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November 5, 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC [released a list](#) of 134 applicants in the CAF Phase II auction (Auction 903) that submitted the long-form application portion of FCC Form 683 by the October 15, 2018 deadline.
- The FCC [provided](#) a sixth update about the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process.
- [Comments were filed](#) on proposed approaches to identifying and resolving apparent discrepancies between the number of model-determined funded locations that Phase II auction support recipients are expected to serve and the actual number of locations they can serve. Reply comments are due November 13, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- NTCA, ITTA, WTA, and USTelecom [discussed](#) how best to address ongoing concerns about the sufficiency and predictability of high-cost USF support, including proposals in [their letter](#) filed on October 1, 2018.
- USTelecom and Hargray [discussed](#) concerns with the sufficiency and predictability of high-cost USF support, including proposals consistent with the [association letter](#). WTA [discussed](#) sufficient funding of existing A-CAM and cost-based RoR USF support mechanisms, and broadband build-out obligations, among other things. ITTA [suggested](#) the Commission fully fund separate budgets for the A-CAM program and legacy support mechanisms, as well as evaluate sums required for CAF ICC support separate from the budgets for the A-CAM program and legacy mechanisms. Hargray [urged](#) the FCC to adopt the proposals set forth in the [association letter](#).
- The Small Company Coalition [suggested](#) the simplest path to adequate high-cost USF funding is to lift the arbitrary \$2 billion HCF cap and to dedicate existing USF contributions to the high-cost program in amounts sufficient to meet expressed demand. It expressed support for the October 1, 2018 [association letter](#) containing recommendations to update the high-cost support mechanisms.
- Vantage Point Solutions [discussed](#) test results of the VPS-developed Broadband Evaluation Testing and Tracking Instrument and the Commission's Network Performance Testing Order.
- GVNW and ASTAC [discussed](#) the comparative broadband speed differential in ASTAC's Alaska Plan obligations with slide 5 from the CAF Phase II Auction Results presentation made at the September 26, 2018 Open Meeting.
- Items on separations and SIC's [Petition for Reconsideration](#) have been placed on [circulation](#).
- Hargray, Cincinnati Bell, Great Plains, and ITTA [suggested](#) the FCC should take only targeted actions to address any arbitrage and abuses associated with 8YY originating access.
- Comments [are due](#) November 26, 2018, on expanding the list of key applications and functionalities for which a carrier must demonstrate interoperability when requesting to discontinue a legacy voice service pursuant to the adequate replacement test. Reply comments are due December 13, 2018.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 7 - Oppositions due to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Network Testing [Order](#). Replies are due November 19. [FR](#)

