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### October 9, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Senate [voted](#) to confirm Chairman Pai's re-nomination as FCC Commissioner for a term of five years from July 1, 2016. Pai issued a [statement](#), as well as Commissioners [Clyburn](#), [O'Rielly](#), [Carr](#), and [Rosenworcel](#).
- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) for its October 24, 2017 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider, among other things: a [Report and Order](#) that would enable law enforcement and security personnel to obtain quick access to blocked Caller ID information to investigate threatening calls and amend the FCC's rules to allow non-public emergency services to obtain blocked Caller ID information associated with calls requesting assistance; and an [NPRM and NOI](#) on industry models to move toward complete nationwide number portability to promote competition between all service providers and increase network routing efficiencies.
- The FCC published a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register announcing it received emergency OMB approval on September 27, 2017, for a new, one-time information collection of 4G LTE coverage data to compile the map of areas presumptively eligible for Mobility Fund II support. The FCC also issued a [Notice](#) seeking PRA comments on a new information collection associated with the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process. PRA comments are due December 5, 2017.
- The FCC [announced](#) January 4, 2018 as the due date for the filing of 4G LTE coverage data pursuant to the Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Order. Entities [must submit](#) contact information for this collection by October 23, 2017.
- NTCA [discussed](#) shortfalls in high-cost USF support, and urged the FCC to initiate a comprehensive budgetary review for high-cost USF by year end. The Small Company Coalition [discussed](#) raising the \$2 billion cap on the high-cost USF fund, reforming USAC audit procedures, eliminating outdated or overlapping reporting requirements, and the impact of shrinking HCLS. Glenwood Telephone Membership, Hemingford Cooperative Telephone, et al. [discussed](#) concerns about reductions of USF support, including recent developments in the budget control mechanism. NTTA, et al. [discussed](#) fully funding the USF High-Cost program and operating expense relief.
- Gila River Telecommunications [expressed concern](#) with its estimated universal service high-cost loop expense adjustment for 2018. It claimed reductions are well in excess of what the FCC stated it believed the adjustment would be for even the highest cost carriers.
- [Replies were filed](#) on the [Thirteenth Section 706 Report NOI](#).
- Viya filed an Emergency [Petition](#) asking the FCC to adopt a comprehensive USF relief package for the U.S. Virgin Islands, due to the damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

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### Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Oct. 9 - Comments [due](#) on Gila River [Petition for Expedited Waiver](#) of the National Average Cost Per Loop freeze.
- 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 - Comments due on the Form 477 [FNPRM](#). Replies due October 24, 2017. [FR](#), [Order](#), [PN](#)

