

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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November 18, 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued the [agenda](#) for its November 22, 2019, open meeting. The FCC will consider seven items, including an [order and FNPRM](#) to ensure USF support is not used to purchase equipment or services from companies posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain, and an [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules.
- The certification requirement in section 54.316 (Broadband deployment reporting and certification requirements for high-cost recipients), which was amended in the [December 2018 RoR USF Reform Order](#), was [approved](#) by the Office of Management and Budget.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) establishing an eligible locations adjustment process for the CAF Phase II auction.
- The FCC [authorized](#) over \$13 million in CAF Phase II Auction 903 support for 66 winning bids identified in attachment A of the public notice. The FCC authorized the first six waves of funding in [May](#), [June](#), [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), and [October](#) 2019.
- The [FCC](#) and [AT&T](#) filed oppositions with the D.C. Circuit to Great Lakes Communication, et al.'s [motion for stay](#) of the [report and order](#) that adopted reforms to eliminate access arbitrage schemes.
- NTCA [discussed](#) the implications of 8YY originating access reforms on rural consumers and carriers.
- PRA comments [are due](#) January 13, 2020, on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477 (broadband reporting), as a result of changes made in the [order](#) on the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection.
- The USDA [announced](#) a broadband investment of \$7.2 million for 868 households and 17 businesses and 27 farms in Iowa and South Dakota, and [an investment](#) of \$41.6 million for 2,288 households, 17 businesses and 39 farms in Missouri and Iowa.
- The D.C. Circuit [scheduled](#) oral argument for January 17, 2020, in the case addressing the Irregularators, et al.'s [petition for review](#) of the FCC's [order](#) extending the separations freeze.
- The FCC released an [order and FNPRM](#) on Lifeline program reforms. Comments on the FNPRM are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 60 days after publication. [news](#)
- [Petitions for reconsideration](#) were filed on the [report and order](#) Rural Health Care program reforms.
- The D.C. Circuit [extended](#) the deadline, until December 13, 2019, to file petitions for rehearing and rehearing en banc of the October 1, 2019 [decision](#) that upheld most of the FCC's Restoring Internet Freedom [order](#).

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 22 - Comments due on the [15th Broadband Deployment Report NOI](#). Replies are due December 9, 2019.
- Dec. 5 - Comments [due](#) on the effectiveness of the [2012 tribal engagement further guidance](#), steps to assist parties with their engagement efforts, and on pending petitions for reconsideration. Replies due January 6, 2020.

USF Reform

- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on November 14, 2019, announcing the Office of Management and Budget has approved, for a period of three years, the amendment to section 54.316 (Broadband deployment reporting and certification requirements for high-cost recipients), which was adopted in the [December 2018 RoR USF Reform Order](#). The FCC will use this information collection to address the requirement that certain carriers now have increased broadband deployment reporting obligations about their locations which meet their broadband deployment public interest obligations via an electronic portal. This collection also addressed additional offers of model-based support. The amendment to section 54.316 is effective November 14, 2019.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on November 12, 2019, establishing an eligible locations adjustment process consistent with the parameters set forth in the CAF Phase II auction [Reconsideration Order](#) and prior FCC guidance for making adjustments to defined deployment obligations. The Bureau said it adopted a challenge framework, generally as proposed in the September 2018 [public notice](#) on locations adjustment. The Bureau also provided information regarding evidentiary standards, location data formatting, confidentiality of information, and future post-adjudication verification.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau, Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force, and Office of Economics and Analytics issued a [public notice](#) on November 13, 2019, authorizing over \$13 million in CAF Phase II Auction 903 support for 66 winning bids identified in attachment A of the public notice. They indicated they will soon post a state-level summary under the data tab on the Auction 903 webpage, with details on the support and obligations. The FCC authorized the first six waves of funding in [May](#), [June](#), [July](#), [August](#), [September](#), and [October](#) 2019.
- The Fiber Broadband Association filed a [letter](#) on November 14, 2019, to respond to the performance tier weighting issues raised in WISPA's comments and reply comments on the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. FBA asserted the studies it [submitted](#) show the performance tier weights proposed by the FCC would not maximize participation by providers seeking to provide higher-tier services and would enable bidders for lower-tier services to prevail at prices that were higher than optimal. FBA asserted the best way to balance the FCC's competing goals is to increase the Baseline, Low Latency Tier discount to 70 points.
- The Empire State Development's Broadband Program Office sent a [letter](#) to Kris Monteith, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, on November 12, 2019, requesting an award of \$2.4 million in CAF funding to Slic Network Solutions, to deploy broadband to certain CAF-eligible census blocks in place of Mohawk Networks. The BPO said if Slic receives CAF support for the project, it will accept a reduced New York State award of approximately \$3.8 million and will deploy FTTH to 906 locations, and said Slic has committed to use best efforts to pass 508 additional locations at no State cost.

