

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

[USF Reform](#) [Open Internet](#) [Broadband](#) [IP Transition](#) [USF](#) [Call Completion](#) [Misc.](#) [Upcoming Events](#)

November 25, 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC adopted seven items at its November 22, 2019 Open Meeting, including 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 and an [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules.
- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) for its December 12, 2019, Open Meeting. The FCC will consider nine items, including an [order on remand and declaratory ruling](#) that would promote continued investment in IP-based networks by clarifying that a LEC partnering with a VoIP provider may assess end office switched access charges only if the carrier or its VoIP partner provides a physical connection to the last-mile facilities used to serve the end user.
- [Comments](#) were filed 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.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) the first meeting of new task force on precision agriculture connectivity is set for December 9, 2019. The FCC also [announced](#) the list of task force members, and seeks nominations for the [four working](#) groups of the task force.
- The USDA [announced](#) it invested \$4.3 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure on the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory in western New York. The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect pilot program](#).
- USTelecom [offered suggestions](#) on the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.
- [Arctic Slope Telephone](#) and [Copper Valley Telephone](#) discussed their wireline and wireless Alaska Plan obligations.
- The FCC issued an [order](#) waiving the revised Lifeline minimum service standard to the extent it would require mobile carriers in the Lifeline program to offer more than 3 GB per month, beginning December 1, 2019, but did not pause the scheduled phase-down of support for Lifeline voice service.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- 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.
- Dec. 9 - Replies due on the [15th Broadband Deployment Report NOI](#).

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USF Reform

- USTelecom [met with](#) Chairman Pai's broadband advisor on November 13, 2019, to discuss USTelecom's comments and replies filed in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund proceeding. It suggested the FCC use the RDOF to: invest today in terrestrial broadband to provide a foundation for the future of rural connectivity-wired and wireless; clearly define transition roles and responsibilities at the program's outset; use lessons learned from the CAF Phase II auction to ensure reasonable accountability, while ensuring the program is not bogged down with unnecessary requirements; and reduce the risk of known inaccurate location data.
- Hughes Network Systems filed a [letter](#) on November 18, 2019, on the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. Hughes asserted to permit the RDOF to realize the benefits of hybrid networks, rules need to be adopted that address performance measurement with the same flexibility as the networks themselves. It suggested proposed rules should be modified to require that a hybrid network deliver latency-sensitive traffic at latency levels at or below 100 ms at least 95% of the time. Hughes said the FCC will need to define latency-sensitive traffic and suggested the Commission seek comment on this definition and other issues necessary to operationalize the inclusion of hybrid networks in the RDOF.
- ACA Connects [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 19, 2019, to reiterate its support for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and to urge the Commission to promptly develop and implement the program in the coming year to help close the digital divide. It recommended the Commission establish the census block as the minimum geographic bidding unit for the RDOF auction and adjust the proposed RDOF performance tier bid weighting methodology to make it more technology-neutral. It also recommended the Commission leverage its limited funds by increasing RDOF service provider requirements over time. It also asserted the Commission should facilitate state broadband program engagement and coordination as part of the RDOF.
- Midco spoke separately with advisors to Commissioners [O'Rielly](#) and [Carr](#) on November 20, 2019, to discuss C-Band issues, 5G and the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Midco expressed support for the RDOF to help close the digital divide and suggested adding in an additional tier of 50/5 Mbps with a weight of 30, and keeping a weight of 15 for the 100/20 Mbps tier. Midco also discussed its concerns with the proposed subscribership requirement and the practical hurdles of ensuring subscribership in rural America
- West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative, Pineland Telephone Cooperative, JSI, and Moss Adams [met with](#) Commissioner Stark's advisor on November 19, 2019, to discuss WCTel's support for Pineland's [petition for reconsideration](#) of the December 2018 report and order on A-CAM II support. They provided new data refining initial estimates on the budget impact and further refinement of how glide path companies would be handled were the petition to be granted, as well as how grant of the petition would benefit rural customers across the country. They said if the petition is granted, thousands of additional locations will be able to receive 25/3 Mbps broadband.
- Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative and GVNW Consulting [met with](#) Chairman Pai's rural broadband advisor, chiefs of staff of Commissioners O'Rielly and Rosenworcel, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 19, 2019, to discuss ASTAC's wireline and wireless Alaska Plan obligations, and middle mile challenges on the North Slope. They also reviewed the operational definitional difference between rural and remote and shared the improvements that have occurred for the customers in the North Slope region with respect to the broadband customer experience over the last three years.
- Copper Valley Telephone and GVNW Consulting [met with](#) Chairman Pai's rural broadband advisor on November 20, 2019, to discuss Copper Valley's wireline and wireless Alaska Plan obligations through year three of the Alaska Plan. They reviewed excerpts from videos in CVT's *Broadband that Matters* series, which highlighted the applications now available to students in the Copper River Basin from the infrastructure deployed with Alaska Plan funding by CVT. They said the video also highlighted high-

