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### November 26, 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) for its December 12, 2018, Open Meeting. The FCC will consider a [Report and Order](#) that would offer additional funding to carriers that currently receive A-CAM support in exchange for deploying broadband at increased speeds, provide an opportunity for legacy carriers to transition to model-based support, and authorize additional support for carriers remaining on the legacy RoR support mechanism in exchange for targeting higher broadband speeds. The accompanying FNPRM would seek comment on implementing an auction mechanism for support in legacy areas that are overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor and on addressing budgetary impacts as carriers transition to broadband-only lines. The FCC will also consider, among other things: a [Second Report and Order](#) establishing a single, comprehensive reassigned numbers database and a [Declaratory Ruling](#) that would classify two forms of wireless messaging, SMS and MMS, as information services to address robotexting. Chairman Pai [wrote a blog](#) on the December Open Meeting items.
- [Replies were filed](#) on Petitions for Reconsideration of the Network Testing [Order](#).
- NTCA [discussed](#) how reasonable buildout obligations for those entities receiving high-cost USF support had been established previously for small RLECs in 2016 and encouraged use of a comparable framework for any revised obligations in the future. USTelecom, GVTC, et al. [discussed](#) ongoing concerns with the sufficiency and predictability of high-cost USF support, including proposals consistent with the [letter](#) submitted by the associations.
- Voice providers [responded](#) to [letters](#) from Chairman Pai that urged them to adopt a robust call authentication system to combat illegal caller ID spoofing.
- [Reply comments were filed](#) to oppositions to [petitions for reconsideration](#) of the [Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Order and Declaratory Ruling](#).
- The Wireline Competition Bureau released its [Internet Access Services Report](#) and [Voice Telephone Services Report](#).

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#### Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 28 - Comments due on expanding the list of interoperable devices for discontinued applications. Replies are due December 13, 2018. [Public Notice](#)

## USF Reform

- The released a draft High-Cost USF Reform [Report and Order, FNPRM, and Order on Reconsideration](#) on November 21, 2018 that it will consider at its December 12, 2018 Open Meeting. The Order would offer additional funding to carriers that currently receive A-CAM support in exchange for deploying broadband at increased speeds, provide an opportunity for legacy carriers to transition to model-based support, and authorize additional support for carriers remaining on the legacy RoR support mechanism in exchange for targeting higher broadband speeds. The accompanying FNPRM would seek comment on implementing an auction mechanism for support in legacy areas that are overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor and on addressing budgetary impacts as carriers transition to broadband-only lines. The FNPRM would seek comment on implementing an auction mechanism for support in legacy areas that are overlapped or almost entirely overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor and on addressing budgetary impacts as carriers transition to broadband-only lines. The Order on Reconsideration would deny three petitions for reconsideration of the Commission's decision to offer additional A-CAM support to all carriers that accepted the revised offers of A-CAM support.
- Chairman Pai posted [a blog](#) on November 20, 2018, discussing the agenda for the Commission's December Open Meeting. He said the Commission plans to consider [an item](#): offering rate-of-return carriers another opportunity to opt in to model-based USF support; offering additional funding to carriers that currently receive model-based support and who agree to meet increased buildout requirements; increasing funding for carriers who do not receive model-based support; increasing the target speeds for subsidized deployments from 10/1 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps; and setting a new long-term budget for RoR carriers who choose not to opt in to model-based support and ending arbitrary funding cuts. He also noted the agenda will include items to make more spectrum available for the next generation of wireless technology, [combat robocalls](#), and classify wireless messaging as an "information service" to address robotexting, among other things.
- Replies were filed on November 19, 2018, to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Network Testing Order. [USTelecom, ITTA, and WISPA](#) asserted aside from the Rural Associations' opposition to some of the Petition's arguments seeking relief from the Order's latency testing requirements, the record evinces complete support for the Petition by those that address it. It noted the Rural Associations and AT&T back the request to reconsider the framework for penalizing non-compliance, whereby certain minor performance infractions are treated much more severely than more significant non-compliance with broadband deployment milestones, and it claimed all commenters concur that the Commission should clarify that compliance with speed requirements is to be tested against CAF-mandated minimums, not "advertised speed," and that the Commission should reconsider the exclusion of test results due to overprovisioning. It said the Petition's call for clarification that CAF recipients are permitted to use the same subscribers for both speed and latency testing also drew support, and the Rural Associations supported the request that the Order be clarified to reflect that CAF recipients are afforded certain flexibility in satisfying their obligations to complete hourly tests during the peak period window. [Micronesian Telecommunications](#) noted no party filed in opposition to its request to reconsider the requirement to test at least five subscriber locations per CAF-required service tier offering because this requirement fails to account for the fact that small providers like MTC do not have the requisite number of customers, particularly in higher service tiers. It noted two parties filed in support. [Hughes Network Systems](#) said the Network Testing Order made a significant change to the obligations and requirements for high-latency bidders, and noted the Order was released after the bidding had concluded in the auction for Commission funding through the New NY Broadband Program. It argued because of its significant impact on bidders' expectations and obligations, the Order's limitations on the use of the P.800 protocol should not be applied to recipients of support already awarded in the New York program. It claimed this determination will not undermine the provision of high-quality voice service to customers in supported areas. [ViaSat](#) said ADTRAN, the party whose earlier petition led the Bureaus to adopt the MOS testing approach described in the Order, supported its requests to reconsider the requirement that a satellite broadband provider conduct third-party MOS testing and instead allow the self-testing that all other CAF II recipients are allowed to conduct. It said ADTRAN also support is request to eliminate the requirement that 'real-world' conversational opinion testing proceed under ITU-T Recommendation P.800 and instead develop a workable testing methodology

