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September 18, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- Six [comments were filed](#) on the list of 13 rate-of-return study areas identified as potentially having 100 percent overlap by an unsubsidized competitor or combination of unsubsidized competitors. Replies are due October 10, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- NTCA, Golden West, et al. [discussed](#) shortfalls in high-cost USF support and urged the Commission to use any available high-cost USF reserves that have not already been allocated to fill the budget shortfall. WTA and Totah Communications [said](#) the current funding of neither the ACAM Path nor the RoR Path is sufficient to meet the growing broadband needs of rural customers, and urged the Commission to retain a role in monitoring broadband interconnection and middle mile arrangements. Great Plains Communications, Consolidated, and ITTA [discussed](#) funding the A-CAM Plan at \$200 per location this year, and discussed the idea of an FNPRM on a second offer of A-CAM funding.
- The Enforcement Bureau sent a [Notice of Formal Complaint](#) to AT&T, notifying it Level 3 filed a [Complaint](#) against it regarding bill-and-keep for tandem-switched transport access services.
- ACA, NCTA, NTCA, USTelecom, and WISPA filed a [Joint Petition](#) seeking a four-week extension of the September 25, 2017 deadline for comments on the [FNPRM](#) on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477.
- WTA, GVNW, and the PA PUC filed [comments](#) on NTCA and USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from application of USF contributions obligations on broadband internet access transmission services pending comprehensive contributions reform. Replies are due September 28, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- The FCC Managing Director [announced](#) the proposed universal service contribution factor for the fourth quarter of 2017 will be 18.8 percent, up from the current 17.1 percent.
- The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a [hearing](#) on the Lifeline Program.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [seeks](#) nominations for six members for the USAC Board of Directors. Nominations are due by October 27, 2017.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [denied](#) Windstream's Petition to reject or to suspend and investigate AT&T's August 29, 2017 tariff transmittals, finding AT&T's tariff revisions do not violate the six-month price freeze provision of the Business Data Services Order.
- Great Plains [discussed](#) its [Petition for Waiver](#) to allow it to utilize actual switched access revenues in establishing access rates and CAF ICC eligible revenue recovery instead of projections as it exits the NECA pool.
- Terral Telephone [discussed](#) its August 2012 Petition for Waiver of the jurisdictional separations freeze.
- [Reply comments were filed](#) on the [NOI](#) on methods to authenticate telephone calls against illegal robocallers.
- [Comments were filed](#) on the [NPRM](#) that proposes to amend rules to prohibit carriers from misrepresenting themselves when placing telemarketing sales calls to consumers and placing unauthorized charges on their phone bills. Replies are due October 13, 2017. [Notice](#)

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 19 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) to amend the Caller ID rules to allow disclosure of blocked Caller ID information to aid law enforcement.
- Sept. 21 - Comments due on a [Thirteenth Section 706 Report Notice of Inquiry](#). Replies due October 6, 2017.
- Sept. 25 - Replies due on the [Second FNPRM](#) on rural call completion.
- Sept. 26 - Replies due on the [Second NOI](#) that explores methods by which reassigned telephone number data could be made available to callers to avoid making unwanted calls to consumers.