## USF Reform

- The FCC published [a Notice](#) in the Federal Register on October 5, 2017, announcing it received emergency OMB approval on September 27, 2017, for a new, one-time information collection of 4G LTE coverage data to compile the map of areas presumptively eligible for Mobility Fund II support.
- The FCC issued a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on October 6, 2017, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a new information collection associated with the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process. The FCC said the information collected will enable the Commission to efficiently resolve disputes concerning the eligibility or ineligibility of an area initially deemed ineligible for MF–II support and establish the final map of areas eligible for such support. PRA comments are due December 5, 2017.
- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, and the Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 6, 2017, to announce the due date for the filing of 4G LTE coverage data pursuant to the Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Order. Responses are due by January 4, 2018. Entities must also submit contact information for this collection using the form posted at <https://www.fcc.gov/MF2-LTE-Collection> by October 23, 2017.
- NTCA [met with](#) Commissioner O’Rielly and his Legal Advisor on October 3, 2017, to highlight the need to remedy the shortfalls in high-cost USF support. It urged the Commission to initiate a comprehensive budgetary review for high-cost USF by year end, as contemplated when the overall budget was first adopted in 2011. It also urged the Commission, pending such review, to continue to collect the current overall budget for high-cost USF and to use any high-cost USF reserves that have not already been expressly allocated pursuant to Commission Order to fill the budget shortfall. NTCA also [met with](#) Chairman Pai’s Advisor to discuss the same issues.
- The Small Company Coalition [met separately with](#) Commissioner Carr and his Legal Advisor, and Legal Advisors to Commissioners Rosenworcel and Clyburn on September 21, 2017, to discuss raising the \$2 billion cap on the high-cost USF fund, reforming USAC audit procedures, eliminating outdated or overlapping reporting requirements, and the impact of shrinking HCLS.
- Glenwood Telephone Membership, Hemingford Cooperative Telephone, BW Telcom, and TCA [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly, [Clyburn, Carr, and Rosenworcel](#) on September 27 and 28, 2017, to raise concerns about reductions of USF support, including recent developments in the budget control mechanism, and the impact these reduced distributions will have on their customers and communities. They also expressed support for NTCA’s proposal for the FCC to direct USAC to continue to collect the current overall high-cost USF budget of \$4.5 billion beyond the end of this year and/or apply existing CAF reserves to offset shortfalls experienced by cost-based RLECs pending completion of a budgetary review. They asked the FCC to take steps to mitigate the effects of the budget shortfall before the end of the year.
- Tohono O’odham Utility Authority, Fort Mojave Telecommunications, Mescalero Apache Telecom, and Alexicon Consultants, all representing the National Tribal Telecommunications Association, [met with](#) Commissioners Rosenworcel and Carr and their Legal Advisors, Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Clyburn, and staff from the Office of Native Affairs and Policy on October 3, 2017, to discuss fully funding the USF High-Cost program and operating expense relief, the importance of the Lifeline program to Native communities, ongoing issues with Tribal engagement, and tower siting issues. They also discussed the definition of broadband speeds and the move of Universal Service Funds to the U.S. Treasury. They [discussed](#) similar issues on October 4, 2017, with staff from the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau, Wireline Competition Bureau, and the Office of Native Affairs and Policy.
- Gila River Telecommunications filed [a redacted letter](#) on October 4, 2017, to provide notice of a letter it received from NECA concerning its estimated HCLS expense adjustment for 2018. It noted NECA’s letter estimates GRTI’s expense adjustment reduction for 2018 will be approximately 19 percent, which

is up from the 16 percent reduction GRTI incurred in 2016. GRTI reiterated what it previously stated in [its Petitions](#) that these reductions are well in excess of what the Commission stated it believed the adjustment would be for even the highest cost carriers, and GRTI claimed these annual reductions are part of a trend that will continue downward.

- The Alaska Telephone Association [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly and Rosenworcel and staff from the Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus on September 29, 2017, and Commissioner Clyburn’s [Legal Advisor](#) on October 4, 2017, to discuss reporting requirements related to the Alaska Plan, projects underway by companies participating in the Plan, and minimum standards for Lifeline service in remote Alaska. ATA expressed concern that without modification, the additional reporting requirements beyond middle mile facilities will divert significant resources from broadband service and deployment and is beyond the scope of the Alaska Plan Order. It requested that companies participating in the Alaska Plan be granted access to the HUBB portal as quickly as possible so they can upload geocoded locations of broadband service where it has already been provided under the Alaska Plan. ATA also suggested that clarification and waiver of certain Lifeline standards in limited areas will be necessary to allow qualifying subscribers in remote Alaska to participate in Lifeline. ATA also [met with](#) Office of Native Affairs and Policy staff to discuss the same issues as well as to review the tribal engagement activities happening in Alaska, particularly during the upcoming Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Anchorage, October 19-21.
- Allband Communications Cooperative and JSI [spoke with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Clyburn, Carr, O’Rielly, and Rosenworcel on October 4 and 5, 2017, to discuss the status of Allband’s [Petition](#) for interim partial waiver of section 54.302 and for increased per-line support, filed on January 12, 2017. Allband reiterated the urgency of the matter, claiming it is experiencing considerable financial strain as it waits for the resolution of its Petition.

