so no telehealth solution will be viable without supporting the broadband infrastructure to deliver universal service in rural high cost areas. [Verizon](#) expressed support for the proposed pilot and said it will help FCC to evaluate whether it can use the universal service fund to accelerate the deployment of connected care services. [Gila River](#) reiterated its support for both fixed and mobile connectivity opportunities to be supported through the pilot program and cautioned the Commission against adopting structural rules that have the effect of favoring single purpose connectivity over broadband Internet access services. [NCTA](#) recommended the FCC adopt its proposals to focus the pilot program funding on broadband connectivity and related network equipment for health care facilities. NCTA also said the FCC should encourage participation by the broadest array of broadband providers possible, rather than limiting participation only to ETCs. [CTIA](#) said ensuring the pilot program's success will necessitate focusing on efficient, non-duplicative uses of scarce federal USF resources, including avoiding overlap with other programs that support telehealth, whether administered by the Commission or other federal agencies. Replies are due September 30, 2019. [all comments available](#).
- XO Communications [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on August 22, 2019, to discuss its [application for review](#) of the [order](#) denying requests for review on whether certain revenues associated with specific mixed-use special access lines should be considered interstate for the purpose of assessing USF contributions. XO urged the Bureau to grant it a retroactive waiver, claiming the ten percent rule could have been reasonably interpreted by the industry to only require certifications when more than ten percent of traffic on their private lines are interstate. XO also [met with](#) Chairman Pai's special counsel on August 27, 2019, to discuss the same issues.

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### Misc.

- The FCC issued a [report and order and FNPRM](#) on August 27, 2019, adopting a schedule of regulatory fees to assess and collect \$339,000,000 in regulatory fees for fiscal year 2019. The schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2019 is attached in Appendix C of the order. The FCC also amended its rules to conform with the text of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the

RAY BAUM'S Act. The order will become effective upon publication in the Federal Register. The FNPRM seeks comment on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. Comments are due 30 days after Federal Register publication; replies are due 60 days after FR publication. The FCC issued an [erratum](#) on August 30, 2019, to the [report and order and FNPRM](#), amending paragraph 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence of the order to read "[t]hese regulatory fees are due in September 2019."

- The FCC released a [public notice](#) on August 28, 2019, announcing the opening of the Commission's automated filing and payment system for FY 2019 regulatory fees, which are due September 24, 2019. The FCC said while FY 2019 regulatory fees will not become effective until the August 27, 2019 [report and order](#) is published in the Federal Register, regulatees, at their own discretion, may submit payments at any time before the effective due date. A similar [public notice](#) was issued on August 30, 2019.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on August 30, 2019, granting the 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.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on August 30, 2019, seeking comments on an application filed by Arcadia Telephone Cooperative, Monarc Technologies, Westside Independent Telephone, d/b/a Western Iowa Networks, and BTC, d/b/a Western Iowa Networks, pursuant to section 214, to transfer telecommunications assets of Arcadia and Monarc to Westside and BTC, respectively. Comments are due September 13, 2019; replies are due September 20, 2019.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued its [Voice Telephone Services](#) report on August 28, 2019, which summarized the information collected on telephone services as of December 31, 2017. The report noted in December 2017, there were 50 million end-user switched access lines in service, 67 million interconnected VoIP subscriptions, and 340 million mobile subscriptions in the United States. Over the three-year period, interconnected VoIP subscriptions increased at a compound annual growth rate of 7%, mobile voice subscriptions increased at a compound annual growth rate of 2%, and retail switched access lines declined at 12% per year.
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued an [order on reconsideration](#) on August 28, 2019, denying Peak Communications' [petition](#) for reconsideration of an [order](#) that found Peak changed consumers' telecommunications service providers without proper authorization verified in accordance with the FCC's slamming rules. The Bureau affirmed Peak violated the FCC's slamming rules and denied the petition.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on August 30, 2019, seeking comments on Brightlink Communications application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. Comments are due September 13, 2019.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) the appointment of Dr. Jeffrey Prince as the FCC's chief economist on August 28, 2019. Dr. Prince currently serves as a professor of Business Economics and Public Policy at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. Dr. Prince will work within the Office of Economics and Analytics and will begin work on September 3, 2019.

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## Upcoming Filing Dates

- Sept. 6 - PRA comments due Form 833 that will be used in the toll-free number auction. [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. 13 - Comments due on an application filed by Arcadia Telephone, Monarc Technologies, Westside Independent Telephone, and BTC, pursuant to section 214, to transfer telecommunications assets of Arcadia and Monarc to Westside and BTC, respectively. Replies are due September 20, 2019. [public notice](#)
- Sept. 13 - Comments due on Brightlink's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the numbering administrators for its iVoIP service. [public notice](#)
- Sept. 16 - Comments due on Network Communications International's [petition](#) for forbearance from the application of USF contribution requirements with respect to the provision of interstate and international inmate calling services. Replies are due October 1, 2019. [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. 20 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to establish a new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which 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. Replies due October 21, 2019. [FR](#)
- Sept. 20 - Comments due on Hood Canal Communications and CenturyLink's [petition](#) for a study area waiver to permit CenturyLink to remove an area that is originally within its Washington study area and for the same area to be recognized as part of HCC's Washington study area. Replies are due October 7, 2019. [public notice](#)
- Sept. 20 - Replies due on an application filed by Arcadia Telephone, Monarc Technologies, Westside Independent Telephone, and BTC, pursuant to section 214, to transfer telecommunications assets of Arcadia and Monarc to Westside and BTC, respectively. [public notice](#)
- Sept. 23 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on enhancing the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection, incorporating mobile voice and broadband, and improving satellite broadband reporting. Replies are due October 7, 2019.
- Sept. 23 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved collection associated with sections 251 and 252 that affect local competition. [notice](#)
- Sept. 30 - Comments due on NECA's [2020 Modification of the Average Schedule Universal Service High Cost Loop Support Formula](#). Replies due October 15, 2019. [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](#)
- Oct. 1 - Replies due on Network Communications International's [petition](#) for forbearance from the application of USF contribution requirements with respect to the provision of interstate and international inmate calling services. [public notice](#)
- Oct. 7 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) on enhancing the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection, incorporating mobile voice and broadband, and improving satellite broadband reporting.
- Oct. 7 - PRA comments due on letters of authorization in order to verify the relationship between the responsible organization and the potential subscriber, and on collecting data on secondary market transactions that will be used in toll free number auctions. [FR](#)

- Oct. 7 - Replies due on Hood Canal Communications and CenturyLink's [petition](#) for a study area waiver to permit CenturyLink to remove an area that is originally within its Washington study area and for the same area to be recognized as part of HCC's Washington study area. [public notice](#)
- Oct. 15 - Replies due on NECA's [2020 Modification of the Average Schedule Universal Service High Cost Loop Support Formula](#). [public notice](#)
- Oct. 21 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to establish a new Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which 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. [FR](#)
- Oct. 21 - PRA comments due on the information collection requirements in the [FNPRM](#) on the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection.

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