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USF Reform

- Comments were filed on September 11, 2017, on the list of 13 rate-of-return study areas identified as potentially having 100 percent overlap by an unsubsidized competitor or combination of unsubsidized competitors. [Home Telephone](#) filed a rebuttal of the finding, claiming the study areas of AT&T and HomeTel do not overlap and Wisper has been shown not to provide service to 100 percent of the locations in HomeTel's study area. HomeTel attached sworn statements of residents of locations in census blocks 171194037024001 and 1711940370240667 who have requested service from Wisper but have been told by Wisper that service from Wisper is not available. [Comcast](#) affirmed that it provides broadband service satisfying the Commission's performance standards in each census block that is part of the Monon Tel study area, but said it does not claim it offers broadband service to every location within each of the census blocks. Comcast said it also cannot affirm that it provides voice service satisfying the Commission's performance standards throughout the study area. [Bascom Communications](#) said its study area is not 100 percent overlapped by unsubsidized competitors, noting WATCH TV filed [a letter](#) on August 24, 2017, informing the FCC that it is unable to serve all subscribers in the study area. Bascom also pointed to the FCC's own online map to demonstrate that TWC does not serve the rural areas of the study area and attached data from the Ohio Utilities Protection Service that it said shows there are locations in its study area where TWC has no facilities. [Vantage Point](#), filing on behalf of Monon Telephone, filed four sworn statements from individuals who made preliminary inquiries regarding Transworld's service in Monon Tel's study area and found that Transworld is unable to provide qualified service to all locations in at least 4 census blocks. [CenturyLink](#) said while it serves locations with voice and broadband service in portions of certain census blocks that partially overlap the Warwick Valley, NJ study area, it does not offer voice and broadband service to all locations within those census blocks. Replies are due October 10, 2017. [All comments available to date](#). [Public Notice](#)
- NTCA, Golden West Telecommunications, Twin Lakes Telephone, and Totelcom [met separately with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Clyburn, and Carr on September 13, 2017, to discuss the need to address the shortfalls in high-cost USF support that are producing negative impacts on both firms electing model support and those that did not or could not do so. They urged the Commission by year end to initiate a comprehensive budgetary review for high-cost USF as contemplated when the overall budget for that program was first adopted in 2011, and pending such review, to continue to collect the current overall budget for high-cost USF. NTCA also urged the Commission to use any available high-cost USF reserves that have not already been allocated to fill the budget shortfall, pending completion of the review contemplated by the Commission's defense of its budget before the Tenth Circuit.
- WTA and Totah Communications [met separately with](#) Media and Legal Advisors to Commissioners [Carr](#) and [Rosenworcel](#) on September 12, 2017, to discuss rural broadband and video issues. They said the current funding of neither the ACAM Path nor the RoR Path is sufficient to meet the growing broadband needs of rural customers, and noted another threat to budget predictability is the apparently planned movement of USF dollars from a bank account in the name of USAC to the U.S. Treasury. WTA indicated it continues to support USF contribution reform and to believe that all broadband internet access services should contribute. WTA indicated it is considering re-submitting its prior proposal for the establishment of a second period wherein RLECs could voluntarily elect to opt into the ACAM Path. It urged the Commission to retain a role in monitoring broadband interconnection and middle mile arrangements, and to step in when necessary to require good faith and timely negotiations between entities of widely varying size and bargaining power. They also discussed rising video programming costs, retransmission consent, and the impact of the ATSC 3.0 Next Generation broadcast standard transition on the continued viability of RLEC video services.
- Great Plains Communications, Consolidated, and ITTA [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Advisor on September 12, 2017, to discuss funding the A-CAM Plan at \$200 per location this year, estimating this would require an additional \$100 million/year. They also discussed the idea of an FNPRM on a second offer of A-CAM funding that would have a budget sufficient for up to \$200 per eligible location, and estimated if all the companies that would receive more than their current funding were to opt in to a second round of A-CAM funding, it would have an estimated budgetary impact of approximately \$71.5

million. They suggested with the high-cost program budget established in the 2011 Transformation Order expiring at the end of this year, part of the Commission's review of the future high-cost program budget should include both this FNPRM as well as the need for additional funding for legacy RoR mechanisms to alleviate the budget control "haircut" such carriers are encountering.

- The FCC published [a Notice](#) in the Federal Register on September 12, 2017, seeking PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection on the application for Mobility Fund Phase I Support, FCC Form 680. The Commission will use the information collected in Form 680 to determine whether a winning bidder is qualified to receive Mobility Fund Phase I and Tribal Mobility Fund Phase I support. Comments are due November 13, 2017.
- Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) sent [a letter](#) to Chairman Pai on August 18, 2017, expressing hope that Pai will be able to visit Missouri in September to view the fiber optic broadband being deployed by Co-Mo Electrical Cooperative. He noted the FCC is moving toward final rules for the CAF reverse auction, and expressed appreciation for Pai working with him to ensure a cost-effective, balanced approach among stakeholders to extend the highest possible broadband speeds to the greatest number of unserved, rural communities.

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ICC

- The Enforcement Bureau sent a [Notice of Formal Complaint](#) to AT&T on September 13, 2017, notifying it that Level 3 filed a [Complaint](#) against it on September 12, 2017. Level 3 alleges that AT&T is not complying with section 51.907(g)(2) because it is only applying the rule if a call traverses a tandem switch owned by a price cap carrier and the price cap carrier is also the terminating carrier. Section 51.907(g)(2) requires price cap carriers to transition to bill-and-keep for tandem-switched transport access services for calls that traverse a tandem switch that is owned by the terminating carrier or its affiliates. Sprint claims this encompasses traffic that traverses a tandem switch owned by an AT&T price cap carrier and terminates with an AT&T affiliate, whether it is an AT&T ILEC, CLEC, VoIP provider, or wireless carrier. It said AT&T contends that it only applies when the price cap carrier that owns the end office has an affiliate that owns the tandem. Level 3 claims AT&T has filed Step Six tariff revisions that are unlawful, contravene the Commission's policy objectives, and harm Level 3 and other competitive providers to the detriment of customers.
- The Pricing Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on September 13, 2017, announcing it denied Windstream's Petition to reject or to suspend and investigate AT&T's August 29, 2017 tariff transmittals. The PPD concluded AT&T's tariff revisions do not violate the six-month price freeze provision of the Business Data Services Order because the revisions do not raise any rates and the BDS Order does not prohibit a price cap LEC from discontinuing a term plan. The PPD asserted Windstream failed to present compelling arguments that the transmittals are so patently unlawful as to require rejection.
- Great Plains Communications and Reynolds Schultheis Consulting [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on September 12, 2017, to discuss the circumstances and public interest benefits that justify granting Great Plains' [Petition for Waiver](#) to allow it to utilize actual switched access revenues in establishing access rates and CAF ICC eligible revenue recovery instead of projections as it exits the NECA pool. Great Plains reiterated arguments made in previous filings that granting the waiver supports the Commission's goals in its intercarrier compensation, rural call completion, and business data services proceedings. Great Plains also explained that, absent a waiver, long distance rates for consumers and businesses in Nebraska may increase.