USF Reform

- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and the Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus released [a Public Notice](#) on October 30, 2018, identifying 134 applicants in the CAF Phase II auction (Auction 903) that submitted the long-form application portion of the FCC Form 683 by the October 15, 2018 deadline. They indicated a spreadsheet is available on the Data tab of the [Auction 903 web page](#) that identifies the long-form applicants and lists the number of census blocks and locations, as well as the support amounts, by state, associated with each applicant. Where applicable, the winning bidder that assigned bids to the applicant is also identified, and the eligible census blocks associated with each long-form applicant is also listed.
- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and the Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus released [a Public Notice](#) on November 2, 2018, providing the sixth update about the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process. They indicated as of October 31, 2018, 106 entities have access to USAC's MF-II Challenge Process Portal to participate in the MF-II challenge process. They said while the number of speed tests on file varies on a daily basis, a total of over 8 million speed tests have been submitted during the course of challenge process.
- Comments were filed on October 29, 2018, on proposed approaches to identifying and resolving apparent discrepancies between the number of model-determined funded locations that Phase II auction support recipients are expected to serve and the actual number of locations they can serve. [ITTA](#) said the FCC should include within the breadth of actual locations prospective developments that have a reasonable certainty of coming into existence within the support term. ITTA also suggested the FCC extend the challenge process reply period to 30 days and permit participants to choose their method(s) of geolocating service addresses. [USTelecom](#) said the FCC's existing definition of an "actual location" continues to suffice and should not be extended to include prospective locations. USTelecom supported allowing a participant sufficient flexibility so long as it can explain its methodology, and said the challenge process should be open to state/local/Tribal authorities as well as comments from specific individuals so long as the stakeholder has a legitimate interest. USTelecom said to the extent the Bureau makes use of the Connect America Model in deciding that a provider has failed its burden of persuasion, USTelecom urged the Bureau to allow participants to see the underlying data the CAM uses to estimate the number of locations in a census block. [Verizon](#) said the Bureau should: give support recipients the flexibility to use various data sources and geocoding methods, rather than mandate a single method or impose overly-prescriptive requirements; require support recipients to report location data only for existing locations, not for prospective locations; not require support recipients to continue monitoring location changes until shortly before the filing deadline; and give support recipients at least 45 days to respond to comments on their petitions, rather than just 15 days. [WISPA](#) said the Bureau should: give participants flexibility in the methodologies they use to determine locations; make clear that any stakeholders challenging a participant's evidence must certify they are located in the subject geographic area and must present contrary methodologies and evidence; shorten the timeframe for stakeholders to file challenges and lengthen the timeframe for participants to respond to stakeholders' claims; and conduct audits where the CAF recipient has defaulted on its deployment obligations or has misreported its served locations by more than a reasonable amount and USAC should conduct a final audit at the time it is asked to certify that the recipient has met its six-year build-out milestone. [Commnet Wireless](#) said the FCC should permit winning bidders using fixed wireless technology to identify the areas where they provide qualifying service using standard engineering propagation models rather than having to prove up specific location information. It said to the extent that location-specific information is required, the standards must recognize the paucity of information that is available in Tribal areas and other extremely remote areas where standard addresses are not used and commercial geolocation data is unreliable or non-existent. [Geolinks](#) urged the Bureau not to limit a broadband provider's ability to determine what methodology may work best for the provider to gather this information. GeoLinks asserted that so long as a location is verified by the provider and the methodology for verification can be sufficiently explained, the Bureau should not limit a provider's use of any such methods. GeoLinks also urged the Bureau to require certain information to ensure they are, in fact, relevant stakeholders and are providing verifiable information regarding the accuracy of a CAF II recipient's location data. [Hughes](#) urged the Commission to permit providers to use reliable third-party vendors for this process and to ensure that the standards

of accuracy adopted do not impose an unreasonable burden on support recipients, USAC, or the Commission staff. [All comments available to date](#). Reply comments are due November 13, 2018. [Public Notice](#)