from the ground up. It responded to the oppositions filed by Hughes and NTCA, NRECA, and UTC. [All replies available to date.](#)

- NTCA [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 19, 2018, to discuss how reasonable buildout obligations for those entities receiving high-cost USF support had been established previously for small RLECs in 2016 and encouraged use of a comparable framework for any revised obligations in the future. NTCA noted the need to ensure that any such framework would be appropriately updated to reflect the increased costs associated with deployment of higher-speed networks, particularly in lower-density rural areas.
- USTelecom, GVTC, Hargray Communications, and EPICTOUCH [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's Advisor on November 19, 2018, to discuss ongoing concerns with the sufficiency and predictability of high-cost USF support, including proposals consistent with the October 1, 2018 [letter](#) submitted by the associations. They discussed how the current budget control mechanism affects their ability to plan for CapEx investment both in the near term and in the future. USTelecom, Hargray, Smithville, and EPICTOUCH also [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Advisor on November 19, 2018, about the same issues.
- NARUC filed a [Motion for Extension of Time](#) on November 19, 2018, of the Mobility Fund II challenge process, requesting a second extension until March 15, 2019. It noted at NARUC's November 14, 2018 Annual Meeting, it passed the attached *Resolution Urging the FCC to Extend and Reform the Process for Creating the MF-II Eligibility Map*. NARUC said several of its member commissions are participating in the MF-II challenge process and NARUC's members are among the 19 State government entities that have access to USAC's MF-II Challenge Process Portal to participate in the challenge process. NARUC claimed because of limited staff and technology resources, States need additional time to conduct the necessary State-wide testing.

