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### October 30, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC adopted seven items at its October 24 Open meeting, including an [NPRM and NOI](#) on implementing complete nationwide number portability between all service providers and an [Order](#) allowing law enforcement authorities under specific circumstances to access blocked caller ID information when needed to identify and thwart threatening callers.
- The FCC will consider eight items at its November 16 Open meeting, including a [Report and Order](#) authorizing voice service providers to block certain types of robocalls that falsely appear to be from telephone numbers that do not or cannot make outgoing calls, a [Fourth R&O, Order on Recon, MO&O, NPRM, and NOI](#) proposing measures to bridge the digital divide for Lifeline subscribers, and a [R&O, Declaratory Ruling, and FNPRM and Order](#) on further changes to the pole attachment rules, network change disclosure processes, and section 214(a) discontinuance processes.
- [Comments](#) were filed to update the record on ICC reform issues raised in the 2011 ICC Transformation FNPRM. Replies are due November 13, 2017.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [approved](#) NECA's [2018 Modifications of Average Schedule HCLS Formula](#) for the period beginning January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.
- The Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations issued a [Recommended Decision](#) on how the FCC's separations rules should be modified to be consistent with the [Part 32](#) revisions.
- The House Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law will hold a [hearing](#) on November 1, 2017, entitled [Net Neutrality and the Role of Antitrust](#).
- The House Subcommittee on Communications & Technology held a [hearing](#) on "Oversight of the FCC" at which [Chairman Pai](#) and Commissioners [Carr](#), [Clyburn](#), [O'Rielly](#), and [Rosenworcel](#) testified.
- Comments are due November 27, 2017, on NTCA's [Petition](#) that seeks a temporary waiver of the updated minimum service standards applicable to fixed, wireline broadband internet access service eligible for Lifeline support. Replies are due December 12, 2017. ([Public Notice](#))
- [Reply comments](#) were filed on the [FNPRM](#) that seeks comment on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477.
- Reply comments were filed by [NTTA](#) and [GRTI](#) on Gila River Telecommunications' [Petition](#) for Expedited Waiver of the NACPL freeze decision.
- NTCA [discussed](#) high-cost USF reforms, including a path toward helping to mitigate the pervasive insufficiency of USF support. Totah Communications, WTA, et al. [discussed](#) the sufficiency and predictability of the high cost support mechanisms and budgets for RLECs.

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### Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 7 - Replies due on Telapex's [Petition for Waiver](#) of part 51 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 and Delta Telephone. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 8 - Comments due on the specific parameters and procedures to implement the MF-II challenge process. Replies due November 29, 2017. [Public Notice \(attachment\)](#)

## ICC

- Comments were filed October 26, 2017, to update 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. [NTCA and WTA](#) urged the Commission to move cautiously before proceeding with further ICC reforms, acting only after it addresses existing high-cost USF budget shortfalls and collects data on impacts of previous reforms. They said if, after taking such steps, the Commission elects to proceed with further ICC reforms, such reforms should: create certainty with respect to network “edge” transport obligations, while protecting rural consumers from adverse impacts on the affordability and quality of voice and broadband services; ensure RLECs are not compelled to incur substantial new costs to transport traffic on behalf of other providers; facilitate IP-to-IP interconnection by providing stable and clear “rules of the road” governing all underlying network technologies without artificial distinctions; and provide RLECs with reasonable opportunities to recover authorized revenue requirements via ICC charges and/or other support mechanisms that meet the predictability and sufficiency requirements of the Act. [South Dakota Network](#) said Centralized Equal Access must be treated differently and cost recovery must be preserved. It argued tandem and transit services provided by a CEA provider should be defined and addressed separately from any consideration of these services as provided by RoR carriers, as SDN does not have end users that could compensate SDN under a bill-and-keep regime, nor does it have access to federal or state universal service support. SDN also argued transit services should remain unregulated. [ITTA](#) said the Commission should codify that all carriers must make one or more network edge point(s) available such that carriers that interconnect at that point will pay nothing to the terminating carrier for terminating the traffic, and suggested the network edge for wireline LECs be the called party’s end office. It said the Commission should also minimize arbitrage and bring parity to tandem switching and transport functions for all terminating carriers by allowing all carriers to charge market rates for tandem switching and transit services, and said all carriers should be required to offer a network edge point for 8YY traffic where the IXC would pay the originating switched access rates capped by the Commission in the USF/ICC Transformation Order. ITTA also argued the Commission should decline to regulate the competitive market for transit services. [Verizon](#) said the Commission should complete the transition to bill-and-keep and adopt targeted measures to address transport arbitrage. It said once the Commission has taken those steps, it should seek additional comment on defining the “network edge,” i.e., the point where bill-and-keep applies, and the framework for transit services. [AT&T](#) said the Commission should adopt a rule establishing a default network edge, noting it submitted a detailed network edge proposal in its original comments in 2012. It claimed the end-state bill-and-keep system with a network edge will not end all ICC payments, and argued the Commission will also need to determine what residual regulation, if any, should govern arrangements for intermediary carriers on the sending carrier’s side of the edge. AT&T also claimed carriers are engaging in massive arbitrage schemes involving originating traffic, and the Commission should expeditiously complete the transition to bill-and-keep for originating access charges. [CenturyLink](#) said the Commission should adopt rules providing equal and fair compensation to all types of carriers for equivalent tandem switching and transport services and establishing the end office as the default network edge, and a right to establish direct connections to that end office. It argued the Commission should specify, as its central network edge principle, that the switch that serves the called party on the terminating side is the default financial edge, and these same concepts should also carry-over to originating traffic. CenturyLink said transit services need not be the subject of further ICC reform at this time. Replies are due November 13, 2017. [Public Notice](#), [Notice](#). [All comments available to date](#).