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- The [FCC](#) and [AT&T](#) filed oppositions with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on November 14, 2019, to the [motion for stay](#) filed by Great Lakes Communication, Northern Valley Communications, et al. of the [report and order](#) that adopted reforms to eliminate access arbitrage schemes. The [FCC](#) asserted the 2018 NPRM satisfied the Administrative Procedure Act and made clear that the FCC was considering whether, and if so how, to revise the current definition of access stimulation. [AT&T](#) claimed the FCC has put the industry on notice since 2011 that access stimulation causes substantial economic waste and consumer harm, and the order represents a modest and incremental extension of the FCC's original 2011 rules curbing that practice.

- NTCA [met with](#) Chairman Pai's wireline advisor on November 8, 2019, to discuss the implications of 8YY originating access reforms on rural consumers and carriers. NTCA asserted the record contains no concerns regarding 8YY traffic as originated by any RLECs, and said any reforms with respect to 8YY access charges should be targeted to address any problems identified. NTCA suggested that if the FCC proceeds to enact more sweeping changes to 8YY access charge mechanisms, the FCC ensure sufficient recovery mechanisms are in place for RLECs. NTCA also asked the FCC to avoid the potential for any perceived changes with respect to existing network edges and interconnection points in connection with 8YY reforms. NTCA also discussed its pending [petition for waiver](#) on the minimum service standards imposed in the Lifeline program.
- No comments were filed on a [petition for waiver](#) filed by Farmers Mutual Telephone Company of Stanton, Iowa, of sections 51.917(b)(1), and 51.917(b)(7), to modify access rate bands and charges and 2011 base period revenue requirements. Replies are due November 22, 2019. [public notice](#)

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Broadband

- An FCC [notice](#) was published in the Federal Register on November 14, 2019, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477, Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting. The revisions to the information collection are necessitated by the August 2019 [report and order](#) on the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection, which made changes to the existing Form 477 data collection to reduce reporting burdens for all filers and incorporate new technologies. PRA comments are due January 13, 2020.
- The USDA [announced](#) on November 15, 2019, it invested \$7.2 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure that will create or improve rural e-connectivity for 868 households and 17 businesses and 27 farms in Iowa and South Dakota. The USDA said Premier Communications will use this funding to deploy a FTTP broadband network capable of simultaneous transmission rates of 1/1 Gbps. The USDA also [announced](#) it invested \$41.6 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure that will create or improve rural e-connectivity for 2,288 households, 17 businesses and 39 farms in Missouri and Iowa. The USDA said Grand River Mutual Telephone will use this funding to deploy a FTTP broadband network capable of simultaneous transmission rates of 100 Mbps or greater. The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect pilot program](#).
- The House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology of the Committee on Energy and Commerce met on November 14, 2019, [to markup](#) nine bills on broadband, 5G and spectrum. All nine bills were favorably forwarded to the full committee, including [H.R. 4229](#), the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act, [H.R. 4227](#), the Mapping Accuracy Promotes Services Act, [H.R. 4998](#), the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, [H.R. 2881](#), the Secure 5G and Beyond Act of 2019, and [H.R. 4500](#), the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2019.
- USTelecom, WISPA, AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon, and Frontier [met separately with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's chief of staff and Commissioner Starks' legal advisor on November 12, 2019, to discuss the Digital Opportunity Data Collection proceeding. They claimed there is ample evidence in the record for the FCC to move forward with an order to implement creation of the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric. They suggested the FCC bifurcate the fabric creation from the reporting and other portions of the proceeding and adopt an order so that the administrative steps necessary to create the fabric can begin without delay. They also asserted the data set in the fabric could be used to update census block location counts prior to the RDOF Phase I auction, and for other related USF proceedings where location discrepancies have become an issue. USTelecom, ITTA, WISPA, AT&T, CenturyLink, Verizon, and Frontier [met with](#) Office of Economics and Analytics and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 14, 2019, to discuss the same issues.
- WISPA [spoke with](#) Office of Economics and Analytics, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 7, 2019, to discuss WISPA's safe harbor [proposal](#) for determining fixed wireless polygons that would be submitted into the portal being implemented by the