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## ICC

- O1 Communications and Teliax filed [a letter](#) on November 16, 2018, to provide an estimate of the amount of money subject to disputes between LECs and the AT&T and Verizon IXCs over the VoIP symmetry rule and the switched access charges that apply to over-the-top VoIP, in response to a question from Commissioner Carr's Advisor. They claimed under the IXCs' theory, at AT&T's California tariffed tandem switched access zone 3 rate, which CLECs are supposed to mirror, IP-based carriers working with retail VoIP providers such as Vonage or Google to provide local exchange services to consumers would earn less than one-third of the revenue that TDM-based carriers earn for carrying the very same ten million minutes of use. They said the reason the FCC adopted the VoIP symmetry rule was to level the playing field, and they requested the Commission confirm the rule applies to OTT VoIP permitting LECs that partner with retail VoIP providers to collect end office switched access charges. (attachment [1](#), attachment [2](#))
- Intelliquent filed [a letter](#) on November 16, 2018, to respond to the November 5, 2018 letter filed by BTC, d/b/a Western Iowa Networks, Goldfield Access Network, Great Lakes Communication, Northern Valley Communications, OmniTel, and the Iowa/South Dakota CLECs. Intelliquent said its records show that the daily blocking of millions of minutes of calls to numbers that the Iowa/South Dakota CLECs and Reasnor Telephone Company have assigned to free conferencing applications, radio streaming stations, and chat lines began in or around June 2017. It claimed the purpose of the blocking is to divert traffic from the regulated path onto what becomes the bottleneck pathway for completing the calls: HD Tandem. Intelliquent reiterated its request for the Commission to promptly: adopt the industry proposal that access stimulating LECs be required to bear financial responsibility for transport and termination of traffic to them, or at a minimum, cap mileage charges by those LECs at ten miles; clarify the intentional blocking or rejecting of calls for the purpose of diverting them from the PSTN and onto private networks for financial gain is unlawful; and take prompt enforcement action against the entities perpetrating the call blocking scheme.

- South Dakota Network filed [a letter](#) stating it provided FCC staff with the attached redacted confidential spreadsheet on investment and expense adjustments and held a conference call with Commission staff on November 19, 2018. SDN also provided information on how it calculated its Part 64 adjustments for regulated and non-regulated operations, and how it accounted for its known-and-measurable costs in the submitted data.

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## Broadband

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Ill.), Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.), Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) and seven other members of Congress on November 5, 2018, on the Government Accountability Office's [report](#) that examined the extent to which the FCC's approach to collecting broadband data accurately captures broadband access on Tribal lands. Pai said the Commission is already undertaking efforts to enhance its data and better understand where Tribal areas remain unserved. He said central to these efforts is the Commission's ongoing rulemaking proceeding in which it is examining whether and how to revise the Form 477 collection of broadband deployment data to increase the usefulness of collected data.
- Chairman Pai sent [a letter](#) to Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) on November 13, 2018, in response to [her letter](#) that opposed USTelecom's Petition for Forbearance from the resale and UNE unbundling requirements applied to ILECs. Pai noted the comment cycle on the matter has closed and Commission staff are now carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. He said her views will be entered into the record and considered as part of the Commission's review.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued its [Internet Access Services Report](#) on November 20, 2018, which summarized information on internet access connections in the United States as of June 30, 2017, as collected by FCC Form 477. The report indicates internet connections increased by about three percent between June 2016 and June 2017 to 409 million. Mobile internet connections increased four percent year-over-year to 303 million in June 2017, while the number of fixed connections grew to 106 million, up about two percent from June 2016.
- Reply comments were filed on November 19, 2018, to oppositions to [petitions for reconsideration](#) of the [Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Order and Declaratory Ruling](#). The [Coalition of Concerned Utilities](#) asserted that, contrary to claims made by several parties, none of the Order's final rules appeared as proposed rules in the April 21, 2017 NPRM or in the November 29, 2017 FNPRM, so that reconsideration is the first real opportunity for the parties to address the new rules and to propose additional changes. The [EEI and UTC](#) agreed with the Coalition of Concerned Utilities that the Commission erred by extending the presumption to newly-renewed joint-use agreements and said it inappropriately enables ILECs to continue to enjoy the additional benefits they receive under existing joint-use agreements. EEI and UTC also said capping the rate for ILEC attachments at the pre-2011 telecom rate systematically prevents utilities from fully recovering their costs attributable to ILEC attachments. [Smart Communities and Special Districts Coalition](#) asserted oppositions filed by CTIA and Verizon merely reiterated the same conclusions already adopted by the Commission and often cited solely to the Ruling being challenged here as sole support for those assertions. [All replies available to date.](#)
- CostQuest [spoke with](#) FCC staff on November 15, 2018, to discuss data, methods, and procedures needed to support increased granularity in Form 477 submission of address or locational information and how that information can be used to identify broadband gaps. CostQuest supported the methods described by AT&T, the Cooperative Address-Based Broadband Deployment Database, and said if the end-goal of data submissions is to understand structure level broadband availability, additional data sources and methods will need to be included. CostQuest suggested there will not be an off the shelf data solution to provide structure locations to identify broadband availability and gaps; rather, understanding of the broadband deployment gap will involve weaving together complimentary data sources and methods into a locational fabric.