- NTCA, ITTA, WTA, and USTelecom [met with](#) Commissioner O'Reilly's Advisors on October 25, 2018, to discuss how best to address ongoing concerns about the sufficiency and predictability of high-cost USF support, including proposals in [the letter](#) submitted by the associations on October 1, 2018. They encouraged action by the Commission on these issues by year-end.
- WTA [met separately with](#) Advisors to Chairman Pai and [Wireline Competition Bureau staff](#) on October 30 and 31, 2018, to discuss: sufficient funding of existing A-CAM and cost-based RoR USF support mechanisms; implementation and technical and economic feasibility of potential changes to associated broadband build-out obligations; the potential impact of the growth of CBOL services on cost-based RoR budgets and budget control mechanisms; the mechanisms to address unsubsidized competitor issues; and the design and eligibility standards for a potential second A-CAM offer. WTA reiterated that the main priority at this time should be to fully fund existing A-CAM and cost-based RoR mechanisms before contemplating a second A-CAM offer that would appear likely to place additional demands on limited USF resources.
- ITTA [met with](#) Commissioner Carr's Legal Advisor on October 25, 2018, to encourage the Commission to fully fund separate budgets for the A-CAM program and legacy support mechanisms, as well as evaluate sums required for CAF ICC support separate from the budgets for the A-CAM program and legacy mechanisms. It claimed funding participants in the A-CAM program to \$200 per eligible location and fully funding the legacy mechanisms would have a de minimis impact on consumers' bills. It also reiterated that once the above is accomplished, the Commission should extend a second A-CAM offer to all carriers on legacy mechanisms.
- USTelecom and Hargray Communications [met separately with](#) Legal Advisors to Commissioners Carr and Rosenworcel on October 30, 2018, to discuss concerns with the sufficiency and predictability of high-cost USF support, including proposals consistent with the October 1, 2018 [letter](#) submitted by the associations. Hargray discussed how the current budget control mechanism effects its ability to plan for CapEx investment both in the near term and in the future.
- Hargray Communications [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Acting Special Counsel on October 23, 2018, to urge the Commission to adopt the proposals set forth in the October 1, 2018 [Unity Letter](#) filed by a number of associations. It said the Unity Letter represents a clear consensus path to address the unpredictable high-cost USF support by: increasing the overall budget to an amount not less than \$2.4 billion for 2018; applying an inflation adjustment factor to the entire high-cost budget; providing a sufficient "floor" of support for rate-of-return carriers; and holding off on a new model offer until already-existing mechanisms are sufficiently funded. Hargray emphasized that current funding uncertainty is deterring investment, harming rural consumers, and preventing carriers from taking steps that will help close the digital divide.
- Hargray [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 30, 2018, to encourage the Commission to adopt the high-cost USF reform proposals set forth in the [Unity Letter](#) jointly submitted by NTCA, USTelecom, ITTA, and WTA. Hargray emphasized that current funding uncertainty is deterring investment, harming rural consumers, and preventing carriers serving high cost areas from taking steps that will help close the digital divide. It explained that predictable, sufficient funding without arbitrary reductions of support for a period of seven years, which is the term of many commercial loans, is critical for investment decisions.
- The Small Company Coalition filed [a letter](#) on October 26, 2018, to suggest the simplest path to adequate high-cost USF funding is to lift the arbitrary \$2 billion HCF cap and to dedicate existing USF contributions to the high-cost program in amounts sufficient to meet expressed demand. It expressed support for the October 1, 2018 [association letter](#) submitting recommendations to update the high-cost support mechanisms. It noted two re-occurring objections to reform, USF contributions reform and the need for additional funding, and said the resolution to both lies within the USF reserve. The SCC urged the FCC to make the requisite changes as quickly as possible.