Open Internet

- Chairman Pai responded to letters from [Rep. Jared Polis](#) (D-Colo.), [Rep. Keith Ellison](#) (D-Minn.), et al, and [Sen. Ron Wyden](#) (D-Ore.) that expressed support for retaining the current Title II classification. Chairman Pai said he shares their views on the importance of having a free and open internet, and

noted the FCC is receiving public comment on this matter and will go where the facts and the law lead them. Chairman Pai also sent a letter to [Rep. Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-Calif.) on August 30, 2017, to respond to her letter expressing support for the current Open Internet rules.

- Free Press [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel and her Legal Advisors on September 6, 2017, to discuss efforts to repeal the 2015 Open Internet [Order](#). Free Press reviewed its research, which it claims shows the 2015 Order preceded a historic period of investment and innovation across the entire internet. Free Press discussed its legal analysis of the reclassification decision in the Order and reiterated support for the proper interpretation of broadband as a telecommunications service. Free Press also discussed its testimony at the recent Senate Lifeline hearing.
- Level 3 filed a [letter](#) on September 15, 2017, to respond to AT&T's [reply comments](#) in the Restoring Internet Freedom proceeding. Level 3 asserted much of AT&T's discussion of interconnection in its reply comments consists of a purported retelling of the history of the congestion AT&T caused with other networks like Level 3.
- The Independent Film and Television Alliance [met with](#) Commissioner Clyburn's Legal Advisors on September 13, 2017, to reiterate its support for an Open Internet and to urge the Commission to maintain a regulatory framework governing broadband services that includes clear rules ensuring transparency, no blocking, no throttling and non-discrimination, and a commitment to full enforcement to preserve and promote the Open Internet.
- Scott Jordan, Professor at the University of California, Irvine, [met with](#) staff from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs, Public Safety and Homeland Security, Wireline Competition, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus on September 7, 2017, to claim the no-throttling rule does not prevent broadband internet access service providers from offering differentiated service that benefit consumers and does not harm latency-sensitive applications. He also claimed the no-paid-prioritization rule does not harm the development of real-time applications, and said enhancements to the transparency rule related to network performance metrics and network practices should be maintained. He also met with Legal Advisors to Commissioners [Rosenworcel](#) and [Clyburn](#) to reiterate arguments made in his [reply comments](#).

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Broadband

- Chairman Pai [spoke](#) at the Mobile World Conference Americas in San Francisco on September 12, 2017, to discuss wireless issues, 5G, and the digital divide. Pai said the most significant step the FCC has taken this year to close the digital divide on the wireless side is the Mobility Fund Phase II. He said, however, private network investment is by far more substantial and important and the most concerning emerging issue the FCC is seeing is that investment in wireless networks was down significantly in 2016. Pai said the FCC's most powerful tool for expanding digital opportunity is setting rules that maximize private investment in high-speed networks, and noted the FCC is currently examining whether it should change internet regulations to encourage greater deployment and investment. He also discussed pole attachment reforms, the establishment of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, and unleashing spectrum.
- Chairman Pai [spoke](#) at the Symposium on the Future of Speech Online on September 15, 2017, discussing freedom of speech, internet access and the digital divide. He said the most significant digital divides are along economic and geographic lines, and said to help close the divide the FCC this year adopted an Order providing \$4.53 billion over the next decade to bring 4G LTE service to unserved rural Americans and \$2 billion for fixed broadband investment. He also said the FCC is aiming to reduce regulatory barriers to the installation of wireline infrastructure and to promote more wireless infrastructure.
- The FCC issued a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on September 15, 2017, seeking PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection on actual speeds and performance of fixed

and mobile broadband connections delivered to consumers by ISPs. PRA comments are due November 14, 2017.