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## ICC

- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 3, 2017, announcing comment dates for Telapex’s [Petition for Waiver](#) of sections 51.909(a), 51.917(b)(1), and 51.917(b)(7), filed September 22, 2017. Telapex seeks a waiver of the rules to allow it to recalculate the rate bands and charges for local switching, tandem switching, and dedicated transport services for two commonly-owned and merged study areas in the same state, Franklin Telephone Company and Delta Telephone Company. Comments are due October 23, 2017; replies are due November 7, 2017.

## Broadband

- Reply comments were filed October 6, 2017, on the [Thirteenth Section 706 Report NOI](#) on the appropriate metrics and benchmarks by which to measure the deployment of both fixed and mobile services to evaluate the extent to which American consumers have access to advanced telecommunications capabilities. [Hughes Network Services](#) said the FCC should find that the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability is reasonable and timely based on the strong evidence in the record of investment and broader availability of services meeting the Commission’s benchmark, including from satellite broadband providers. [Smith Bagley](#) asserted data shows that advanced telecommunications capability is not being deployed to citizens residing on Tribal lands in a reasonable and timely fashion, and said this should prompt the Commission to focus its efforts on taking effective actions to remove barriers to infrastructure investment and to promote competition among broadband service providers on Tribal lands. The [California PUC](#) urged the FCC to maintain the 25 Mbps/3 Mbps speed benchmark for fixed wireline broadband, and said speed should not be the only criteria to determine availability of advanced broadband capability. The PUC also suggested that, at present, the FCC should not deem mobile broadband service to be a substitute for fixed broadband service. [The Nez Perce Tribe](#) opposed lowering standards below 25 Mbps/3Mbps for fixed service, claiming lower standards would make Tribal lands stand out as being unserved, arguing setting a lower

speed should only be considered as a short-term incentive to build tribal lands where no other options to bridging the gap exist. It also said measuring progress in any environment (rural or urban) should be done by actual field testing. [All replies available to date.](#)

- USTelecom [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on September 26, 2017, to discuss the importance of outlining reporting and compliance procedures for broadband performance, including the proposal in its May 23, 2017 [ex parte](#). It urged the Bureau to issue a Public Notice seeking input on these issues as soon as possible.
- The New Democrat Coalition [released](#) a set of principles on October 5, 2017, to increase long-term federal investments in infrastructure improvements. The plan recommended, among other things, that new projects should be smart, thoughtful infrastructure that citizens need, and when new infrastructure is developed, the federal government should prioritize projects that modernize infrastructure through innovative design and technologies. The plan also proposed creating multi-use corridors, where infrastructure and industry needs to align, to speed the deployment of broadband and other transmission lines, thereby reducing the cost and time to expand access to services while taking the best advantage of land.
- Comments were filed on October 2, 2017, 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. [AT&T](#) said the Lower C-Band warrants further investigation and holds some promise for flexible use, but claimed the 6 GHz microwave bands are not compatible with expanded flexible uses, nor would the terrestrial microwave links using this spectrum be good candidates for relocation to other frequencies. [CenturyLink](#) said it is wary of additional uses of spectrum in the 5.925 – 6.425 GHz band, and cautioned against use of this band by mobile or unlicensed devices. CenturyLink said if the FCC intends to move forward with additional spectrum uses in or near the bands currently used by fixed microwave point-to-point facilities it must ensure that those existing facilities are protected from harmful interference, and if any interference does occur, it can be reliably identified and immediately eliminated. [Frontier, Windstream and Consolidated](#) claimed expeditious access to the 3.7-4.2 GHz band spectrum for rural fixed point-to-multipoint deployments help reach the hardest to serve rural Americans. Frontier, et al. said they are in the process of investing more than three billion dollars to bring broadband to more than a million homes and businesses each year as part of the CAF Phase II program, and said this underutilized spectrum presents the Commission with an opportunity to further promote rural broadband expansion. [Verizon](#) asserted opening the 3.7-4.2 GHz band for mobile use is a critical next step for maintaining U.S. leadership in next generation wireless. Verizon said allocating the 3.7-4.2 GHz band for mobile use already fully aligns with international efforts in the band, and asserted the band has greater potential to be globally harmonized. [NCTA](#) requested the FCC carefully consider the potential impact to television distribution and other important C-band services, and said the Commission should not proceed to authorize new uses unless the record demonstrates, through interference analyses and testing, if appropriate, that such uses will not cause harmful interference to C-band incumbents. NCTA also said if incumbent operations can be protected it supports authorizing unlicensed use of the 6 GHz band. The [Wireless Broadband Alliance](#) asserted there is an urgent need for action to make additional mid-band spectrum available for unlicensed uses, and urged prompt action towards an NPRM. WBA claimed unlicensed operation in the 5.925 to 7.125 GHz range, while protecting incumbent services, is possible based on early industry analysis of the existing uses and unlicensed technology's record of coexisting on a non-interference basis. [All comments available to date.](#) Replies are due November 1, 2017.
- Amtrak [met with](#) Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr and their Legal Advisors on October 2, 2017, to assert that establishing any pole attachment information collection or disclosure requirements for railroads would be both inappropriate and counterproductive. Amtrak claimed 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. Amtrak also said imposing such obligations on railroads would instead impair free market negotiations for use of the limited railroad ROW that is available for third-party communications purposes and would inflict unnecessary and significant costs and burdens on railroads.