- Vantage Point Solutions [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 24, 2018, to discuss test results of the VPS-developed Broadband Evaluation Testing and Tracking Instrument and the Commission's Network Performance Testing Order. VPS discussed suggested refinements to the requirements and procedures in the Performance Testing Order, including: the initiation point in the customer premises for performance testing; limitations associated with the use of test servers located at IXPs; issues associated with the requirement that performance tests be initiated at the beginning of each test hour window; an alternative to relying on third party test servers over which the provider has no control; and potential remedies for locations with high levels of crosstalk.
- Rep. Sam Graves (R-Mo.) filed a [letter](#) on October 26, 2018, to express support for Grand River Mutual Telephone's [Petition for Reconsideration](#) of the March 23, 2018 Report and Order, which requested that some of the additional \$36.5 million in A-CAM funding be appropriated to not-served locations that do not receive any high-cost USF assistance. Rep. Graves asked the FCC to consider funding the "abandoned locations" first and make it a top priority, saying in his congressional district alone, there are over 747 locations that have not received any type of high-cost funding assistance.
- GVNW and Arctic Slope Telephone Association [met separately with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr, and Rosenworcel and staff from the Wireline Competition on October 30 and 31, 2018, to discuss the comparative broadband speed differential in ASTAC's Alaska Plan obligations with slide 5 from the CAF Phase II Auction Results presentation made at the September 26, 2018 Open Meeting. They said that slide indicated that only 0.25% of locations by speed tier was at a level of 10/1 Mbps–25/3 Mbps, while almost half (46.75%) of locations by speed tier was shown as 25/3 Mbps–100/20 Mbps. They reviewed what modifications to the Alaska Plan would be needed to address that speed gap, and said maintaining adequate and sufficient USF funding is required for implementation of all the Commission's universal service initiatives. They also [met separately with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr, and Rosenworcel on October 30 and 31, 2018, to discuss the same issues, and [met with](#) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff to discuss ASTAC data on its updated wireless and wireline Alaska Plan obligations and the ongoing discussions amongst ATA members that are wireless providers with respect to refinements being considered to the GCI population distribution model.
- The National Tribal Telecommunications Association filed [a letter](#) on October 25, 2018, submitting a Tribal Area Solution proposal for addressing the digital divide between rural Tribal areas and the rest of the United States. The proposal recommends, among other things: addressing the insufficiency of the current RoR high cost fund budget; increasing CAF BLS funding to Tribal areas served by RoR carriers by reducing the \$42 per month threshold by 25 percent to \$31.50; revising the HCLS algorithm for carriers serving Tribal areas; revising the Tribal Broadband Factor so current A-CAM recipients, if deemed eligible under a set of criteria, would receive revised offers of support at the reduced funding threshold for locations served on Tribal lands; and addressing broadband affordability.
- Smith Bagley [met with](#) staff from Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Reilly and Rosenworcel's offices on October 23 and 24, 2018, to discuss the need to improve the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II mapping resources. SBI noted it has to date spent over one quarter of a million dollars on drive testing but has only covered a small fraction of the thousands of individual one square kilometer grid cells that it believes should be tested. SBI urged the Commission to consider whether revising the inputs on the model used to generate challenge maps would yield a more conservative map that does not overstate the availability of 4G LTE service at 5 Mbps, and suggested using drive testing by the Commission's field Operations Bureau, USAC's drive testers, and possibly crowd sourced data to assist in improving map accuracy. It also discussed the need to weight the upcoming Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II auction to minimize the possibility that the most remote and difficult to serve Tribal lands are not foreclosed from receiving support.

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- Hargray Communications, Cincinnati Bell, Great Plains Communications, and ITTA [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Advisor on October 24, 2018, to reiterate that the Commission should take only targeted actions to address any arbitrage and abuses associated with 8YY originating access, rather than implement the FNPRM's overreaching proposal. In the alternative, they suggested the Commission reform 8YY database query charges, saying ITTA supports applying a nationwide cap, and allowing only one database query charge per 8YY call. They said, however, setting such charges at the lowest rate charged by any price cap carrier ILEC is not appropriate, suggesting, instead, the Commission adopt a more averaged rate cap. They said in no event should the Commission transition 8YY originating access to bill-and-keep, as 8YY traffic is not reciprocal.
- Native American Telecom [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 25, 2018, to highlight the importance of intercarrier compensation to rural carriers. It also discussed the important role of electronic commerce for rural areas.

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Open Internet

- Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Brian Schatz (D-Hi.), and Edward Markey (D-Mass.) sent a [letter](#) to FCC Inspector General David Hunt on October 29, 2018, urging him to open an investigation into the FCC's handling of potential fraud in the net neutrality rulemaking process. They asked the Inspector General to address the FCC's policies and procedures with regard to investigating and addressing fraudulent comments and when the FCC became aware of the fraudulent comments, among other things. [Press release](#)
- TechFreedom [released](#) an analysis on October 31, 2018, that claims state laws and executive orders attempting to replicate or expand upon the FCC's 2015 net neutrality [rules](#) will likely fail in court. TechFreedom's analysis makes five key findings: restoring broadband to a Title I classification is a valid exercise of the Commission's authority, not a surrender of that authority; because the Restoring Internet Freedom [Order](#) will succeed in court, the FCC has expressly preempted state regulation; none of the exceptions to federal preemption apply to the state actions; state regulation would violate the Dormant Commerce Clause; and states can protect internet users by enforcing laws of general applicability.