- NTIA issued a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on September 12, 2017, announcing that, as part of its BroadbandUSA program, it will host a series of webinars on a monthly basis to engage the public and stakeholders with information to accelerate broadband connectivity, improve digital inclusion, strengthen policies, and support local priorities. The webinar series will provide information on a range of topics and issues being addressed by BroadbandUSA, including best practices for improving broadband deployment, digital literacy, and e-government. Webinars will be held on the third Wednesday of every month, beginning October 18, 2017, and continuing through September 19, 2018.
- ACA, NCTA, NTCA, USTelecom, and WISPA filed a [Joint Petition](#) on September 12, 2017, seeking a four-week extension of the September 25, 2017 deadline for comments on the [FNPRM](#) on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477. The Joint Petitioners proposed October 23, 2017, as the new deadline for filing comments, with reply comments due by November 6, 2017. The Joint Petitioners asserted the extension would allow adequate time to consider and respond in a more detailed and meaningful fashion to the proposed modifications to Form 477.
- Connected Nation filed [comments](#) on September 14, 2017, on the [FNPRM](#) on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477. Connected Nation suggested that any future mapping effort prioritize the accuracy and granularity of the maps themselves to ensure the nation's broadband landscape is fully understood at the street address or parcel level of detail. CN also said any future mapping effort must be premised on a uniform reporting mechanism to eliminate inconsistencies in state-by-state reporting. Comments on the FNPRM are due September 25, 2017.
- Public Knowledge [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on September 12, 2017, to assert the record does not support the Commission's presumptive conclusion that streamlining the copper retirement and service discontinuance rules would accelerate wireline broadband deployment. PK claimed the FCC neither articulated a policy justification nor conducted an economic analysis to warrant its proposals. PK urged the FCC to maintain its current copper retirement and notification rules and preserve the functional test as required by section 214(a).
- Verizon [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Senior Counsel and Commissioner Carr and his Legal Advisors on September 7, 2017, to discuss the FCC's proposals regarding copper retirement and service discontinuance. Verizon explained it continues to offer customers over fiber the same TDM voice service they received over copper, and said additional flexibility in how and when it provides notice of copper retirement to customers would be helpful. Verizon said the movement toward 5G will increase the need for densification and more ubiquitous fiber to support it, and claimed it needs the ability to access poles quickly and efficiently, both to hang small cells and to string fiber that will provide the necessary backhaul. Verizon reiterated its support for the one-touch make-ready proposal.
- BT Americas [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Legal Advisor on September 8, 2017, to discuss its concerns with the Commission's streamlining proposals in the wireline infrastructure proceeding and proposed actions on net neutrality. BT Americas claimed that even the current rules regarding section 214 applications for discontinuance of services may be insufficient to ensure an orderly, managed transition from TDM to IP services, and encouraged the Commission to adopt rules that ensure transparency and a methodical, organized transition.
- The Edison Electric Institute [met with](#) Commissioner Clyburn's Legal Advisor on September 12, 2017, to discuss modernizing the nation's power grid. EEI urged the FCC not to take any actions in the wireline infrastructure proceeding that would negatively impact public safety and the provision of reliable electric service, or impair ongoing grid modernization. EEI requested that the membership of the BDAC be expanded to include more representation from electric companies and states. EEI asserted there was no need for the FCC to adjust the pole attachment timelines or rates because make-ready delays are generally caused by new and existing attachers and not the companies, and claimed lowering the rates would discourage electric company investment in smart infrastructure and telecommunications company investment in their own poles.

- Mediacom, MetroCast, Shentel, and ACA [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Clyburn, O’Rielly, Rosenworcel, and Carr, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on September 12, 2017, to discuss its proposals to address barriers in obtaining access to poles. They expressed concern about the underlying root causes that prevent parties from meeting existing timelines, as well as about eliminating excessive charges for preparing for and making attachments. They discussed ACA’s proposals, including eliminating the need to file pole attachment applications for certain attachments, expediting the processing of applications, improving the effectiveness of the make-ready self-help remedy, and ensuring make-ready charges are just and reasonable.
- AEP and Southern Company [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Commissioners Carr, Rosenworcel, [O’Rielly and Clyburn](#) on September 12 and 13, 2017, to discuss the Commission’s proposed revisions to section 1.1424 (ILEC cost sharing of jointly used poles). They urged the Commission not to adopt the proposed rule, claiming it would be anti-competitive and disruptive to broadband deployment, particularly in rural areas. They also [met with](#) Chairman Pai’s Wireline Advisor on September 13, 2017, to express support for the FCC’s proposed revisions to section 1.1409(c) (pole attachment complaints) insofar as they reflect the regulatory accounting practice of crediting make-ready reimbursements to the appropriate FERC accounts so that make-ready reimbursements are rate base neutral. They also expressed concern with the FCC’s inquiries into possible further reductions in the existing pole attachment rate formulas, claiming further reductions will do nothing to promote broadband deployment.
- Amtrak [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Clyburn on September 17, 2017, to discuss pole attachments. Amtrak claimed establishing any pole attachment information collection or disclosure requirements for railroads would be both inappropriate and counterproductive, and asserted such requirements would not advance the Commission’s broadband deployment goals because railroads have an insignificant role in the last-mile distribution of broadband services over public rights-of-way.
- Chief Information/Technology Officers from various cities [met with](#) Commissioner Carr and his Legal Advisor on September 7, 2017, to discuss net neutrality, local authority, local government representation on the BDAC, and the need to increase the transparency of the process. They asserted, consistent with the letter (attached) signed by 11 communities, the two infrastructure proceedings before the Commission put hundreds of millions of dollars in potential investments at risk, limiting investments that would otherwise create new jobs throughout this country, and placing the effective deployment of advanced networks in jeopardy. The CTOs also shared a letter (attached) in support of net neutrality from mayors of various cities, and discussed the lack of local government representation on the BDAC. They also met with Commissioner [Rosenworcel](#) and Legal Advisors to [Chairman Pai](#) and Commissioners [O’Rielly](#) and [Clyburn](#).
- Horry Telephone Cooperative [met with](#) Commissioner Carr’s Legal Advisor on September 12, 2017, to discuss the NOI on broadband access to multiple tenant environments. HTC asserted in its market, bulk billing arrangements are being used by national competitors as a means to stifle competition by offering below market pricing on cable, broadband, and voice services to single, detached dwellings with a common homeowners’ association. HTC urged the Commission to release an NPRM on specific proposals to curb the use of bulk billing arrangements as a means to engage in anti-competitive behavior.