Commission and USAC pursuant to the Digital Opportunity Data Collection [order](#). WISPA asserted the purpose of the safe harbors is to generate coverage maps that reflect where it is highly likely, but not certain, that service could be delivered within a 10-day period without the commitment of extraordinary resources.

- Duaneburg Broadband Committee filed a [letter](#) on November 15, 2019, on its community broadband mapping experience. It asserted its town has been adversely impacted as a direct result of faulty mapping by the FCC's use of 477 data and by regulatory structures that allow incumbent cable internet companies to hide information about where their service lines are. The committee said it surveyed all town residents and found in May 2018, one-third of the homes in the community were not served, and of those - more than half (313) received no NY Broadband Program Office grant award, claiming they were incorrectly reported as served by Charter Communications in Form 477 data.
- The Wireless Infrastructure Association [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's legal advisor on November 6, 2019, to discuss its petitions for [rulemaking](#) and [declaratory ruling](#) regarding section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act of 2012, and CTIA's [petition for declaratory ruling](#) regarding section 6409 and the rules implementing section 224 of the Communications Act.

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Open Internet

- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued an [order](#) on November 13, 2019, granting a [motion](#) filed by Mozilla that asked for a 28-day extension to file petitions for rehearing and rehearing en banc of the October 1, 2019 [decision](#) that upheld most of the FCC's Restoring Internet Freedom [order](#). Petitions for rehearing and rehearing en banc are now due December 13, 2019.

Robocalls

- Members from the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, and the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology [announced](#) on November 15, 2019, they have agreed in principle on legislation, entitled the *TRACED* Act, to combat robocalls. The bill will require telephone carriers to verify calls and allow robocalls to be blocked in a consistent and transparent way, all at no extra charge to consumers, and gives the FCC and law enforcement the ability to quickly go after scammers.
- Cloud Communications Alliance, Telnet Worldwide, CoreDial, and Metaswitch [met with](#) Chairman Pai and his wireline advisor on November 8, 2019, to discuss SHAKEN/STIR implementation. CCA asserted common enterprise calling scenarios such as multi-home PBXs and working remotely could result in calls being erroneously considered illegitimately spoofed or otherwise denied the highest level of attestation. They said the industry was currently assessing possible solutions, including certificate delegation and a number registry. They urged caution in affording broad authority to block calls backed by safe harbors, at least without transparent mechanisms to promptly unblock calls, and suggested the FCC reject requests to block all international calls using U.S. numbers.