Broadband

- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) and [news release](#) on November 1, 2018, announcing Chairman Pai appointed members to serve on the Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. The members are listed in the Appendix of the Public Notice. The BDAC's Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group is charged with making recommendations on measures that can be taken to improve resiliency of broadband infrastructure before a disaster occurs, strategies that can be used during the response to a disaster to minimize the downtime of broadband networks, and actions that can be taken to more quickly restore broadband infrastructure during disaster recovery.
- Commissioner O'Rielly [spoke](#) at an event entitled "Partnering with Communities Today to Build Smart Cities of Tomorrow" on October 30, 2018. He said for smart cities to actually work, they will need hundreds of thousands of miles of fiber-optics to carry all of the applicable information. He said the FCC has been centered on ensuring the proper regulatory framework exists for providers to offer services and expand infrastructure deployments to meet consumer demand. O'Rielly noted the Commission has completed numerous items to remove state and local barriers to the deployment of both wired and wireless broadband networks and worked to remove outdated pricing rules, regulatory restrictions that no longer make any sense, and mission creep by overaggressive regulatory agencies.

- Reply comments were filed on October 29, 2018, on the FCC's report on promoting broadband internet access service for veterans. [The National Association of American Veterans](#) said while several federal programs direct billions of dollars annually to projects that deploy broadband infrastructure, only Lifeline focuses on affordability of essential communications services for low-income households. It urged the Commission to recognize the role of Lifeline in helping low-income and rural veterans afford critical broadband internet service, and urged the Commission to strengthen the ability of Lifeline to help low-income veterans access essential services, in both rural and urban areas. [Center for Rural Strategies, et al.](#) said the FCC should strengthen the Lifeline program and reject recent proposals that will particularly harm older Lifeline subscribers and Lifeline subscribers with disabilities, populations that overlap significantly with the veteran population. [ALA](#) said libraries play an important role in connecting low-income veterans by providing no-fee broadband access and computing resources. [Public Notice](#)
- USTelecom, CenturyLink, AT&T, Verizon, Frontier, and Windstream [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Commissioners Rosenworcel and Carr on October 25, 2018, to discuss the Form 477 data. They reiterated their proposal to confidentially provide to the FCC all known addresses they have in their databases, both current and previous customer addresses, so the Commission could then take this data and eliminate duplicates, build on what is provided with publicly available parcel data, crowdsourcing, or some other governmental or commercially available source that meets their requirements for usability. They said the Commission should then geocode those addresses using a consistent methodology and use the resulting database as the basis for carrier reporting of service availability.
- GCI [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 23, 2018, to discuss Form 477 data reporting. GCI provided information about available mapping resources for Alaska and estimated that 20 percent of locations in Alaska do not have valid street addresses. GCI said providers can reasonably be required to certify with the best information they have about the areas or locations they can serve. GCI said the alternative, i.e., requiring providers to certify their data accurately reflect the serviceability of every location, would place a phenomenal burden on filers, particularly in remote areas.
- The U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation issued an [Order](#) on November 2, 2018, selecting the Tenth Circuit as the court to consider Petitions for Review of the FCC's 2018 [Declaratory Ruling and Report and Order](#) that clarified the scope and meaning of sections 253 and 332(c)(7), established shot clocks for state and local approvals for the deployment of small wireless facilities, and provided guidance on streamlining state and local requirements on wireless infrastructure deployment. Petitions were filed in the First, Second, Ninth, and Tenth Circuit Courts by [PRTC](#); [Verizon](#); [City of San Jose et al.](#); [City of Seattle et al.](#); [City of Huntington Beach](#); and [Sprint](#).
- The National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, et al. filed a [Motion for Stay](#) on October 31, 2018, of the September 27, 2018 [Declaratory Ruling and Report and Order](#) that clarified the scope and meaning of sections 253 and 332(c)(7), established shot clocks for state and local approvals for the deployment of small wireless facilities, and provided guidance on streamlining state and local requirements on wireless infrastructure deployment. Movants requested the Commission stay the effective date of the Order (which is [January 14, 2019](#)) until after a decision on the appeal of the Order, and suggested said stay should also provide time to permit local governments to come into compliance after the date of a final decision.
- NCTA, Charter Communications, Comcast, and Cox [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of General Counsel staff on October 25, 2018, to discuss the September 2018 [Wireless Infrastructure Declaratory Ruling](#). They asserted in the Declaratory Ruling the FCC recognized that unwarranted local regulation and excessive fees violate section 253(a) and impede the deployment of 5G infrastructure. They claimed similar impediments were hindering wireline broadband deployment, and urged the Commission to declare that burdens identified in [NCTA's June 11, 2018 ex parte](#) also violate section 253. They also urged the Commission to rule that any rights-of-way fees in excess of a cable operator's 5 percent franchise fee violate section 253.