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Universal Service

- The FCC Managing Director issued a [Public Notice](#) on September 12, 2017, announcing the proposed universal service contribution factor for the fourth quarter of 2017 will be 18.8 percent, up from the current 17.1 percent.
- Comments were filed September 12, 2017, on NTCA and USTelecom’s [Petition for Forbearance](#) from application of USF contributions obligations on broadband internet access transmission services

pending comprehensive contributions reform. [WTA](#) agreed the Commission should temporarily forbear from application and enforcement of the USF contribution requirements for tariffed and non-tariffed RLEC-provided broadband internet access transmission services. It noted the Title II broadband internet access transmission services provided by some RLECs are the only broadband internet access services required to make federal USF contributions and temporary forbearance constitutes the most effective and efficient way to level the playing field. WTA agreed such forbearance should last until such time as the Commission completes a USF contribution reform proceeding that determines whether any or all broadband internet access services are required to contribute to the federal USF program. [GVNW](#) supported the Petition, saying granting the Petition is a simple matter of fundamental fairness and good public policy, noting the Commission itself has indicated it recognizes the equity and public policy issues with assessing BIAS revenues from only RLECs. GVNW said the Petition is the best approach to addressing the equity and policy issues in a timely manner. The [Pennsylvania PUC](#) did not oppose or support the Joint Petition, but noted the relief sought underlines the need for the Commission to reach a timely and comprehensive conclusion of its efforts to reform the federal USF contribution base and method. It noted in its reply comments in the 2012 FNPRM, it supported “the expansion of the federal USF contribution base through the inclusion of wireline and wireless retail broadband access services consistent with the State Plan proposals,” and similar positions were expressed by numerous other parties, including the State Members of the Joint Board, NARUC, and NASUCA. Reply comments are due September 28, 2017. [Public Notice](#)

- The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a [hearing](#) on September 14, 2017, entitled the *FCC’s Lifeline Program: A Case Study of Government Waste and Mismanagement*. [Chairman Pai](#) testified, stating the [GAO Lifeline Report](#) confirmed his concerns with waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. He discussed steps he directed USAC to take to correct the problems highlighted in the Report, and said the FCC must support state commissions’ roles in policing against fraud and abuse committed by providers. [Seto Bagdoyan](#) of the U.S. Government Accountability Office discussed key findings of the recent GAO Lifeline Report. [Vickie S. Robinson](#), Acting CEO and General Counsel of USAC, also testified.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Reps. Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) and Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.) and Sens. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) and Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) on August 28, 2017, on the June 2017 [GAO Lifeline Report](#). Pai discussed FCC actions in response to the report, including: considering a process for review and approval of spending above the Lifeline budget; implementing procedures to disseminate updated lists of state eligibility databases to Lifeline providers; comprehensively reviewing Lifeline program violations to improve consistency in the Commission’s Lifeline enforcement strategy; and amending USAC’s contributor audit procedures.
- Commissioner Clyburn released a [statement](#) on September 14, 2017, on the future of the Lifeline program. Clyburn said despite significant reforms made under the previous administration and no new evidence of waste, fraud, or abuse, the Lifeline program continues to be under attack while our nation’s most vulnerable remain on the wrong side of the digital and opportunities divide. Clyburn said she is “especially disappointed by the current FCC majority and those who repeatedly reject real reform efforts. This administration refuses to allow new broadband providers into the Lifeline program, which will deepen and cement the digital divide while omitting the fact that the Lifeline program has one of the lowest improper payment rates of all government subsidy programs.”
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on September 13, 2017, announcing it is seeking nominations for six members for the USAC Board of Directors. The Bureau seeks nominations for representatives for; schools that are eligible to receive discounts pursuant to section 54.501, low-income consumers, CLECs, rural health care providers that are eligible to receive supported services pursuant to section 54.601, ILECs with \$40 million or less in annual revenues, and IXCs with annual operating revenues of \$3 billion or less. Nominations are due by October 27, 2017.
- Q Link Wireless filed a [Petition](#) on September 14, 2017, seeking a temporary waiver of sections 54.405(e)(3), 54.405(e)(4), 54.407(c)(2), and 54.410(f), which govern de-enrollment for non-usage and requiring annual recertification of Lifeline eligibility on each enrolled Lifeline consumer’s service anniversary date. Q Link said the waiver is necessary due to damage cause by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