Universal Service

- The FCC released a [fifth report and order, memorandum opinion and order, order on reconsideration, and FNPRM](#) on November 14, 2019, making reforms to the Lifeline program. Reforms included: prohibiting participating carriers from paying commissions to employees or sales agents based on the number of consumers who apply for or are enrolled in the Lifeline program with that carrier; steps to better identify duplicate subscribers, prevent reimbursement for fictitious subscribers, and target carrier audits to identify potential FCC rule violations; and restoring the role of states in designating carriers to participate in the Lifeline program, among other things. The FNPRM seeks comment on additional

measures to combat waste, fraud, and abuse. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 60 days after publication. [news release](#)

- The FCC [circulated](#) an item on November 15, 2019, entitled “Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support and the Connect America Fund.”
- Petitions for reconsideration of the [report and order](#) on reforms to the Rural Health Care Program were filed on November 13, 2019. [USTelecom](#) asked the FCC to reconsider its decision to direct USAC to include non-telecommunications services as part of the similar services included in the median rural rate without providing proper notice and comment for such a decision, and the decision to delegate the rate setting responsibility to USAC more generally. It also asked the FCC to reconsider how it implements the median rural rate framework. The [State of Alaska](#) asked the FCC to reconsider its rate-setting mechanism for the RHC Telecom Program as it applies to Alaska, especially with respect to the geographic tiers that it created for determining a reasonable recovery rate. [Alaska Communications](#) asked the FCC to reconsider the capping of the compensable rural rate based on a rate median and the delegation of FCC authority to USAC to establish that median. The [SHLB Coalition](#), and the [North Carolina Telehealth Network Association](#) also filed petitions.
- The National Lifeline Association and Q Link [met with](#) Commissioner O’Rielly and his advisor and Commissioner Carr’s advisor on November 13, 2019, to urge the FCC to grant CTIA, et al.’s [petition](#) that asked the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phasedown in Lifeline support for voice services. The National Lifeline Association and Q Link Wireless also [met with](#) Commissioner Stark’s advisor on November 13, 2019, to discuss the same issues.
- TruConnect [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 12, 2019, to express support for CTIA, et al.’s [petition](#) that asked the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phasedown in Lifeline support for voice services.
- Public Knowledge filed a [letter](#) on November 15, 2019, to urge the Commission to grant CTIA, et al.’s [petition](#) that asked the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phasedown in Lifeline support for voice services. Public Knowledge said if the FCC is not inclined to grant the petition at this time it should choose an alternative path that gives consumers choices for the \$9.25 per month in support and retains full support for Lifeline voice services.
- Free Press [spoke separately with](#) advisors to Commissioners Starks and Rosenworcel on November 7 and 8, 2019, to reiterate support for CTIA, et al.’s [petition](#) that asked the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phasedown in Lifeline support for voice services. Free Press also expressed support for the National Lifeline Association and Q Link’s [alternate proposal](#) that would permit the pending decrease in support for voice-only service.
- Prepaid Wireless Group and StandUp Wireless [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff and Chairman Pai’s wireline advisor on November 7 and 8, 2019, to discuss CTIA, et al.’s [petition](#) asking the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase in the minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phase-down in support for voice services. They urged the FCC to grant CTIA, et al.’s petition, or, in the alternative, adopt TracFone’s [proposal](#) to retain the \$9.25 per month subsidy for voice-compliant services and to increase the minimum service standard for mobile broadband to 3 GB per month pending the outcome of the FCC’s planned state of the Lifeline marketplace report. They also [spoke with](#) advisors to Commissioners Starks, Rosenworcel, Carr and O’Rielly on November 12 and 13, 2019, to discuss the same issues.
- The National Hispanic Media Coalition, et al. filed a [letter](#) on November 13, 2019, to urge the Commission to grant CTIA, et al.’s [petition](#) asking the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019

implementation of an increase in the minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phasedown in support for voice services.