- Edison Electric Institute, Georgia Power Company, and Duke Energy [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Strategic Planning & Policy staff on October 2, 2017, to discuss the nation's power grid. They discussed pole attachment rate issues and explained how joint-use agreements are structured, claiming they are a key enabler to broadband development. They claimed pole attachment rates are not a meaningful factor in wireline broadband deployment decisions, and asserted the Commission's current policies, and those proposed in the NPRM, do not promote collaboration between the pole owner and the communications attachers. EEI, Duke Energy, and Xcel Energy [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Strategic Planning & Policy staff on October 3, 2017, to discuss similar issues.

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## Open Internet

- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce [met with](#) Commissioner Carr and Chairman Pai's Legal Advisor on October 4, 2017, to discuss the need to expeditiously remove the Title II common carrier designation for broadband providers while preserving the principles of net neutrality. The Chamber also discussed the importance of rural broadband, and said one of the ways to address the digital divide would be to preempt localities from charging duplicative and unreasonable fees to site telecommunications equipment on public rights-of-way.
- NCTA filed a [letter](#) on October 5, 2017, responding to certain claims made in INCOMPAS's [reply comments](#) and the supporting declaration by Dr. David S. Evans on the [NPRM](#) proposing to return internet broadband access service to the classification of Title I information service. NCTA claimed the record in this proceeding makes plain that competition in the broadband marketplace today is more robust and dynamic than ever and puts to rest any notion that broadband providers have market power that can be leveraged anticompetitively.
- The National Hispanic Media Coalition and 20 other organizations filed a [Reply](#) on October 5, 2017, to NCTA and USTelecom's [opposition](#) to NHMC et al.'s [Motion](#) that asked that informal Open Internet complaint documents be made part of the record, and to set a pleading cycle for comment on them. NHMC, et al. asserted the Commission cannot adequately understand the impact of the 2015 Open Internet [Order](#) without a full and rigorous analysis of these consumer complaints, and claimed failure to establish a new pleading cycle would raise serious questions about the completeness of the Restoring Internet Freedom docket and compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

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## Universal Service

- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [Report](#) on October 2, 2017, on voice services in the E-rate program. The report found total E-rate funding commitments have increased, but the amount of E-rate funding supporting voice services for all applicants has dropped and fewer applicants have received support for voice services since the phasedown began. It also said 71 percent of the applicants who in funding year 2014 received only voice services now seek E-rate support for other services, and of the total applicants in funding year 2014, only twelve percent no longer apply for E-rate support.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released an [Order](#) on October 4, 2017, containing the eligible services list for FY 2018 for the E-rate program. The Bureau also authorized USAC to open the annual application filing window no earlier than 60 days after release of this Order.
- The FCC [announced](#) on October 4, 2017, a [provision](#) of up to \$76.9 million in USF funds to help restore communications networks in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands destroyed by Hurricane