- WorldNet Telecommunications and Liberty Cablevision of Puerto Rico [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly and Rosenworcel, Commissioner Carr’s Chief of Staff, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 25, 2018, to discuss their opposition to USTelecom’s [Petition](#) for Forbearance from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs.
- The Phoenix Center released a [study](#) on November 1, 2018, entitled *Infrastructure Investment After Title II*. It claimed the analysis shows that while the decline in capital spending in 2015 and 2016 stopped in 2017, investment in the telecommunications sector is materially compressed, being about \$10-\$13 billion below expectations in 2017, with nearly \$24-\$30 billion in investment lost to Title II classification since 2015. [Press Release](#)

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IP Transition

- The Office of Engineering and Technology and the Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 30, 2018, seeking comment on expanding the list of key applications and functionalities for which a carrier must demonstrate interoperability when requesting to discontinue a legacy voice service pursuant to the adequate replacement test. They asked whether additional applications and functionalities should be added to the interoperability list in light of changes in market conditions, industry developments, or Commission rules since the interoperability component of the adequate replacement test was adopted in 2016. Comments are due November 28, 2018; reply comments are due December 13, 2018.

Universal Service

- The Wireline Competition Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) on October 31, 2018, granting, denying, and dismissing various petitions related to actions taken by USAC on E-rate and USF contributions. Petitions for reconsideration or applications for review of these decisions must be filed within 30 days of the Public Notice.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on October 30, 2018, seeking comments on Mid-Hudson Data’s [Petition](#) seeking ETC designation in the State of New York in all areas in which it has been awarded CAF Phase II support via the New NY Broadband Program. Comments are due November 13, 2018; reply comments are due November 20, 2018.
- Kris Monteith, Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau, filed a [letter](#) with the FCC Secretary on November 2, 2018, to incorporate by reference information received directly and indirectly from Sandwich Isles Communications as part of the USAC Investigative Proceeding and the [SIC Improper Payments Order](#) that it may consider as part of SIC’s [Petition for Reconsideration](#). The Bureau submitted this information pursuant to the [protective order](#) to prevent the improper disclosure and use of competitively sensitive information.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on November 2, 2018, regarding ex parte presentations for the first meeting of the Native Nations Communications Task Force, which will occur on December 4 and 5, 2018. The FCC said this Task Force is not subject to the procedures set forth in the Federal Advisory Committee Act because of an exemption provided under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The FCC said because the UMRA exemption provides for conversations among the Task Force members and Commission staff or Commissioners, presentations to the Task Force, including to any subcommittees and working groups and at any roundtable discussions sponsored by the Task Force, and presentations between Task Force members and FCC staff or Commissioners, will be treated as exempt presentations for ex parte purposes.
- Mark Twain Communications [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on October 23, 2018, to discuss the potential negative impact of the proposed rule in the supply chain [proceeding](#) on small rural telecommunications companies. Mark Twain said it switched to Huawei equipment after years of

using unreliable equipment and has found it to be the most dependable and affordable option, and discussed how it submitted bids in the CAF Phase II auction based on cost estimates for expanding its existing infrastructure, which currently includes Huawei equipment. Mark Twain urged the FCC not to adopt rules that would jeopardize receipt of USF funds by its continued use of Huawei equipment, and asserted if the FCC should tie the use of certain equipment to the USF, Mark Twain would likely be forced to terminate its existing rural wireless network. Mark Twain also met with Legal Advisors to Commissioners [Rosenworcel](#), [O'Rielly](#), and [Carr](#) to discuss the same issue.