- Microsoft [met with](#) FCC staff on November 14, 2018, to discuss broadband mapping and the Form 477 data collection. It discussed Microsoft's analytic tools and data which it claimed could assist the Commission in identifying where broadband is available, as well as understanding speed and latency at a granular level.
- Granite Telecommunications, Manhattan Telecommunications d/b/a Metropolitan Telecommunications, and Access One [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 19, 2018, to urge the FCC to deny USTelecom's Petition for Forbearance from certain regulatory obligations imposed on ILECs. Granite, et al. argued the Commission should deny the Petition at least to the extent that it applies to avoided-cost resale of traditional TDM service under section 251(c)(4).

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## Open Internet

- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) on November 13, 2018, in response to her December 2017 [letter](#) which expressed opposition to the Commission's action of repealing Title II protection for net neutrality. Pai asserted that returning to the legal framework that governed the internet from 1996 until 2015 will help consumers and promote competition.

## Universal Service

- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Sen. Amy Klobucher (D-Minn.) on November 13, 2018, in response to her [letter](#) on the [Notice of Inquiry](#) on creating a Connected Care Pilot Program. Pai said the Commission unanimously adopted the NOI, which seeks comment on creating an experimental Connected Care Pilot Program to support the delivery of connected care telehealth services, including those for pregnant women seeking healthcare before, during, and after pregnancy, to low-income Americans.
- In addition to comments listed in a previous edition of *REGScan*, comments were filed on November 16, 2018, 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. [USTelecom](#) expressed support for Commission efforts to exercise good stewardship over its USF spending and emphasized the need for a coordinated, "whole of government" approach to determining the entities and equipment types that constitute communications supply chain risks. It also said it is appropriate for the Commission to view the 2019 NDAA's Congressional directive as an appropriate step in this direction. [ITTA](#) said the Commission must ensure that in fulfillment of its obligations under Section 889(b)(2) of the 2019 NDAA, it devotes sources of funding other than USF and/or emphasizes its provision of technical support to assist affected entities. [Huawei](#) said the NDAA does not provide any authority for the Commission to adopt its proposal, and should terminate the proceeding and decline to adopt the proposed rule. Replies are due December 7, 2018. [Public Notice List of all comments available to date.](#)
- Hughes Network Systems filed a [letter](#) on November 20, 2018, to respond to Broadband VI concerning the framework for selecting recipients for Stage 2 support from the Connect USVI Fund. Hughes argued Broadband VI's proposals should largely be rejected for ignoring price, failing to be technology neutral, and failing to encourage the speedy deployment of reliable, resilient, advanced broadband services on an efficient and cost-effective basis. Hughes urged the Commission to adopt its points proposal, which it claimed balances the key factors the Commission identified as important for ensuring robust service to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands while adhering to technological neutrality.
- Liberty Cablevision of Puerto Rico filed a [redacted ex parte](#) of meetings on November 16, 2018, with Chairman Pai and his Advisors, Advisors to Commissioners O'Rielly and Rosenworcel, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff to discuss its recommendations for Stage 2 of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund. Liberty expressed support for allocating the majority of Stage 2 funding for new deployment through a competitive bidding process at the census block group level and drastically lowering the



high-cost funding benchmark for Stage 2 due to the unique circumstances involved in deploying broadband throughout Puerto Rico.