tech computer programming jobs that have come to Valdez from the lower 48, made possible due to the availability of high-speed broadband.

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on November 22, 2019, designating Red Spectrum as an ETC in CAF-eligible area in Idaho. The Bureau said designation is conditioned upon and limited to Red Spectrum's authorization to receive CAF support awarded through the Connect America Fund Phase II Auction and effective only upon such authorization.

[Back to Highlights](#)

ICC

- No comments were filed 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](#)
- No reply 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. [public notice](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

Broadband

- Comments were filed on November 22, 2019, 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. [NTCA](#) urged the Commission to take a long-term view of the sustainability of broadband networks and affirm its previously adopted [conclusion](#) that mobile broadband services, while providing significant value of their own and essential for many uses, are not a substitute for fixed broadband services. [USTelecom](#) reiterated its support for policies that promote continued broadband deployment by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and providing funding to ensure connectivity in the most remote, high-cost areas of the country. [NCTA](#) expressed support for the Commission's proposals to retain its 25 Mbps downstream/3 Mbps upstream speed benchmark for fixed advanced telecommunications capability and to again rely on Form 477 data as part of its progress-based analytical framework. Replies are due December 9, 2019. [All comments available](#)
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on November 19, 2019, the first meeting of the Task Force for Reviewing Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture Planned is set for December 9, 2019. This new task force will explore ways to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the nation's farms and ranches through broadband-based technologies. Chairman Pai designated Teddy Bekele, Land O'Lakes Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, to serve as Chair of the Task Force, and Catherine Moyer, Pioneer Communications Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, to serve as Vice Chair. The FCC [announced](#) the full list of Task Force members appointed by Chairman Pai, and [announced](#) the four working groups for the Task Force and solicited nominations for them. Nominations are due December 3, 2019.
- The USDA [announced](#) on November 21, 2019, it invested \$4.3 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure that will create or improve rural e-connectivity for more than 1,000 rural households on the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory in western New York. The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect pilot program](#). The USDA said the Seneca Nation, through Seneca Telecommunications, will use this funding to deploy a FTTH broadband network capable of simultaneous transmission rates

of 100 Mbps or greater. The funded service area also includes 58 businesses, 25 farms, three educational facilities, one health care center and one critical community facility.

- The USDA [announced](#) on November 20, 2019, it is investing \$42.5 million in 133 distance learning and telemedicine projects in 37 states and two territories. It said the funding through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant program and will benefit 5.4 million rural residents.
- The Energy and Commerce Committee held a [full committee markup](#) on November 19 and 20, 2019. The committee approved 18 bills, including the following bills on broadband and 5G: [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.
- Microsoft [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai and his legal advisor on November 13, 2019, to discuss broadband mapping, white spaces, and the 6 GHz band. It suggested that, during the implementation period for the FCC's new broadband mapping data collection methodology, the Commission add the improved instructions from the new methodology to the existing Form 477 instructions. Microsoft also suggested that the FCC sunset Form 477 for the collection of broadband availability data once the new data collection approach is successfully in place. Microsoft also requested the FCC adopt a NPRM on the improvements to its white spaces rules that was discussed in Microsoft's May 2019 petition for rulemaking. It also requested the FCC open the full 6 GHz band to unlicensed low-power indoor operations.
- Reply comments were filed on November 20, 2019, 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. [NATOA, et al.](#) asserted that contrary to the allegations in the petitions, the record shows that most delays in section 6409 modifications are attributable to applicants, not to local governments. They also asserted a rulemaking is necessary if the Commission wishes to address the petitions because many of the proposals are either not specific enough to allow commenters to fully understand and comment on the precise changes and clarifications sought. The [Edison Electric Institute, et al.](#) asserted supporters of CTIA's petition fail to demonstrate access to utility-owned light poles is necessary to provide cable or telecommunications services, as the statute requires, or that suitable structures for wireless deployment are currently unavailable, and will remain unavailable without intervention by the FCC. [Alliant Energy](#) asserted CTIA's petition fails to show how the proposed requests will enhance already effective solutions that have been established within Alliant's service territory to balance the needs of the pole attaching entities and its utility customer needs. [AT&T](#) supported the petitions and asserted localities are misinterpreting many aspects of the Commission's rules, which is unnecessarily slowing the deployment of 5G. The [National League of Cities, et al.](#) claimed that even if the record could support action, declaratory ruling is particularly inappropriate, as the Commission has provided the public with no indication of its views nor advanced any proposed rules upon which meaningful comment might be made. They also said petitioners' demands for access to light poles ignore engineering and legal problems. [WIA](#) asserted that clarifying the rules would provide much needed guidance for localities as well as wireless infrastructure providers, which could ultimately reduce costs and ease burdens for all stakeholders. [order all replies available](#).
- The Wireless Infrastructure Association [spoke with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Starks on November 14 and 15, 2019, to discuss its petitions for [rulemaking](#) and [declaratory ruling](#) regarding section 6409(a) of the Spectrum Act of 2012.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Robocalls