## USF Reform

- Reply comments were filed October 24, 2017, on Gila River Telecommunications’ [Petition](#) for Expedited Waiver of the National Average Cost Per Loop freeze decision. The [National Tribal Telecommunications Association](#) supported the waiver, saying GRTI has shown the Commission’s NACPL Freeze decision reduced support in an amount substantially greater than what was discussed in the NACPL Freeze Order, and as a result, GRTI’s Petition is the only reasonable way forward to ensure its support remains at levels that allow continued service and investment in the Gila River Indian Community. [GRTI](#) reaffirmed that it continues to face cuts that are well in excess of the level

predicted by the Commission, and noted NECA has notified it that further cuts are coming. It said NECA's letter estimates GRTI's expense adjustment for 2018 will be about 19 percent, which is up from the 16 percent reduction GRTI incurred in 2016. [Public Notice](#)

- NTCA [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on October 26, 2017, to discuss high-cost USF reforms, including a recommended, readily available path toward helping to mitigate the pervasive insufficiency of USF support and greater prospective confirmation as to the eligibility of certain expenses for cost recovery.
- Totah Communications, Central Arkansas Telephone, MTE Communications, ATC Communications, NATCO Communications, Northeast Louisiana Telephone, and WTA [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 25, 2017, to discuss the sufficiency and predictability of the high cost support mechanisms and budgets for RLECs. The WTA members urged that the current high-cost support budget for RoR carriers be increased and relief be provided from the burgeoning budget control mechanism "haircuts" ravaging RoR Path RLECs. They also discussed several supplemental or short-term options, including the use of existing CAF reserves, temporary influxes of additional high-cost support, increased state broadband jurisdiction and support, and inflation factor adjustments.
- Totah Communications, Central Arkansas Telephone, 3 Rivers Telephone, MTE Communications, ATC Communications, and WTA [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on October 23, 2017, to discuss: the Commission's promised sixth-year review of the High Cost USF support budgets adopted in 2011 and related matters dealing with the predictability and sufficiency of High Cost support; the pending plans to transfer the USF dollars currently managed by USAC to the U.S. Treasury; and the nature and frequency of FCC Form 477 data collections. WTA expressed support for commencement of the USF High Cost budget review promised by the Commission, and also urged the Commission to act very soon to order USAC to continue billing and collecting the full \$4.5 billion amount of the High Cost Program budget during the coming year. They expressed concerns about the plans to transfer USF funds to the Treasury, and supported the reduction of FCC Form 477 filings to a single annual data collection, at least for RLECs and other rural service providers.