- TracFone Wireless filed an emergency [Petition](#) on September 8, 2017, seeking a temporary waiver of the Lifeline rules governing de-enrollment for non-usage and requiring annual re-certification of Lifeline eligibility on each enrolled Lifeline consumer's service anniversary date. TracFone is seeking a waiver only for its service in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Irma.
- The Virgin Islands PSC filed an [Emergency Petition](#) on September 12, 2017, seeking a waiver of section 54.314(d)(l), which establishes the timeline for filing state certifications of support for ETCs. The PSC said its inability to complete the certification process following Hurricane Irma should not result in the loss of high-cost USP support to the ETCs in the Territory, especially when they are in the process of rebuilding facilities damaged or destroyed by the storm. It asked for a 30-day extension.
- The Lifeline Connects Coalition [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Legal Advisor on September 7, 2017, to discuss the Lifeline National Eligibility Verifier. The Coalition discussed improvements to the timing of subscriber proof of eligibility for migration to the National Verifier, the recent decision to reverse course and not to provide a service provider an application programming interface to the National Verifier, and its concerns with a recent USAC webinar regarding the eligibility of ETCs to receive reimbursement for Lifeline subscribers who are in a non-usage cure period on the snapshot date.
- The FCC issued a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on September 12, 2017, seeking PRA comments on a revised information collection associated with Lifeline Program rules. The revision is pursuant to the April 27, 2016 Lifeline Modernization [Order](#), and implements the new forms for the Lifeline program for consumer enrollment and certification, recertification, and one-per household verification. This revision also implements the transition to payment of the Lifeline reimbursement to ETCs based on data from USAC's NLAD database. PRA comments are due November 13, 2017.
- TracFone Wireless filed a [Petition](#) on September 11, 2017, asking the Commission to expand its designation as an ETC to include Tribal lands in Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia. TracFone said it will enhance its current Lifeline service offering to provide additional airtime minutes and mobile broadband allowances to qualifying households residing on Tribal lands based upon its receipt of federal Tribal lands support.

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Misc.

- Reply comments were filed on September 13, 2017, on the [NOI](#) on methods to authenticate telephone calls against illegal robocallers. [USTelecom](#) said comments in this proceeding from a broad range of stakeholders demonstrate strong support for the Commission to encourage, but not mandate, implementation of the SHAKEN and STIR framework. USTelecom also claimed commenters expressed support for many of the issues raised in its comments, including promoting international implementation of the SHAKEN/STIR framework, sufficient cost recovery mechanisms for providers implementing the framework, and limiting signing authority only to those providers holding a valid OCN. [ATIS](#) claimed there is widespread opposition to the establishment of regulatory mandates regarding the implementation of SHAKEN and significant support for an industry-led, multi-stakeholder SHAKEN governance authority. It supported the use of OCNs as a criteria to determine whether service providers are eligible to sign calling party information. The [Consumers Bankers Association](#) said an authentication system should not be mandated or required of callers, and whoever governs the authentication system should remain neutral in selecting the callers who receive access to the system. CBA suggested: the FCC govern the system; the call authentication model should be voluntary; the Trust Anchor model should be designed to encourage consumer confidence and promote call quality; the Commission should offer a safe harbor to companies that use the Trust Anchor, and the Trust Anchor should be administered using neutral access standards. [All replies available to date.](#)
- Chairman Pai sent [a letter](#) to Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif) in response to her letter on robocalls, saying he has teed up an aggressive agenda to target and eliminate unlawful robocalls. He noted the FCC's

June enforcement action against a man conducting “neighborhood spoofing,” the July NPRM seeking comment on implementing authentication standards for telephone calls, and the August enforcement action against a mass robocaller. Pai said the Commission is committed to stopping illegal robocalls through increased enforcement and the development of industry solutions to prevent, detect, and filter unwanted robocalls.