- The FCC issued a [public notice](#) on November 20, 2019, to announce the next meeting of the Consumer Advisory Committee will be held on December 11, 2019. The CAC is expected to consider a

recommendation presented by its Caller ID Authentication Working Group relative to certain aspects of the June 2019 [declaratory ruling and third FNPRM](#).

- Chairman Pai [spoke at](#) the Robocall Symposium of the New England States on November 21, 2019, to discuss initiative the Commission is taking to combat robocalls, including allowing phone companies to establish call-blocking services as a default setting for consumers, and having carriers offer consumers the option to use their own contact list as a white list. He said another key component is promoting better caller ID authentication, including the SHAKEN/STIR caller ID authentication framework.

Universal Service

- The FCC issued an [order](#) on November 19, 2019, partially granting CTIA, et al.'s [petition](#) that asked the FCC to pause the December 1, 2019 implementation of an increase (from 2 GB/month to 8.75 GB/month) in the Lifeline minimum required broadband data usage allowance and the phasedown in Lifeline support for voice services. The FCC waived the revised minimum standard to the extent it would require mobile carriers in the Lifeline program to offer more than 3 GB per month from December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020. The FCC said increasing the standard to 3 GB per month is consistent with the Commission's past practice. The FCC said, however, petitioners did not show that good cause exists to halt the scheduled phase-down of support for Lifeline voice service, and denied that portion of the petition.
- The National Lifeline Association and Q Link [spoke separately with](#) Chairman Pai's counsel and advisors to Commissioners Starks and Rosenworcel on November 14 and 15, 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.
- TruConnect met separately with [Commissioner O'Rielly](#) and [Commissioner Carr](#) and his advisor on November 13 and 14, 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.
- The GAO issued a [report](#) on November 18, 2019, on additional action the FCC should take to manage fraud risks in its high-cost program. The GAO suggested, among other things, the FCC: follow the GAO's fraud risk framework; plan regular fraud-risk assessments; implement an antifraud strategy; and assess the model-based support mechanisms. Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.) issued a [press release](#) on the GAO report.
- Reservation Telephone Cooperative and JSI [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's advisor on November 14, 2019, to discuss RTC's [petition](#) seeking a waiver to expand the Alexander exchange in the state of North Dakota to include portions of the CenturyLink Fairview and Sidney exchanges. RTC asserted it is appropriate for the Commission to grant the petition since the North Dakota PSC already approved RTC and CenturyLink's joint application to modify the serving territories and exchange.
- In addition to reply comments reported in a previous edition of *REGScan*, replies were filed on November 15, 2019, on improving the FCC Form 470 drop-down menu. Form 470 is used by E-Rate program applicants to solicit bids from service providers for E-Rate eligible services. [AT&T](#) expressed support for USTelecom's [proposal](#) to require applicants seeking premises-based services identify in the Form 470 the locations where they seek services to be installed and/or delivered based on the quantity selected. AT&T also expressed support for SECA's [proposal](#) to modify the language used in the Form 470 to align it with the terms and phrases in the eligible services list. [CenturyLink](#) recommended the FCC adopt USTelecom's recommendation to include a tool in the drop-down menu to identify the eligible entity (or entities) and the specific location (or locations) where services are to be provided. [NCTA](#) proposed the FCC change the description of the dropdown minimum and maximum service levels to minimum needs and maximum to allow growth over the full term of the 470. [public notice all replies available](#)