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## Broadband

- Reply comments were filed on October 24, 2017, on the [FNPRM](#) that seeks comment on how to collect better and more accurate information on Form 477. [NTCA](#) supported: geocoding of new installations and upgrades at existing locations only on a prospective basis; reduction of the Form 477 filing requirement from a semi-annual to an annual report; and confidential treatment of competitively sensitive information. [WTA](#) said WISPA's proposal that wireless providers of fixed broadband service be given the "option" of reporting their deployment data by "filing geospatial data showing coverage areas" rather than reporting by census blocks raises critical and substantial questions as to the type of data the Commission wants from the FCC Form 477 filings and how it plans to use this data. WTA said if Form 477 data is to be used to determine what areas (and how many and what locations in such areas) have fixed voice services and fixed broadband services at specified speeds, and/or whether multiple service providers offer competing voice and broadband services to specific areas and locations, the data submitted by all fixed service providers must be in the same format so that it can be readily aggregated and compared. [USTelecom](#) said while it agrees with the majority of comments, the Boulder Regional Emergency Telephone Service Authority suggestion to require all providers to include on their FCC Form 477 filing information pertaining to redundancy and diversity of transport facilities for telecommunications services providing 911 calling capability causes concern. USTelecom argued the Commission already requires the collection of this information and other similar data in the context of outage reporting and annual 911 resiliency certifications, and requiring such information on the FCC Form 477 would be in direct conflict with the Commission's commitment to ensure that data collections as a regulatory burden are not duplicative and merely for the sake of regulation, and also noted requiring this sort of information on the FCC Form 477 would be counter to the Commission's previous finding that this information is sensitive and should be kept confidential. The [Pennsylvania PUC](#) supported: collecting broadband access deployment data down to the address level within

census blocks; making non-commercially sensitive data such as minimum advertised or expected speed data available to the public and incorporated in Form 477 filings going forward; and providing state commissions with full access to all the data collected in the Form 477 process on a state and national basis. [ACA](#) said most parties concurred with ACA's views that, for fixed providers, the costs of collecting more granular broadband deployment data, including about availability, far outweighed any benefits, and comments also agreed that the Commission should require providers to submit Form 477 only once a year. ACA argued: any FCC data/information collection should be linked to the purpose for which it is collected; the Commission should reject proposals to use Form 477 to collect more granular broadband deployment data from fixed providers; and the FCC should preserve the confidentiality of providers' proprietary information and not release additional subscriber data. [Connected Nation](#) said upon reviewing the comments submitted, specifically those from the provider community, it believes a clearinghouse may be the only feasible and effective means to collect more accurate and granular data while avoiding an overly burdensome data preparation and submission process for providers. It discussed how an independent, single, neutral, third-party clearinghouse for the collection of broadband data could effectively solve the issues raised. [List of all replies available to date](#). [FR Notice; Order](#)

- Commissioner Carr [spoke](#) at the Competitive Carrier Association's Annual Convention on October 26, 2017, discussing ways the FCC can incentivize greater broadband deployment. He discussed three of the key pieces: spectrum, infrastructure, and ensuring a skilled workforce is in place to deploy next-generation networks. He said Chairman Pai authorized him to announce that the Commission will be voting next month on the first of a series of orders that will streamline the deployment of wireless infrastructure. He also said the FCC should launch a deregulatory dashboard on the Commission's website, which would publicly identify the rules the agency has eliminated or streamlined since the beginning of the year and include a chart that tracks the burden hours associated with the Commission's reporting and data collection requirements.
- CWA [met with](#) Commissioner Carr and his Chief of Staff on October 6, 2017, to discuss employment in the telecommunications industry. CWA discussed the impact on jobs of proposed policy changes in the Wireline Broadband proceeding, urging the Commission to reject one-touch make-ready pole attachments as harmful to public safety and quality jobs. CWA claimed proposals that would reduce or eliminate copper retirement advance notice requirements to retail customers, the section 214(a) service discontinuance functional equivalent test, and oversight of de facto copper retirement would have the unintended consequence of slowing broadband deployment while reducing quality jobs, and asserted stripping down the section 214 protections would be a dangerous disservice to communities, particularly small towns and rural areas, where a functionally equivalent alternative may not be available.
- The Edison Electric Institute and Pepco [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Clyburn and O'Rielly on October 19, 2017, to discuss pole attachment safety and reliability as well as pole attachment rates. They argued any mandated one-touch-make-ready must be limited to the communications space, and explained why wireless antenna installations should be treated differently than wireline attachments. They asserted pole attachment rates are not a meaningful factor in wireline broadband deployment decisions, and said the Commission's current policies and those proposed in the NPRM do not promote collaboration between the pole owner and the communications attacher.
- The National Rural Electric Cooperative [met with](#) Commissioner Carr's Legal Advisor on October 26, 2017, to discuss its reply comments on the wireline infrastructure NPRM. NRECA discussed impediments to broadband deployment in rural communities, especially those served by rural electric cooperatives. NRECA claimed deploying broadband to the rural communities served by electric cooperatives is simply more expensive due to the lower population density, and not caused by unregulated pole attachment rates.
- The Cities of New York and Los Angeles [met with](#) Advisors to Commissioner Rosenworcel on October 18, 2017, to discuss broadband deployment, 5G siting, and local authority. They discussed the potential economic harm that preemption of local authority could have on the local economy and the public safety issues that could arise should 5G be deployed without responsible local and public input,

especially when terrorism or earthquake events occur. They also expressed concern about the work of the BDAC and whether it would fairly represent cities.