- Neustar [met with](#) staff from the Consumer and Government Affairs and Wireline Competition Bureaus on September 7, 2017, to discuss robocalls. It recommended: expediting implementation of the STIR/SHAKEN framework; utilizing the Pooling Administrator to distribute invalid and unallocated number ranges; and encouraging adoption and evolution of commercial solutions. Neustar said it demonstrated commercial solutions that are becoming available soon on smartphones to combat illegal robocalling.
- Terral Telephone [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on September 12, 2017, to discuss its August 2012 Petition for Waiver of the jurisdictional separations freeze. It claimed a disproportionate share of the network investments it made with an RUS loan is placed in the intrastate jurisdiction based on the frozen categories. It also discussed state USF funding it has received on an interim basis. It claimed grant of the waiver would reduce Terral’s reliance on federal and state USF support and allow it to aggressively market its Ethernet services because the costs would be allocated to the interstate jurisdiction.
- Comments were filed on September 13, 2017, on the [NPRM](#) that proposes to amend rules to prohibit carriers from misrepresenting themselves when placing telemarketing sales calls to consumers and placing unauthorized charges on their phone bills (slamming and cramming). [NTCA](#) supported the NPRM’s proposal to codify equitable prohibitions against misrepresentation and the deliberate imposition of unauthorized charges on consumer bills, but said the NPRM’s remaining proposals regarding default preferred interexchange carrier freezes, prohibitions against third-party billing, double checking of carrier change requests, recording sales calls, and third party verification do not contain specific language or cost estimates upon which parties may comment. NTCA also claimed the NPRM’s initial RFA fails to describe specifics, costs, or alternatives in any meaningful way, and therefore the remaining proposals should not be adopted with regard to small carriers. [WTA](#) said with respect to slamming, a combination of non-mandatory PIC freezes and permissive double-checking to confirm PIC change orders constitutes the most effective and efficient way to minimize slamming in RLEC service areas. As to cramming, WTA supports the existing truth-in-billing rules, and said the current proposal to allow individual customers to opt out of third party toll billing arrangements is not necessary. [USTelecom](#) said the Commission should tread carefully and not adopt rules that would result in minimal additional benefits while placing onerous, prescriptive requirements on the carriers that are not the bad actors in this space. [Verizon](#) said if the FCC determines new slamming and cramming rules are warranted, it should ensure that such rules are narrowly tailored to meet today’s and future market dynamics, and do not impose undue burdens on customers or legitimate service providers. Verizon asserted any new slamming and cramming rules should not apply when a carrier provides no option to select a separate long-distance provider, or when a carrier does not offer third party billing for unaffiliated telecommunications services. [AT&T](#) asserted slamming and cramming are declining, and the Commission should not adopt overly broad regulations that would produce few additional benefits while substantially burdening those carriers who already take positive action to protect their subscribers. AT&T also asserted the FCC should not extend these rules to industries such as wireless and VoIP where slamming is not a problem. [Caltel](#) opposed the proposals in the NPRM that would make freezes mandatory for all customers and all service providers and require existing providers to double check with customers to confirm their decision to leave. Caltel claimed both proposals would impose significant costs on competitive providers, and would potentially place providers of all-distance TDM legacy services at a competitive disadvantage as compared with their interconnected VoIP and wireless competitors. [All comments available to date](#). Replies are due October 13, 2017. [Notice](#)
- The FCC published a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on September 14, 2017, seeking PRA comments on a revised information collection associated with the Business Data Services [Order](#). The information collection reforms the business data services/special access regulations for incumbent and competitive LECs. PRA comments are due October 16, 2017.

- NCTA filed [comments](#) on September 11, 2017, on a new FCC information collection associated with changes made in the February 2017 Part 32 Order. NCTA said the PRA [Notice](#) fails to acknowledge and account for the substantial new burdens that will be placed on the hundreds of companies that attach facilities to the roughly 20 million telephone company poles potentially affected by the Part 32 Order, nor does it acknowledge and account for the significant new burden that will be placed on the Commission itself due to the inevitable increase in the number of pole attachment complaints that will occur if changes to the new rules are not adopted before they take effect. NCTA claimed the Commission can and should address these concerns by granting the relief requested in its pending Petition for Reconsideration.
- The FCC published a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on September 15, 2017, seeking PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection implementing the statutory obligations of section 222 regarding CPNI. In March 2007, the Commission adopted new rules that require providers of telecommunications services to adopt additional privacy safeguards that will limit pretexters' ability to obtain unauthorized access to the type of personal customer information from carriers that the Commission regulates. In addition, in furtherance of the Telephone Records and Privacy Protection Act of 2006, the Commission's rules help ensure that law enforcement will have the necessary tools to investigate and enforce prohibitions on illegal access to customer records. Comments are due October 16, 2017.
- The Office of Managing Director issued a [Public Notice](#) on September 15, 2017, announcing it has extended the deadline for annual regulatory fees for entities affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, for three days. Fees are now due by 11:59 PM on September 29, 2017.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on September 11, 2017, granting OpenSIP.com's application for authorization to obtain North American Numbering Plan telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. The Bureau issued another [Public Notice](#) granting BluIP's similar application. The Bureau said these proceedings will be terminated 60 days from the date of the Public Notices if there are no further filings.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on September 14, 2017, granting Exiant Communications' application for authorization to obtain North American Numbering Plan telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. The Bureau said this proceeding will be terminated 60 days from the date of the Public Notice if there are no further filings.
- The FCC [announced](#) Chairman Pai has named Dana Shaffer as Deputy Bureau Chief and Chief of Staff of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She most recently served as the FCC's Deputy Managing Director.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on September 14, 2017, he has named Michael Carowitz as Special Counsel, saying Carowitz will advise him on a wide range of issues. Carowitz previously served as Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Bureau.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Sept. 18 - Comments due on the proposed application and bidding procedures for the auction, including how interested parties can qualify to participate in the auction, how bidders will submit their bids, and how the FCC will process bids to determine the winners and support amounts. Replies due October 18, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- Sept. 18 - PRA comments due on an emergency OMB processing of a new information collection of qualified 4G LTE coverage data for the Mobility Fund Phase II. [Notice](#)