- CTIA, Sprint, and Tracfone [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Legal Advisors on October 24, 2018, to discuss their commitment to working with the Commission and USAC to strengthen the administration of the Lifeline program. They also discussed the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier's implementation, including opportunities for deployment of an Application Program Interface that can both enable efficient verification for eligible low-income consumers and safeguard program integrity.
- NASUCA filed a [letter](#) on October 26, 2018, suggesting the FCC address the issues identified in the [Q Link](#) and [TracFone](#) petitions on the Lifeline National Verifier. NASUCA agreed with Q Link that the National Verifier should include application programming interfaces and with Tracfone's concerns that USAC is launching the Verifier before obtaining access to key databases necessary to automatically verify subscriber eligibility based on participation in qualifying federal programs, particularly Medicaid. NASUCA said because Medicaid recipients make up 29 percent of Lifeline enrollments, it is concerned that a large portion of eligible Lifeline consumers will lose access or be unable to enroll into Lifeline.
- Q Link Wireless filed a [Petition](#) on November 1, 2018, seeking a limited waiver to use an alternative means to obtain National Verifier confirmation of a Lifeline applicant's eligibility in states in which a "hard launch" of the National Verifier occurs prior to resolution of Q Link's [Petition](#), which requested implementation of APIs that permit ETCs to exchange information with USAC on a machine-to-machine basis during the enrollment process. Q Link requested the FCC permit it in "hard launch" states to submit eligibility documentation to the National Verifier via bulk transfer to facilitate its review of consumer eligibility, rather than requiring exclusive use of the National Verifier's existing online portals, which it claims are impossible for Q Link to access without an API.
- Free Press [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel and her Advisors on October 25, 2018, to discuss the Commission's hurricane recovery response in Puerto Rico, Lifeline, and open internet issues. It said the Commission must neither gut the low-income broadband adoption program, nor unlawfully revise or raise the national television audience reach cap set in statute by Congress. Free Press also discussed the timeframes for ongoing litigation and legislative activity spurred by the Commission's repeal of its 2015 Open Internet rules and its abandonment of the Title II broadband classification framework.
- The Florida Public Service Commission filed a [Petition](#) on October 30, 2018, seeking a temporary waiver of the Lifeline recertification and non-usage rules for subscribers affected by Hurricane Michael in Florida. The FPSC requested a four-month waiver of the recertification and non-usage rules to provide temporary relief to those subscribers residing in the affected counties for the period of October 10, 2018, to February 10, 2019.
- USAC filed [administrative procedures](#) on October 31, 2018, pursuant to the 2004 E-rate [Order](#), which are currently used to reach E-rate program funding decisions that are not explicitly stated or codified in a Commission rule or regulation. The procedures are listed by USAC's operational activity category.

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Misc.

- The following items have been placed on [circulation](#) with the FCC Commissioners on November 1, 2018, and November 2, 2018, respectively: "Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc.; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, Order on Reconsideration" and "Jurisdictional Separations and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board."

- Neustar [met with](#) Commissioner Carr's Chief of Staff on October 25, 2018, to discuss combatting illegal robocalls and protecting consumers from unwanted calls. Neustar suggested the Commission rely upon, and establish a safe harbor for customers that use, existing commercial solutions rather than establishing a government database for disconnected numbers. It said if the Commission nonetheless decides to establish a government disconnected numbers database, it should ensure commercial solution providers have access to that database and grant a safe harbor to callers that utilize the database directly or indirectly.
- To date, no comments were filed on applications filed by Townes Telecommunications, Tatum Telephone Company, Electra Telephone Company, and Hilliary Acquisition Corp requesting Commission approval for the transfer of control of TTI's direct subsidiaries, Tatum and Electra, to Hilliary. Reply comments are due November 9, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Comments were filed on October 29, 2018, on whether the rules adopted in 2005-2006 should be continued without change, amended, or rescinded, consistent with the stated objective of section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. [Echostar](#) urged the Commission to conduct a prompt and thorough review of its Part 25 rules to mitigate any significant impact on satellite operators and their customers. It said the FCC should determine that certain Part 25 requirements are unnecessary, duplicative, or unduly burdensome and should be repealed or revised accordingly. The [Commercial Smallsat Spectrum Management Association](#) suggested deletions and modifications to certain Part 25 rules it says would allow the Commission to keep pace with U.S. innovation and stay competitive in the international space community. [Iridium](#) asserted the Ancillary Terrestrial Component rules in Parts 2 and 25 have not worked, and cannot work as envisioned, and should be rescinded. [All comments available to date.](#) [Public Notice](#)
- No comments were filed on Electric Lightwave, d/b/a Allstream's application for interconnected VoIP numbering authorization. [Public Notice](#)