- The Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors send Chairman Pai [a letter](#) on October 17, 2017, to urge the Commission to work more closely with local governments to enhance broadband access and accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment. They also requested he provide for an appropriate level of local government representation on the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee so that local governments can have more input into both the BDAC's and the Commission's deliberations on matters such as the two infrastructure deployment rulemakings and other proceedings related to broadband deployment in the future.
- The Utilities Technology Council [met separately with](#) Chairman Pai and his Advisor, [Commissioner Rosenworcel](#) and her Advisor, and [Commissioner Carr](#) and his Chief of Staff on October 16 and 17, 2017, to discuss spectrum and infrastructure access issues. UTC said utilities need access to additional spectrum for their wireless networks to expand capacity and coverage, and they need protection from interference and congestion in existing spectrum bands. It said they also need: sufficient notice from carriers prior to discontinuance or replacement of copper-based wireline networks and services; to maintain the safety and security of their critical infrastructure; and to recover the full costs of pole attachments by third party communications service providers. UTC urged greater cross-sector coordination between energy and communications policies to promote and protect utility infrastructure while advancing the goal of promoting access to communications service to all Americans.
- AT&T [met with](#) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff on October 19, 2017, to discuss the wireless infrastructure deployment NPRM. AT&T discussed the Commission's authority under section 253 of the Communications Act to preempt right-of-way access fees that are not cost-based, and maintained the FCC has the authority to establish a "shot clock" for Tribal consultation.
- Sprint [met with](#) FCC staff on October 23, 2017, to discuss regulatory barriers to small cell deployment, including the escalating costs imposed by the tribal review process. Sprint asserted the Commission has various means to lower the costs of reviews that do not impact eligible historic properties, and also urged the Commission to adopt reasonable interpretations of potentially ambiguous terms.
- Corning, Economists Incorporated, and CMA Strategy Consulting [met with](#) Commissioner Carr and his Advisor, Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Rosenworcel, O'Rielly, and Clyburn, and staff from the Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureaus on October 18 and 19, 2017, to discuss the economic study attached to Corning's comments in the Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment proceeding. The study estimated that the proposed changes in the NPRM could result in up to an incremental 26.7 million premises becoming economical to serve with next generation networks, driving up to \$45.3 billion in capital investment. It asserted the incremental investment unlocked by the proposed measures could generate up to about 358,000 jobs, support up to \$28.4 billion per year in incremental economic output over the deployment period, and drive consumer welfare improvements of up to \$2.7 billion.

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## Open Internet

- The House Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law will hold a [hearing](#) on November 1, 2017, entitled [Net Neutrality and the Role of Antitrust](#). The Subcommittee will discuss the FCC's NPRM on reversing the 2015 Open Internet Order, and evaluate the role of antitrust law to ensure a competitive and open internet marketplace. Witnesses at the hearing will include: Maureen K. Ohlhausen, Acting Chairman, FTC; Terrell McSweeney, Commissioner, FTC; Robert M. McDowell, Former Commissioner, FCC; and Michael Romano, NTCA.
- Verizon filed a [letter](#) on October 25, 2017, to submit into the Restoring Internet Freedom docket a white paper entitled *FCC Authority to Preempt State Broadband Laws*, which it said explains the

importance of ensuring a uniform, national framework for broadband regulation. The paper claims the Commission can and should preempt state broadband laws, and identified several potential sources of authority for the Commission to do so. The paper also provided an overview of the history of the Commission's and courts' recognition of the Commission's power to preempt state laws that stand as obstacles to federal policies.