- Valley Telephone Cooperative sent a [letter](#) to Commissioner O’Rielly on November 13, 2019, to respond to [statements](#) from the Cochise County School Superintendent in response to Commissioner O’Rielly’s [request](#) for information on Cochise County Education and Technology Consortium’s request for special construction funding under the E-Rate program. VTC asserted the current CCETC proposal contains a waste of USF funds and should be adjusted so the duplication is eliminated and the truly unserved or underserved schools have access to the funds they need.
- Cisco Systems [spoke with](#) legal advisors to Commissioners Starks and Rosenworcel on November 7 and 8, 2019, to discuss issues relating to the [NPRM](#) on permanent E-Rate category two support.
- The Consortium for School Networking and Foresight Law + Policy [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai’s advisor on November 8, 2019, to urge changes to the E-Rate category two rules to make cybersecurity an eligible use. CoSN noted that while school systems are consistently adopting basic cybersecurity protections, such as firewalls and spam filtering, deployment of more advance cybersecurity tools is limited by funding shortfalls.
- Reply comments were filed on November 15, 2019, on improving the FCC form 470 drop-down menu. Form 470 is used by E-Rate program applicants use to solicit bids from service providers for E-Rate eligible services. [NTCA](#) supported USTelecom’s [proposal](#) to modify the Form 470 drop-down menu to allow the applicant to select the location(s) at which service is being requested. [Funds for Learning](#) urged the FCC to make the Form 470 much less complex and confusing by eliminating all of the drop-down service menus from the form and replacing them with the “Guided Flow Chart Approach” to service descriptions [SECA](#) proposed in its comments. [ESH](#) expressed support for SECA’s [suggestion](#) to add “estimated” on the description of all fields involving specific bandwidth speeds in step 4 of the appendices. [ALA](#) and [CSM Consulting](#) also filed reply comments. [public notice](#)
- Ochsner Health Systems [met separately with](#) Commissioner Carr and his advisor, Chairman Pai’s special counsel, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 6, 2019, to discuss the [NPRM](#) on the connected care pilot. Ochsner urged the FCC use the pilot to experiment with different types of program delivery structures, including those that are not predicated on health care providers receiving funding for a broadband connection to deliver health care services.
- Sunflower Enterprises filed a [letter](#) on November 8, 2019, to provide the Wireline Competition Bureau notice of the consolidation of Sunflower Mississippi study areas- SA codes 280466 and 280457, effective January 1, 2020. Sunflower said SAC 280466 will be the surviving study area.

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Misc.

- The FCC issued the [agenda](#) for its November 22, 2019 Open Meeting. The FCC will consider a [report and order, FNPRM, and order](#) that would ensure that USF support is not used to purchase equipment or services from companies posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain, proposes additional actions to address national security threats to USF-funded networks, and collects information to help assess the extent to which equipment from covered companies already exists in such networks. The FCC will also consider a [fifth report and order and FNPRM](#) that would adopt a vertical, or zaxis, location accuracy metric in connection with wireless E911 calls and propose additional measures to improve E911 location accuracy; an [NPRM](#) on updating its suspension and debarment rules to make them consistent with OMB guidelines, in order to better prevent bad actors from participating in USF programs, TRS programs, and the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program; an [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules to reflect the marketplace realities of intermodal voice and broadband competition and to encourage both ILECs and CLECs to invest in next-generation networks; an [NPRM](#) on whether to authorize AM stations to transition to an all-digital signal on a voluntary basis; an [NPRM](#) on whether the duplicative programming rule applicable to commonly owned radio stations in the same market should be modified

or eliminated given the current broadcasting marketplace; and a [report and order](#) that would expand the TRS fund contribution base for covering the costs of providing IP Captioned Telephone Service to include intrastate telecommunications revenue.

- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued an [order](#) on November 13, 2019, scheduling oral argument for January 17, 2020, in the case addressing the Irregulars, et al.'s [petition for review](#) of the FCC's [order](#) extending the separations freeze. The court said composition of the argument panel will usually be revealed 30 days prior to the date of oral argument on the court's web site. The court stated a separate order will be issued regarding the allocation of time for argument.
- The FCC's Office of Economics and Analysis filed a [letter](#) on November 13, 2019, to enter into the supply chain docket excerpts from a June 5, 2019 report from Barclay's entitled *5G Leadership: Huawei in Context*. The OEA said because the report was prepared by Barclays for its clients and other limited parties it is not publicly available, and it is submitting into the record the portions relevant to this proceeding, with the Barclay's approval.
- U.S. Attorney General William P. Barr sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on November 13, 2019, to express support for the proposed prohibition in the supply chain [draft order](#) on the use of USF funds for companies like Huawei and ZTE and the launch of a process to remove and replace such equipment.
- CoBank filed a [letter](#) on November 15, 2019, to urge the Commission to modify the requirement in the supply chain [draft order](#) to remove the language that would prohibit carriers from being able to maintain, operate, or support their networks with USF funds.
- Union Wireless [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly, legal advisors to Commissioners Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 6 and 7, 2019, to discuss the supply chain [draft report and order](#). Union Wireless said it has approximately 418 cellular towers that would be affected by requirements in the draft order, which are spread across 90,000 square miles. Union said it invested over \$34 million in Huawei network equipment, and estimated that replacing it will cost between \$40-45 million, plus another \$60- 65 million in installation costs. It asserted it is not possible to insert gear provided by a non-Huawei equipment vendor into an operating network utilizing Huawei equipment, and an entirely new network must be constructed. Union also expressed concern with certain language in the draft order.
- The Competitive Carriers Association, Cellular One and Verizon Wireless [met with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 12, 2019, to discuss the draft supply chain [order](#). They expressed concern with language in the order that suggested carriers cannot use USF funds for the maintenance, support, and operation of their existing networks.
- The Rural Wireless Association [met with](#) Chairman Pai's legal advisor on November 12, 2019, to discuss the impact of the draft supply chain [order](#) on its members that have deployed Huawei and ZTE equipment and also rely on USF funding to maintain and support their existing wireless networks.
- Huawei filed an [ex parte](#) on November 12, 2019, to respond to a statement in the draft supply chain [order](#) that several of the United States' allies have concerns with Huawei's equipment. Huawei asserted U.S. allies have used and plan to continue to use Huawei equipment in their networks. Huawei urged the Commission to acknowledge the complex global nature of the communications supply chain, and to recognize that banning a supplier based on its country of origin is not an appropriate or effective solution for addressing security threats.
- Huawei filed a [written ex parte](#) on November 14, 2019, to respond to the Commission's statement that its supply chain [draft order's](#) prohibition against expenditure of USF support on equipment or services produced or provided by certain companies that allegedly pose national security threats to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain implements section 105 of CALEA.
- USTelecom, AT&T, Frontier, and Verizon [met with](#) Chairman Pai's wireline advisor and Commissioner Rosenworcel's chief of staff on November 8, 2019, to discuss the draft [NPRM](#) on updating its

unbundling and resale rules. USTelecom asserted the FCC's proposals would not harm consumers since robust intermodal voice and broadband competition already exists, especially in urban areas where the FCC is considering to focus relief, and said the draft NPRM specifically proposes to exempt residential broadband service and telecommunications service in rural census blocks. USTelecom [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai and Commissioner Starks and his legal advisor on November 12, 2019, to express support for the draft [NPRM](#).

- Granite Telecommunications [met with](#) Commissioner Starks's legal advisor on November 12, 2019, to assert government customers continue to demand and rely on TDM based telephone services delivered via copper loops in the many locations in which those services remain available. Granite requested the FCC expand the scope of the draft [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules, to seek comment on whether the FCC should reverse its decision to forbear from avoided-cost resale in price cap ILEC territories and whether, alternatively, the FCC should modify its decision to establish a six-month transition for new orders and a three-year grandfathering period for prior orders.
- INCOMPAS and its members [met with](#) legal advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, Starks, and Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of Economics and Analytics staff on November 12, 2019, to express opposition to the draft [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules. They discussed their concerns with adopting a proposal to extend the Commission's findings from the [Forbearance Order](#) in August 2019 on avoided-cost resale when INCOMPAS is challenging in court the findings in that order. They urged the Commission not to adopt the NPRM and suggested the FCC complete its broadband mapping effort.
- Charter Communications [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 7, 2019, to discuss the draft [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules. Charter said CLECs use operations support systems to order number porting and manage listings in ILEC directories. Charter requested the FCC add language to the draft NPRM to clarify the multiple uses of OSS and to seek comment on whether CLECs will be able to port new customers' telephone numbers without access to OSS as a UNE.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on November 12, 2019, granting a section 214 [application](#) filed by the estate of Jack Lee Barton, through its co-executors, and the non-exempt marital income trust U/W Jack Lee Barton and Lintel, which requested consent to transfer control of Hart Telephone Company and Hart Communications Inc. Lintel owns HTC and HCI.
- The Office of Managing Director issued an [order](#) on November 15, 2019, granting a [request](#) filed by the Satellite Industry Association for an extension of the time to file comments and replies on the [FNPRM](#) on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. Comments are now due December 6, 2019; reply comments are due January 6, 2020.
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued three orders on November 14, 2019, addressing slamming complaints against Telplex Communications. In the first [order](#), the Bureau found Telplex changed complainant's telecommunications service providers without obtaining authorization and verification from the complainant. In the [other two](#) orders, the Bureau found Telplex responded fully to and took action to resolve the complaints.