Maria. The FCC unanimously voted to allow ETCs operating in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, consistent with their statutory obligations, to use high-cost USF support that they are currently receiving to repair and maintain telecommunications infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Maria, and it waived certain programmatic requirements. The FCC will also allow carriers to elect a single advance payment of up to seven months of high-cost support to assist with their immediate needs and anticipated large repair costs in restoring their communications networks.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau released an [Order](#) on October 6, 2017, waiving certain E-rate, Rural Health Care, Lifeline, and USF contribution rules and deadlines, to assist schools and libraries, RHC and Lifeline Program participants, and contributors located in the areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The Bureau also partially granted petitions filed by Open Mobile and Telrite for an extension of a previously granted waiver of Lifeline non-usage and re-certification rules, and partially granted ATN's request to extend the deadline for correcting universal service contribution obligations.
- No comments were filed on NECA's [2018 Modification](#) of the Average Schedule Universal Service High Cost Loop Support Formula. Replies are due October 20, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- The Navajo Nation and Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Native Affairs and Policy staff on October 4, 2017, to discuss Lifeline. They provided a statement from Navajo President Russell Begaye submitted to the Senate Homeland Security Committee in response to its September 14, 2017 oversight hearing. They said the FCC needs to take into consideration in its Form 477 data collection that some carriers may technically serve a reservation, but do not advertise the availability of service on the reservation or actively market their services to Native Americans.
- Viya filed an Emergency [Petition](#) on October 5, 2017, asking the Commission to adopt a comprehensive USF relief package for the U.S. Virgin Islands, due to the damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Viya asked for: additional Lifeline and Link Up support; waiver of the 45-day deadline to revise revenue projections filed in the August 1, 2017 FCC Form 499-Q; and further extension of recently granted universal service filing deadlines and extension of additional universal service filing deadlines.
- Telrite Corporation filed an [Emergency Petition](#) on October 5, 2017, seeking an extension of the waiver of Lifeline non-usage and recertification rules previously granted for Lifeline subscribers in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Telrite asked for an additional 90-day waiver, and claimed without it, a significant number of Lifeline subscribers could be de-enrolled at a time when they need essential communication services the most.
- Open Mobile filed an Emergency [Petition](#) on October 4, 2017, seeking a waiver of USF rules to enable it to restore critical wireless service in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. It asked for a temporary increase in high-cost support to bring its monthly support back up to 100 percent of its legacy support, as well as allowing it to access an additional \$14 million in supplemental support through 2019. It also asked for a deferral of USF contributions through the end of 2017, until the 2018 true up process, and requested an additional \$25 per month in monthly Lifeline support through March 1, 2018.
- WTA [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and [Commissioner Clyburn](#) on September 28, 2017, to discuss the apparent plans to transfer the USF dollars currently managed by USAC to the U.S. Treasury and the status, timing, and scope of the Commission's promised sixth-year review of the USF High-Cost support budgets adopted in 2011. WTA expressed concern about the mechanics of Treasury involvement, and suggested the contemplated transfer should be detailed and discussed in a public and transparent formal rulemaking before any concrete and difficult-to-reverse steps are taken.
- Pacific Network Holdings [met with](#) Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners [Carr](#), [Clyburn](#), [O'Rielly](#), and [Rosenworcel](#) on September 27 and 28, 2017, to discuss the status of Sandwich Isles Communications' Petition for Waiver of the definition of study area and the Commission's commitment to ensuring continuity of telecommunications service in the Hawaiian Homelands.