- The Free State Foundation filed a [letter](#) on October 23, 2017, to submit into the record on the Open Internet a paper entitled *The FTC Has the Authority, Expertise and Capability to Protect Broadband Consumers*. The paper said if the FCC decides it lacks authority to regulate ISPs as telecommunications carriers under Title II, the effect of the decision should be to restore the Federal Trade Commission to the role it held until 2015 - meaning the FTC would be the lead federal agency with responsibility for safeguarding online privacy and for protecting consumers against other ISP practices that allegedly are anticompetitive or cause consumer harm.
- New America's Open Technology Institute and Free Press [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel and her Legal Advisor on October 23, 2017, to discuss Commission efforts to repeal the 2015 Open Internet [Order](#). They also provided information on research showing the Order preceded a historic period of investment and innovation across the entire internet by broadband internet access service providers and "edge" providers alike. They also discussed what they assert are four major problems with fixating on aggregate broadband provider investment figures to the exclusion of all other metrics.
- Akamai Technologies [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau staff on October 25, 2017, to ask the Commission to clarify in any final order that Content Deliver Network services differ from paid prioritization. Akamai also reiterated its support for the long-held open internet principles that ensure consumers have unfettered access to the online content of their choice, including protections against blocking and throttling, particularly where a broadband provider engages in anticompetitive conduct.
- The National Hispanic Media Coalition [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on October 19, 2017, to discuss its [Motion](#) to make informal Open Internet complaint documents part of the record and to set a pleading cycle for comment on them. NHMC asserted omissions to documents produced in response to its FOIA request for consumer complaints make it impossible to conclude how the underlying complaints were ultimately resolved.
- The National Association of Manufacturers [met with](#) Commissioner Carr and his Chief of Staff on October 19, 2017, to express support for an Open Internet, but also to say the Title II regulatory regime currently in place hinders investment and is counterproductive. NAM also discussed the importance of preserving 900 MHz business and industrial/land transportation spectrum for private internal use by American business and industry.

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## IP Transition

- CenturyLink [spoke with](#) staff from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs and Wireline Competition Bureaus on October 18, 2017, to discuss potential changes to the Commission's copper retirement and section 214 discontinuance rules. It discussed the compatibility of TTY and other customer premises equipment with CenturyLink's managed business VoIP service. CenturyLink also discussed streamlining the section 214 service discontinuance and copper retirement processes, and expressed support for the Commission's proposals.

## Call Completion

- NTCA [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on October 23, 2017, to discuss the continued problem of calls not completing to rural consumers and the sudden uptick in complaints over the last

few weeks. NTCA said there is ample evidence that before the Commission created an affirmative obligation, originating providers failed to properly manage their networks to ensure that calls complete, and asserted the only thing that worked to mitigate the problem was the visibility provided by the Commission's November 2013 Order and the safe harbor. NTCA urged the Commission not to repeal the current record keeping and reporting requirements until an effective replacement is implemented, and recommended that if the Commission repeals the current requirements, it require providers to actively manage their networks and least cost routers, consistent with the ATIS best practices.

## Universal Service

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 26, 2017, seeking comment on NTCA's [Petition](#) that seeks a temporary waiver of the updated minimum service standards applicable to fixed, wireline broadband internet access service eligible for Lifeline support. Comments are due November 27, 2017; replies are due December 12, 2017.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 26, 2017, announcing the opening of WC Docket No. 17-287, captioned "Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers." The Commission will also consider a Fourth Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Memorandum Opinion and Order, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Notice of Inquiry in this docket at its November Open Meeting.
- Viya Telephone [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 20, 2017, to discuss USF relief for the damages caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Viya said as it makes long-term plans for restoration of its network following the hurricanes, it would benefit enormously from certainty with regard to the term of its frozen high-cost support. Viya also suggested the Commission provide E-rate applicants in the U.S. Virgin Islands greater flexibility for service provider changes, even if on a temporary basis, to ensure that schools and libraries can obtain the services they need without delay given the variability of network recovery times.
- Smith Bagley [met separately](#) with Wireline Competition Bureau staff and Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, and Carr on October 18 and 19, 2017, to discuss Lifeline resellers' continuing ability to access enhanced Lifeline support in Tribal areas. SBI claimed allowing carriers with no facilities to access enhanced Lifeline support discourages investment in new and upgraded infrastructure. SBI recommended limiting eligibility for enhanced Lifeline support to those carriers that can meet the definitions of facilities-based carriers in the instructions for FCC Form 477, or a similar definition.
- TracFone Wireless filed a [letter](#) on October 24, 2017, to discuss a letter it received from USAC directing it to take action where USAC says multiple persons are enrolled in TracFone's SafeLink Wireless program at the same address. TracFone said most of the addresses are homeless shelters or other temporary living facilities where residents do not have any other residential address, and it does obtain and retain completed IEH worksheets for all persons associated with the addresses contained in the USAC letters for which IEH worksheets are required. TracFone also said requiring such address verification, subject to de-enrollment for failure to verify the subscribers' latest temporary address, will be problematic and will result in many low-income Lifeline subscribers losing their supported service. It claimed the USAC directive goes beyond the scope of its authority.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released an [Order](#) on October 25, 2017, granting in part the California PUC's [motion](#) for an extension of the Bureau's previously granted temporary waiver, which gave California until October 31, 2017, to implement the federal streamlined Lifeline eligibility programs in sections 54.400(j) and 54.409(a) of the Commission's rules. The Bureau said it found good cause exists to extend its previously granted California waiver through the earlier of April 30, 2018, or the date on which California has aligned its eligibility criteria with the Commission's Lifeline eligibility rules and updated its eligibility processes accordingly.
- The New York State PSC filed a [Motion](#) on October 27, 2017, seeking a further extension of time to implement changes to the FCC's Lifeline Eligibility rules that were adopted in the 2016 Lifeline