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Nov. 19 - Comments due on Inter-Community Telephone's [petition for waiver](#) of certain Part 51 rules to recalculate the rate bands and charges for local switching, tandem switching and dedicated transport services for two commonly owned study areas in North Dakota, ICTC and Absaraka Cooperative Telephone. [public notice](#)
- Nov. 20 - Comments due on a section 214 application filed by James A. Smith, Timothy J. Smith, and Oregon Telephone Corporation, requesting consent to transfer control of Helix Telephone from James A. Smith and Timothy J. Smith to OTC. Reply comments are due November 27, 2019. [public notice](#)

- Nov. 20 - Replies due on WIA's petitions for [rulemaking](#) and [declaratory ruling](#) regarding section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act of 2012, and CTIA's [petition for declaratory ruling](#) regarding section 6409 and the rules implementing section 224 of the Communications Act. [public notice, order](#)
- Nov. 21 - Replies due on the [NPRM](#) proposing procedural changes that would streamline certain FCC administrative hearings. [FR](#)
- Nov. 22 - Replies due on a [petition for waiver](#) filed by Farmers Mutual Telephone Company of Stanton, Iowa, of sections 51.917(b)(1), and 51.917(b)(7), to modify access rate bands and charges and 2011 base period revenue requirements. [public notice](#)
- Nov. 22 - Comments due on the [15th Broadband Deployment Report Notice of Inquiry](#) that initiates the next annual assessment of the availability of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. Replies are due December 9, 2019.
- Nov. 27 - Replies due on a section 214 application filed by James A. Smith, Timothy J. Smith, and Oregon Telephone Corporation, requesting consent to transfer control of Helix Telephone from James A. Smith and Timothy J. Smith to OTC. [public notice](#)
- Dec. 5 - Comments due on the effectiveness of the FCC's [2012 tribal engagement further guidance](#), steps the FCC can take to assist parties with their engagement efforts, and refreshing the record on pending petitions for reconsideration that were filed on the tribal engagement obligation reporting. Replies are due January 6, 2020. [public notice](#)
- Dec. 6 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. Reply comments are due January 6, 2020. [FR order](#)
- Dec. 9 - Replies due on the [15th Broadband Deployment Report Notice of Inquiry](#) that initiates the next annual assessment of the availability of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion.
- Dec. 16 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with the [urban rates survey](#). [notice](#)
- Dec. 16 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with section 69.123, density pricing zone plans. [notice](#)
- Dec 24 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 833, application to participate in a toll-free number auction. [FR](#)
- Dec. 24 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with numbering resource optimization- phase 3. [FR](#)
- Jan. 6 - Replies due on the effectiveness of the FCC's [2012 tribal engagement further guidance](#), steps the FCC can take to assist parties with their engagement efforts, and refreshing the record on pending petitions for reconsideration that were filed on the tribal engagement obligation reporting. [public notice](#)
- Jan. 6 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. [FR, order](#)
- Jan. 13 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477, Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting. The revisions to the information collection are necessitated by the August 2019 [report and order](#) on the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection. [notice](#)

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