- Sept. 19 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) that proposes to amend the Caller ID rules to allow disclosure of blocked Caller ID information to aid law enforcement in investigating threatening calls. [Notice](#)
- Sept. 21 - Comments due on a [Thirteenth Section 706 Report Notice of Inquiry](#) on the appropriate metrics and benchmarks by which to measure the deployment of both fixed and mobile services in order to evaluate the extent to which American consumers have access to advanced telecommunications capabilities. Replies due October 6, 2017.
- Sept. 25 - Replies due on the [Second FNPRM](#) on rural call completion. [Notice](#)
- Sept. 25 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) that seeks comment on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477. Replies due October 10, 2017. [FR](#)
- Sept. 26 - Replies due on the [Second 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.
- Sept. 28 - Replies due on NTCA and USTelecom's [Petition for Forbearance](#) from application of contributions obligations on broadband internet access transmission services pending USF comprehensive contributions reform. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 2 - Comments due on the [Notice of Inquiry](#) on potential opportunities for additional flexible access in spectrum bands between 3.7 and 24 GHz, particularly for wireless broadband services. Replies are due November 1, 2017.
- Oct. 2 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with auctions for USF support. The Commission is revising the currently approved information collection to remove the information collection requirements that apply specifically to bidding for Mobility Fund Phase I and Tribal Mobility Fund Phase I support, and to retain only those information collection requirements that apply generally to applicants seeking to participate in competitive bidding for universal service support. [Notice](#)
- Oct. 5 - Comments due on NECA's [2018 Modification](#) of the Average Schedule Universal Service High Cost Loop Support Formula. Replies are due October 20, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 6 - Replies due on a [Thirteenth Section 706 Report Notice of Inquiry](#) on the appropriate metrics and benchmarks by which to measure the deployment of both fixed and mobile services in order to evaluate the extent to which American consumers have access to advanced telecommunications capabilities.
- Oct. 9 - Comments due on Gila River Telecommunications' [Petition for Expedited Waiver](#) of the National Average Cost Per Loop freeze decision and its two submissions of revised information for the same purpose. [Public Notice](#) Replies are due October 24, 2017.
- Oct. 10 - Replies due on a list of 13 rate-of-return study areas identified as potentially having 100 percent overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor or combination of unsubsidized competitors. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 10 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) that seeks comment on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477. [FR](#)
- Oct. 10 - Comments due on the [Public Notice](#) seeking data, information, and comment for the Commission's Nineteenth Report on the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming. Replies due November 9, 2017.

- Oct. 13 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) that proposes to amend rules to prohibit carriers from misrepresenting themselves when placing telemarketing sales calls to consumers and placing unauthorized charges on their phone bills (slamming and cramming). [Notice](#)
- Oct. 16 - PRA comments on a revised information collection associated with the Business Data Services [Order](#). The information collection reforms the business data services/special access regulations for incumbent and competitive LECs. [Notice](#)
- Oct. 16 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection implementing the statutory obligations of section 222 regarding CPNI. [Notice](#)
- Oct. 18 - Replies due on the proposed application and bidding procedures for the auction, including how interested parties can qualify to participate in the auction, how bidders will submit their bids, and how the FCC will process bids to determine the winners and support amounts. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 20 - Replies due on NECA's [2018 Modification](#) of the Average Schedule Universal Service High Cost Loop Support Formula. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 23 - PRA comments due on information collections relating to Telecommunications Reporting Worksheets and Related Collections, FCC Forms 499–A and 499–Q. This information collection requires contributors to the Federal Universal Service Fund, Telecommunications Relay Service Fund, and Numbering Administration to file a Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet on an annual basis (Form 499–A) and/or on a quarterly basis (Form 499–Q). [Notice](#)
- Oct. 24 - Replies due on Gila River Telecommunications' [Petition for Expedited Waiver](#) of the National Average Cost Per Loop freeze decision and its two submissions of revised information for the same purpose. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 27 - Nominations due for six members for the USAC Board of Directors. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 1 - Replies due on the [Notice of Inquiry](#) on potential opportunities for additional flexible access in spectrum bands between 3.7 and 24 GHz, particularly for wireless broadband services. Replies are due November 1, 2017.
- Nov. 9 - Replies due on the [Public Notice](#) seeking data, information, and comment for the Commission's Nineteenth Report on the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming.
- Nov. 13 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection on the application for Mobility Fund Phase I Support, FCC Form 680. [Notice](#)
- Nov. 13 - PRA comments due on a revised information collection associated with new forms for the Lifeline program for consumer enrollment and certification, recertification, and one-per household verification. This revision also implements the transition to payment of the Lifeline reimbursement to ETCs based on data from USAC's NLAD database. [Notice](#)
- Nov. 14 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection on actual speeds and performance of fixed and mobile broadband connections delivered to consumers by ISPs. [Notice](#)

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