Modernization [Order](#). NY PSC said the Commission previously granted it a waiver until October 31, 2017, but asserted due to the unforeseen challenges associated with modifications to New York's Lifeline verification systems and the need for additional time to make reasoned public policy decisions, it is requesting additional time, until June 29, 2018, to implement changes to the federal eligibility rules.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 24, 2017, seeking comment on the joint [petition](#) of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority and CenturyLink QC for a study area waiver. They said the purpose of the waiver is to permit CenturyLink to transfer several households in CenturyLink study area 395145 to CRSTTA study area 391647. Comments are due November 23, 2017; replies are due December 8, 2017.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 24, 2017, seeking comment on the joint [petition](#) of CenturyLink and Nunn Telephone for a study area waiver to permit CenturyLink to transfer a portion of its Eaton-Ault Exchange with four subscriber lines and four other non-active end-user locations from CenturyLink to Nunn. Comments are due November 23, 2017; replies are due December 8, 2017.
- Comments were filed on October 23, 2017, on the sufficiency of budgets for Category Two services under the E-rate program. [E-rate Advantage](#) recommended the Commission: increase the per student budget; decrease the budget window from 5 years to 3 years; have a separate budget for cabling and a separate budget for maintenance; and reinstate the voice discount with a maximum discount of 50%. The [State E-rate Coordinators Alliance](#) recommended the Commission retain the enrollment-based method of calculating Category 2 budgets and restart all Category Two budgets in FY 2020. The [Texas Library Association](#) urged the Commission to maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted. [Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Company](#), encouraged the Commission to increase Category Two budgets, and made suggestions on how the E-rate program could be improved. The [American Library Association](#) said E-rate modernization works for America's libraries, and reducing the current funding level is not going to help make sure every community has the access required to innovate and educate in the 21st Century. The [SHLB Coalition](#) expressed support for the Category Two funding framework as it exists today, and suggested it not be reduced. Comments were also filed by over 200 libraries, school districts, and other individuals. Replies are due November 7, 2017. [Public Notice List of a number of comments available to date.](#)
- Nominations were filed on October 27, 2017, for three of the six members of the USAC Board of Directors by [WTA](#), [Kalispell Regional Healthcare](#), [UnitedHealth Group](#), the [California Telehealth Network](#), [OCHIN](#), the [United Church of Christ](#), the [National Consumer Law Center](#), and the [Office of Ohio Consumer's Council](#). [Public Notice](#)

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## Misc.

- The Commission adopted the following items at its October 24, 2017 Open Meeting: an [NPRM and NOI](#) on the regulatory and technological changes that would be required to implement complete nationwide number portability between all service providers, regardless of size or type ([Press Release](#)); an [Order](#) allowing law enforcement authorities under specific circumstances to access blocked caller ID information when needed to identify and thwart threatening callers ([Press Release](#)); a [Report and Order](#) eliminating the requirement that U.S. providers of international telecommunications services file annual Traffic and Revenue Reports and streamlining the requirements for filing Circuit Capacity Reports ([Press Release](#)); an NPRM proposing revisions to FCC rules in the 3.5 GHz band to promote investment, keep up with technological advancements, and maintain U.S. leadership in the deployment of next-generation services ([Press Release](#)); an [Order](#) approving updates to various Commission rules for hearing aid compatibility and volume control on wireline and wireless telephones ([Press Release](#)); an [NPRM](#) proposing updates for two FCC rules to reduce regulatory burdens for broadcasters ([Press Release](#)); and a [Report and Order](#) eliminating the broadcast main studio rule, but



retaining the requirement that stations maintain a local or toll-free telephone number to ensure consumers have ready access to their local stations ([Press Release](#)).