- The Dodson Group filed a [request](#) on November 19, 2019, seeking a waiver of the Commission's one-year revision deadline for FCC Form 499-A. Dodson said relief is sought to correct erroneous reports submitted by its former chief financial officer, who embezzled funds and misreported associated data on the form. Dodson requested a waiver of the deadline for its FCC Form 499-As submitted 2001 through 2009 and that upon a grant of the relief requested in this Application, Dodson be directed to be removed from "Red Light" status pending the its resubmission of its 2000- 2008 Form 499-A.
- The Brazos Valley Council of Governments filed a [request for review](#) of a USAC decision and petition for wavier on November 18, 2019, relating to its rural healthcare funding requests. BVCOG asked the Commission to waive section 54.634(b)(1) to allow USAC to extend the funding end date for FRN 16819841 (equipment FRN) to June 30, 2020, the same funding end date that now applies to its counterpart, FRN 16819351 (construction FRN).
- GCI filed a [request for review](#) of a USAC decision and request for waiver on November 15, 2019, of eight related USAC decisions denying rural healthcare funding appeals. In the alternative, GCI seeks a waiver to permit support of these eligible services for the full period they were provided, utilizing the service substitution approach. GCI said all of the USAC denials at issue involve service upgrades that GCI provided during FY2016 and due to the practical realities of climate and geographic challenges unique to Alaska, these service upgrades did not occur as scheduled and on the dates indicated on the Form 466 funding request forms and funding commitment letters for each FRN.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Misc.

- The FCC adopted seven items at its November 22, 2019 Open Meeting, including 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 also adopted a [fifth report and order and FNPRM](#) that would adopt a vertical, or z-axis, 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. Items are not yet released.
- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on November 21, 2019, for its December 12, 2019, Open Meeting. The FCC will consider an [order on remand and declaratory ruling](#) that would promote continued investment in IP-based networks by clarifying that a local exchange carrier partnering with a VoIP provider may assess end office switched access charges only if the carrier or its VoIP partner provides a physical connection to the last-mile facilities used to serve the end user. The FCC will also consider: an [NPRM](#) that would propose to designate 988 as the 3-digit number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline; an [NPRM](#) that would take a comprehensive look at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band and propose, among other things, to make the lower 45 MHz of the band available for unlicensed operations and to permit Cellular Vehicle to Everything (C-V2X) operations in the upper 20 megahertz of the band; an [NPRM](#) on removing the existing non-federal allocations in the 3.3-3.55 GHz band as a step towards potential future shared use between federal incumbents and commercial users; an [NPRM](#) on modernizing requirements for notices cable operators must provide consumers and local franchise authorities; a [report and order](#) that would revise the Commission's Noncommercial

Educational Broadcast Station and Low Power FM Station comparative processing and licensing rules; and three enforcement actions.