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Nov. 7 - Oppositions due to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Network Testing [Order](#). Replies are due November 19 [FR](#)
- Nov. 8 - Comments due on Consolidated Long Distance's application seeking authorization to obtain North American Numbering Plan telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 9 - Oppositions due to [petitions for reconsideration](#) the [Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Order and Declaratory Ruling](#). Replies to oppositions are due November 19, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 9 - Replies due on applications filed by Townes Telecommunications, Tatum Telephone, Electra Telephone, and Hilliary Acquisition Corp requesting Commission approval for the transfer of control of TTI's direct subsidiaries, Tatum and Electra, to Hilliary. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 13 - Reply comments due on proposed approaches to identifying and resolving apparent discrepancies between the number of model-determined funded locations that Phase II auction support recipients are expected to serve and the actual number of locations that support recipients can serve. [Public Notice FR](#)
- Nov. 13 - Comments due on Mid-Hudson Data's [Petition](#) seeking ETC designation in the State of New York in all areas in which it has been awarded CAF Phase II support via the New NY Broadband Program. Reply comments are due November 20, 2018. [Public Notice](#)

- Nov. 14 - PRA comments due on revisions to currently approved information collections associated with sections 214, 222(e) and 251. [FR](#)
- Nov. 16 - Comments due on the [Public Notice](#) requesting comments on whether certain docketed proceedings listed in the attachment to the Public Notice should be terminated as dormant. Replies due December 3, 2018. [FR](#)
- Nov. 16 - Comments due on the applicability of the [John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019](#) to the FCC's Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain rulemaking and to the programs the Commission oversees. Replies are due December 7, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 19 - PRA comments due on a new information collection to establish an intermediate provider registry. [Notice](#)
- Nov. 19 - Replies due to oppositions to [petitions for reconsideration](#) the [Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Order and Declaratory Ruling](#). [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 19 - Replies due to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Network Testing [Order](#). [FR](#)
- Nov. 20 - Replies due on Mid-Hudson Data's [Petition](#) seeking ETC designation in the State of New York in all areas in which it has been awarded CAF Phase II support via the New NY Broadband Program. [Public Notice](#)
- Nov. 28 - Comments due on expanding the list of key applications and functionalities for which a carrier must demonstrate interoperability when requesting to discontinue a legacy voice service pursuant to the adequate replacement test. Reply comments are due December 13, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 3 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Forms 492 and 492-A, Rate-of-Return Monitoring Reports. [Notice](#)
- Dec. 3 - Replies due on the [Public Notice](#) requesting comments on whether certain docketed proceedings listed in the attachment to the Public Notice should be terminated as dormant. [FR](#)
- Dec. 7 - Replies due on the applicability of the [John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019](#) to the FCC's Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain rulemaking and to the programs the Commission oversees. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 10 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with Part 64 pay-per-call rules. [Notice](#)
- Dec. 13 - Replies due on expanding the list of key applications and functionalities for which a carrier must demonstrate interoperability when requesting to discontinue a legacy voice service pursuant to the adequate replacement test. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 24 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection regarding section 51.803, Procedures for Commission Notification of a State Commission's Failure to Act and Supplemental Procedures for Petitions Pursuant to section 252(e)(5). [FR](#)

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