- The Commission released on October 27, 2017, the [tentative agenda](#) for its November 16, 2017 Open Meeting. The Commission will consider: a [Report and Order](#) that would authorize voice service providers to block certain types of robocalls that falsely appear to be from telephone numbers that do not or cannot make outgoing calls; a [Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and MO&O and Order](#) on spectrum bands above 24 GHz; a [Report and Order](#) to eliminate the requirement for historic preservation review where utility poles are replaced with substantially identical poles that can support antennas or other wireless communications equipment; a [Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, and FNPRM and Order](#) to revise and seek comment on further changes to the pole attachment rules, network change disclosure processes, and section 214(a) discontinuance processes; a [Fourth Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, MO&O, NPRM, and NOI](#) to adopt and propose measures to bridge the digital divide for Lifeline subscribers and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program; an [Order on Reconsideration and NPRM](#) that updates the broadcast ownership and attribution rules; an [NPRM](#) seeking comment on whether to eliminate Form 325, Annual Report of Cable Television Systems; and a [Report and Order and FNPRM](#) authorizing television broadcasters to use the Next Generation TV transmission standard (ATSC 3.0) on a voluntary, market-driven basis.
- Chairman Pai wrote a [blog](#) on October 26, 2017, detailing each item that will be considered at the November 16, 2017 Open Meeting. He discussed: [authorizing](#) voice service providers to block certain types of robocalls that falsely appear to be from telephone numbers that do not or cannot make outgoing calls; [unleashing](#) more spectrum to spur the rollout of next-generation 5G wireless networks; [revising and seeking comment](#) on further changes to the pole attachment rules, network change disclosure processes, and section 214(a) discontinuance processes; and [adopting and proposing](#) measures to bridge the digital divide for Lifeline subscribers and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. Pai also said over the past nine months, the FCC has voted on 63 items at its monthly meetings, compared to 103 in the preceding three years, and said the FCC took action within days to extend \$77 million in up-front funding to rebuild communications networks in Puerto Rico.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [Order](#) on October 23, 2017, approving NECA's [2018 Modifications of Average Schedule High Cost Loop Support Formula](#) for the period beginning January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.
- The Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations issued a [Recommended Decision](#) on October 27, 2017, in response to the FCC's request for recommendations on how the Commission's jurisdictional separations rules should be modified to be consistent with the Commission's recently-adopted [revisions to its Part 32](#) regulations. It noted its recommendations are largely ministerial in nature and address references to accounts that carriers will not be required to keep after the effective date of the newly adopted Part 32 rules. It also recommended making certain stylistic and typographical corrections to the rules contained in Part 36. For administrative simplicity, it recommended the revisions proposed in the Appendix become effective as soon as practicable after January 1, 2018, the effective date of the Part 32 Reform Order.
- The Senate Subcommittee on Communications & Technology held a hearing on "Oversight of the FCC" on October 25, 2017, at which [Chairman Pai](#) and Commissioners [Carr](#), [Clyburn](#), [O'Rielly](#), and [Rosenworcel](#) testified. Pai said over the past nine months, the Commission has voted on 63 items at its monthly meetings under his chairmanship, compared to 102 in three years under his predecessor. He focused his remarks on promoting public safety, bridging the digital divide, modernizing regulations, and combatting unwanted robocalls.
- The FCC issued a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on October 25, 2017, seeking PRA comments on a revised information collection associated with its February 24, 2017 Order that revised Part 32 reporting requirements. The Commission consolidated Class A and Class B accounts by eliminating the current classification of carriers, and carriers will now only be required to keep Class B accounts. Price cap carriers may now elect to use GAAP for all regulatory accounting purposes if they follow procedures regarding pole attachment rates. Alternatively, price cap carriers may elect to use GAAP accounting for all purposes other than those associated with pole attachment rates and continue to use

the Part 32 accounts and procedures applicable to pole attachment rates for up to 12 years. The Commission also reduced the accounting requirements for telephone companies with a continuing obligation to comply with Part 32 in a number of areas. Comments are due November 24, 2017.