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## State Actions

- Birch Communications filed a [complaint](#) on September 29, 2017, against CenturyLink in Delaware District Court, alleging CenturyLink refused to pay three types of tariffed charges for telecommunications services rendered by Birch to CenturyLink: toll-free database query charges; remote switch component of interstate and intrastate switched access service charges; and presubscribed interexchange carrier charges. Birch is seeking payment of all outstanding charge, including interest and late fees, plus reasonable attorney fees.

## Misc.

- The Senate [voted](#) on October 2, 2017, to confirm President Trump's re-nomination of Chairman Pai to be a Commissioner of the FCC for a term of five years from July 1, 2016. Pai issued a [statement](#), as well as Commissioners [Clyburn](#), [O'Rielly](#), [Carr](#), and [Rosenworcel](#).
- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on October 3, 2017, for its October 24, 2017 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider: a [Report and Order](#) that would enable law enforcement and security personnel to obtain quick access to blocked Caller ID information to investigate threatening calls and amend the FCC's rules to allow non-public emergency services to obtain blocked Caller ID information associated with calls requesting assistance; and an [NPRM and NOI](#) on industry models to move toward complete nationwide number portability to promote competition between all service providers and increase network routing efficiencies. The FCC will also consider: an [NPRM](#) on changes to the Priority Access License rules in the 3550-3700 MHz (3.5 GHz) band to increase incentives for investment, encourage more efficient spectrum use, and promote faster and more widespread network deployments; a [Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration](#) on hearing aid compatibility that would update the volume control standard for wireline telephones, extend wireline HAC requirements to cover telephones used with advanced communications services, adopt a volume control rule for wireless handsets, and delete from the FCC's rules an obsolete wireless HAC standard; a [Report and Order](#) that would eliminate the Traffic and Revenue Reports and streamline the Circuit Capacity Reports; a [Report and Order](#) eliminating the rule that requires each AM, FM, and TV broadcast station to maintain a main studio located in or near its community of license; and an [NPRM](#) on updates to section 73.624(g) which imposes certain reporting obligations for broadcasters relating to the provision of ancillary or supplementary services, and section 73.3580, which requires public notice of the filing of broadcast applications.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 2, 2017, announcing the secure data enclave used by authorized parties for accessing and analyzing highly confidential data filed in the Business Data Services proceeding will close on December 31, 2017. The Bureau said it finds there is little, if any, utility in maintaining continued access to the complete business data services dataset via the secure data enclave, and maintaining that access would entail significant public expense and require continued oversight by Commission staff.
- Public Knowledge, the Consumer Federation of America, and New Networks Institute filed a [motion](#) in the Eighth Circuit Court on October 4, 2017, for leave to file an amici curiae [brief](#) in support of vacating and remanding the FCC's Business Data Services [Order](#). They asserted the Order will lead to higher prices in the BDS marketplace, leading to escalating costs on a broad range of downstream goods and services for consumers and taxpayers. They also expressed concern that the competition framework established by the Order will undermine the FCC's consumer protection and competition obligations and duties across the various markets the agency regulates, including merger reviews, license transfers, broadband, and wireless telephony and internet.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 6, 2017, listing Acknowledgements of Confidentiality filed by parties seeking access to confidential information filed in

the special access data collection proceeding. Parties that submitted confidential information in response to the collection have until October 16, 2017 to object to the disclosure of their data and information to any of the parties listed in the Public Notice.

- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on October 2, 2017, the appointment of Dr. Eric Burger as the FCC's Chief Technology Officer. Dr. Burger will advise Chairman Pai and the agency on technology and engineering issues, together with the Office of Engineering and Technology. Dr. Burger previously served as Director of the Security and Software Engineering Research Center in Washington, DC.
- Commissioner Carr [announced](#) on October 3, 2017, the appointment of Jamie Susskind as his Chief of Staff and Legal Advisor for wireline issues. She previously held other positions in the Wireline Bureau, including Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief and Acting Assistant Division Chief of the Pricing Policy Division. Commissioner Carr also [announced](#) on October 4, 2017, the appointment of Drema Johnson as Confidential Assistant in his office. Ms. Johnson served initially as the Confidential Assistant to then Chairman William Kennard, and most recently served in the Office of Commissioner Mignon Clyburn as Confidential Assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff.
- Commissioner Rosenworcel [announced](#) on October 4, 2017, the appointment of Travis Litman as her Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor, with primary responsibility for wireline and public safety issues. She also announced the appointment of Kate Black as Policy Advisor, with primary responsibility for media issues, and announced that Lashon Pratt will join the office as a Staff Assistant.
- The FCC [announced](#) on October 3, 2017, it [proposed](#) a \$3.9 million fine against Neon Phone Service of Rockledge, Florida for slamming and cramming. The FCC said Neon appears to have violated Commission rules by switching customers' long distance carriers without obtaining proper, verified authorization and adding unauthorized charges onto consumers' telephone bills.

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## Upcoming Filing Dates

- 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. [PN](#)
- Oct. 10 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) that seeks comment on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477. Replies due October 24, 2017. [FR](#), [Order](#), [PN](#)
- 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. [Notice](#)
- Oct. 23 - Comments due on the sufficiency of budgets for Category Two services under the E-rate program. Replies are due November 7, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 23 – Comments due on Telapex's [Petition for Waiver](#) of sections 51.909(a), 51.917(b)(1), and 51.917(b)(7), to allow it to recalculate the rate bands and charges for local switching, tandem switching, and dedicated transport services for two commonly-owned and merged study areas in the same state, Franklin Telephone Company and Delta Telephone Company. Replies are due November 7, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- Oct. 23 - Due date for entities to submit contact information for the filing of 4G LTE coverage data. [Public 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. 24 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) that seeks comment on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477. [FR](#), [Order](#)
- Oct. 26 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to streamline and consolidate the procedural rules governing formal complaints filed under section 208, pole attachment complaints filed under section 224, and formal advanced communications services and equipment complaints filed under sections 255, 716, and 718. Replies are due November 13, 2017. [FR](#)
- Oct. 26 - Comments due on updating the record on ICC reform issues raised in the 2011 ICC Transformation FNPRM regarding the network edge for traffic that interconnects with the PSTN, tandem switching and transport, and transit. Replies are due November 13, 2017. [Public Notice](#), [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.
- Nov. 7 - Replies due on the sufficiency of budgets for Category Two services under the E-rate program. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 7 - Replies due on Telapex's [Petition for Waiver](#) of sections 51.909(a), 51.917(b)(1), and 51.917(b)(7), to allow it to recalculate the rate bands and charges for local switching, tandem switching, and dedicated transport services for two commonly-owned and merged study areas in the same state, Franklin Telephone Company and Delta Telephone Company. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 9 - Replies due on the [Public Notice](#) seeking data, information, and comment for the FCC'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. 13 - Replies due on updating the record on ICC reform issues raised in the 2011 ICC Transformation FNPRM regarding the network edge for traffic that interconnects with the PSTN, tandem switching and transport, and transit. [Public Notice](#), [Notice](#)
- Nov. 13 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) proposing to streamline and consolidate the procedural rules governing formal complaints filed under section 208, pole attachment complaints filed under section 224, and formal advanced communications services and equipment complaints filed under sections 255, 716, and 718. [FR](#)
- 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](#)
- Nov. 27 - PRA comments due on revisions to a currently approved information collection to meet the requirement that certain carriers with high cost reporting obligations file information about their locations which meet their broadband deployment obligations via USAC's electronic portal. [Notice](#)
- Dec. 5 - PRA comments due on a new information collection associated with the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process. [Notice](#)
- Jan. 4 - Due date for the filing of 4G LTE coverage data pursuant to the Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Order. [Public Notice](#)

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Editor: [Teresa Evert](#) | Assistant Editor: [Shawn O'Brien](#)