- USTelecom [spoke with](#) Commissioner Carr on November 15, 2019, to express support for the draft [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules. USTelecom asserted the Commission's proposals would not harm consumers since robust intermodal voice and broadband competition already exists, especially in urban areas where the Commission is considering to focus relief. It also said the draft NRPM specifically proposes to exempt residential broadband service and telecommunications service in rural areas.
- Public Knowledge [spoke with](#) Commissioner Starks' legal advisor, Commissioner Rosenworcel's Chief of Staff and Chairman Pai's wireline advisor on November 13 and 15, 2019, to discuss the draft [NPRM](#) on updating its unbundling and resale rules. PK asserted curtailing access to UNEs will reduce competition and impair the deployment of next generation broadband networks. PK claimed the data the FCC collects using Form 477 is unreliable and not granular enough for the agency to make useful or accurate determinations regarding which locations have access to broadband and where competition exists.
- The FCC released a [report](#) on November 21, 2019, from its stakeholder workshop in June 2019, convened by Commissioner Starks, entitled *Security Vulnerabilities Within Our Communications Networks: Find It, Fix It, Fund It*. He said the workshop consisted of three panels: the first panel explored the types of insecure and untrustworthy equipment currently located in U.S communications networks, where it's found, and the scope of the risk it poses; the second, evaluated the merits of various solutions to fix this problem; and the final panel discussed options for funding a replacement of insecure equipment. Starks noted many of the carriers who purchased untrustworthy Chinese equipment are small and operate in rural areas, did not break any laws or rules, and frequently lack the financial means to cover the costs of replacement.
- Commissioner Rosenworcel [spoke at](#) the 5G Security Rural Engagement Initiative on November 20, 2019, to discuss supply chain, cybersecurity, and auctions. Regarding the draft supply chain [order](#), she said the Commission needs to ensure it will not needlessly disrupt service in rural America and companies subject to the new rules need clarity and predictability so that they can continue the maintenance, support, and operation of their existing networks in ways that do not compromise the security of American communications.
- The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security [announced](#) on November 18, 2019, it is extending for 90 days, the temporary general license authorizing specific, limited engagements in transactions involving the export, reexport, and transfer of items – under the Export Administration Regulations– to Huawei and its non-U.S. affiliates which are subject to the Entity List. The Bureau said the TGL will allow carriers to continue to service customers in some of the most remote areas of the United States.
- Fifteen senators sent a [letter](#) to President Trump on November 21, 2019, to express concern that the Department of Commerce has begun to issue licenses to some U.S. firms that conduct business with Huawei Technologies. They asked Trump to have the Department of Commerce suspend the granting of licenses to U.S. companies until providing Congress with a report outlining specific criteria for determining whether or not the approval of any license poses a national security threat and that Congressional leadership and relevant committees be notified prior to the issuance of any licenses to U.S. firms to sell components to Huawei and its affiliates. [press release](#)
- USTelecom, AT&T and CenturyLink [met separately with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr, Rosenworcel, and Starks and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 13, 14 and 15, 2019, to discuss the supply chain [draft order](#). They suggested, among other things, the Commission clarify in the order that to comply with the new certification requirement, a USF recipient does not need its non-covered-company-suppliers to obtain sub-certifications from their underlying component suppliers.
- Viaero Wireless filed a [letter](#) on November 15, 2019, to express concern with language in the supply chain [draft order](#) that would require USF recipients to demonstrate that no USF funds were used to

purchase, maintain, improve, modify, operate, manage, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by a covered entity. Viaero urged the FCC to remove the language, “or otherwise support,” and claimed unless this language is removed, the resulting uncertainty will freeze Viaero’s ability to move forward with any project.

- The Competitive Carriers Association [met separately with](#) advisors to Commissioners Rosenworcel and Starks on November 14, 2019, to discuss the supply chain [draft order](#). CCA reiterated its concern with language that suggested carriers cannot use USF funds for the maintenance, support and operation of their existing networks, said this language could have an immediate adverse effect on networks and consumers.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on November 20, 2019, seeking comment on a section 214 application filed by Charles W. Crow, Ruth Ann Crow, and David R. Crow (transferors) and New Florence Telephone, requesting consent to transfer control of Farber Telephone from transferors to New Florence. Charles W. Crow owns 67% of Farber Telephone and Ruth Ann Crow owns 32% of it. Comments are due December 4, 2019; reply comments are due December 11, 2019.
- No comments were filed 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](#)
- The FCC released its FY 2019 [agency financial report](#) on November 19, 2019, which provides financial and performance information about the FCC’s activities over the course of FY 2019. Chairman Pai said under his leadership, the FCC has acted to link its mission to its strategic goals, including closing the digital divide, promoting innovation, protecting consumers and public safety, and reforming the FCC’s processes. Pai also noted for the 14th straight year the FCC has received an unmodified opinion on its financial statements from the FCC’s Office of Inspector General’s independent auditors.
- Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.) and Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Mike Doyle (D-Penn.) [announced](#) on November 18, 2019, the Communications and Technology Subcommittee will hold an FCC oversight hearing on December 5, 2019. Additional details will be announced the week before the hearing.
- To date no replies were filed on the [NPRM](#) proposing procedural changes that would streamline certain FCC administrative hearings. [FR](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

Upcoming Filing Dates

- 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. 4 - Comments due on a section 214 application filed by Charles W. Crow, Ruth Ann Crow, and David R. Crow (transferors) and New Florence Telephone, requesting consent to transfer control of Farber Telephone from transferors to New Florence. Reply comments are due December 11, 2019. [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. 11 - Replies due on a section 214 application filed by Charles W. Crow, Ruth Ann Crow, and David R. Crow (transferors) and New Florence Telephone, requesting consent to transfer control of Farber Telephone from transferors to New Florence. [public notice](#)
- 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](#)

[Back to Highlights](#)

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