- The FCC published a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on October 26, 2017, seeking PRA comments on the information collection requirements to implement sections 201 and 251 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to provide for physical collocation on rates, terms, and conditions that are just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory, and to promote deployment of advanced telecommunications services without significantly degrading the performance of other services. It indicated all of the requirements will be used by the Commission and CLECs to facilitate the deployment of telecommunications services, including advanced telecommunications services. PRA comments are due December 26, 2017.
- ZipDX filed [comments](#) on October 26, 2017, submitting a proposal to address illegal robocalls. It explained that key to its proposal is that all USA PSTN calls enter the PSTN through a regulated provider, and these providers are key. The other key elements of the proposal are the signaling requirements, spoofing and volume calling controls, and investigative cooperation. It said similar to the FCC's Rural Call Completion Order, this would be the safe harbor into which providers can opt
- Comments were filed on October 26, 2017, 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. [Verizon](#) recommended the Commission establish a shot clock for complaint proceedings, and said additional reforms to the enforcement process would further promote fairness, due process, and transparency. [CenturyLink](#) encouraged the Commission to adopt a shot clock for section 208 complaints that is similar to forbearance petitions filed under section 160. [NCTA](#) said the Commission should ensure that any changes provide adequate due process and do not hinder parties' ability to fully and effectively participate in formal complaint proceedings. It urged the Commission to refrain from harmonizing certain limited aspects of the pole attachment complaint procedures, and to adopt NCTA's recommendations regarding discovery and shot clocks. [Centerpoint Energy Houston Electric](#) said any amendments made to the current procedural rules for pole attachment complaints must be equitable and must promote fairness over the objective of expedited dispute resolution. The [Edison Electric Institute](#) said the Commission should be wary of emphasizing the speed of resolution of complaints over the fundamental fairness of the complaint resolution process, and its highest priority should be ensuring that the complaint resolution process remains fundamentally fair to the parties. [Consumer Groups and RERC](#) supported the FCC's decision to expand the reply period from 3 to 10 days, the decision to repeal the requirement that parties obtain FCC approval to serve interrogatories, and the proposal to extend the shot clock provisions of section 208 to Disability Access Complaints. [Ameren Corp, et al.](#) asserted the proposed rules will increase the number of voluntary settlements, provide the Commission with more information upon which to make decisions, and allow the Commission to make such decisions on a shorter timeline. Replies are due November 13, 2017. [FR](#). [All comments available to date](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 24, 2017, to remind all entities that use the Number Portability Administration Center that the process to transition operation of the NPAC from Neustar to Telcordia Technologies, Inc. d/b/a iconectiv, is well underway and all entities that use the NPAC must register with iconectiv by October 31, 2017.
- To date, no comments filed on Invoxio's application seeking authorization to obtain North American Numbering Plan telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. [Public Notice](#)

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## Upcoming Filing Dates

- 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 and Delta Telephone. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 8 - Comments due on the specific parameters and procedures to implement the MF-II challenge process. Replies due November 29, 2017. [Public Notice \(attachment\)](#)
- 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 - Comments due on the [NPRM](#) allowing the FCC to assign toll-free numbers by auction, on a first-come, first-served basis, by an alternative assignment methodology, or by a combination of methodologies. Replies are due December 12, 2017. [Federal Register](#)
- 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. 23 - Comments due on the joint [petition](#) of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority and CenturyLink QC for a study area waiver. Replies are due December 8, 2017. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 23 - Comments due on the joint [petition](#) of CenturyLink and Nunn Telephone for a study area waiver to permit CenturyLink to transfer a portion of its Eaton-Ault Exchange with four subscriber lines and four other non-active end-user locations from CenturyLink to Nunn. Replies due December 8, 2017 [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 24 - PRA comments due on a revised information collection associated with its February 24, 2017 Order that revised Part 32 reporting requirements. [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](#)
- Nov. 27 - Comments due on NTCA [petition](#) seeking temporary waiver of the updated minimum service standards applicable to fixed, wireline broadband access service eligible for lifeline Support. Replies due December 12 [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 29 - Replies due on the specific parameters and procedures to implement the MF-II challenge process. [Public Notice \(attachment\)](#)
- Dec. 5 - PRA comments due on a new information collection associated with the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process. [Notice](#)
- Dec. 8 - Replies due on the joint [petition](#) of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority and CenturyLink QC for a study area waiver. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 8 - Replies due on the joint [petition](#) of CenturyLink and Nunn Telephone for a study area waiver to permit CenturyLink to transfer a portion of its Eaton-Ault Exchange with four subscriber lines and four other non-active end-user locations from CenturyLink to Nunn. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 12 - PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with qualified 4G LTE coverage data collection for Mobility Fund Phase II. [Notice](#)
- Dec. 12 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) allowing the FCC to assign toll-free numbers by auction, on a first-come, first-served basis, by an alternative assignment methodology, or by a combination of methodologies. [Federal Register](#)
- Dec. 12 - Replies due on NTCA [petition](#) seeking temporary waiver of the updated minimum service standards applicable to fixed, wireline broadband access service eligible for lifeline Support. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 15 - PRA comments due on an extension of a previously approved information collection associated with Form 480 (Rural Call Completion Data). [Notice](#)
- Dec. 26 - PRA comments due on the information collection requirements to implement sections 201 and 251, to provide for physical collocation on rates, terms, and conditions that are just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory, and to promote deployment of advanced telecommunications services without significantly degrading the performance of other services. [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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