- TracFone filed [comments](#) on November 23, 2018, on Q Link Wireless' [Petition](#) for 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](#). TracFone said if the Commission grants the waiver it should be applicable to all Lifeline providers, including TracFone. TracFone also said until the Commission acts on the request, all Lifeline providers should be allowed to submit Lifeline enrollment eligibility information to the National Verifier via bulk transfers as requested by the Q Link waiver petition. Replies are due November 30, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Sprint [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 19, 2018, regarding pending Lifeline reform proposals. Sprint asserted the Commission should not equate size with riskiness in considering whether to adopt a risk-based approach to auditing, and it urged the Commission to reasonably limit the number of audits a service provider must undergo in a given time period, assuming no finding of systemic error. Sprint also discussed ways to facilitate the smooth deployment of the National Verifier, including having APIs and automated access to eligibility databases, and said that should the Commission move forward with a proposal to construct a service provider agent registry, it urged the Commission to work with the industry on its development and deployment.
- Telcel Communications, Peoples Telephone Cooperative, and Central Texas Telephone Cooperative [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Wireline Advisor, Commissioner Carr's [Chief of Staff](#), and [Wireline Competition Bureau staff](#) on November 15 and 16, 2018, to assert that recently approved USF projects in the E-Rate program will result in fiber overbuild. They said a recent report from the Texas Governor's office shows that 97 percent of schools are already connected to fiber. They claimed the real problem the majority of schools are facing now is not fiber connection.
- The American Cable Association [met separately with](#) Commissioner Carr's Advisors and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 14, 2018, to reiterate its support for the proposed "connected care" pilot program and recommended the Commission design the program in a manner that leverages existing broadband infrastructure wherever possible. ACA also reiterated its view that the program should allow non-ETC carriers to participate.
- No replies were filed 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](#)
- XO Communications [spoke by phone](#) with Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 13, 2018, to discuss its pending [Application for Review](#) of the [Order](#) that denied its request for review on whether certain revenues associated with specific mixed-use special access lines should be considered interstate for the purpose of assessing USF contributions. XO said the Order led to unfair burdens on it to produce additional information for USAC regarding its 2007 private line service revenues after such a long delay, and it asked the Commission to issue a decision on the Application for Review as soon as possible.

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## Misc.

- The FCC issued a [tentative agenda](#) on November 21, 2018, for its December 12, 2018, Open Meeting. The FCC will consider a [Report and Order](#) that would offer additional funding to carriers that currently receive A-CAM support in exchange for deploying broadband at increased speeds, provide an opportunity for legacy carriers to transition to model-based support, and authorize additional support for carriers remaining on the legacy rate-of-return support mechanisms in exchange for targeting higher broadband speeds. The accompanying FNPRM would seek comment on implementing an

auction mechanism for support in legacy areas that are overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor and on addressing budgetary impacts as carriers transition to broadband-only lines. The Order on Reconsideration would deny three petitions for reconsideration of the Commission's decision to offer additional A-CAM support to all carriers that accepted the revised offers of model-based support. The FCC will also consider: a [Second Report and Order](#) that would create a comprehensive database to enable callers to verify whether a telephone number has been permanently disconnected, and is therefore eligible for reassignment, before calling that number, thereby helping to protect consumers with reassigned numbers from receiving unwanted robocalls; a [Declaratory Ruling](#) that would classify two forms of wireless messaging, SMS and MMMS, as information services under the Communications Act, and help prevent consumers from receiving spam robotexts; a [Report and Order](#) that would adopt service rule changes for the Upper 37, 39 and 47 GHz bands, and would provide for an incentive auction mechanism that would offer contiguous blocks of spectrum in the Upper 37 GHz and 39 GHz bands and additional spectrum in the 47 GHz band; an [NPRM](#) that would initiate the 2018 Quadrennial Review of certain broadcast ownership rules; a [Report and Order](#) that would eliminate certain rules which require local posting and maintenance of broadcast licenses and related information in specific locations; and a [Report](#) that would consolidate several previously separate Commission reports into a single report on the state of the broader communications market in the United States.

- The FCC issued a [News Release](#) on November 20, 2018, announcing Chairman Pai has proposed measures to reduce unwanted robocalls and prevent spam text messaging. Pai is calling on his fellow Commissioners to approve a reassigned number database at the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting. He said the Commission will also consider an item to make clear that wireless providers are authorized to take measures to stop unwanted text messaging through robotext-blocking, antispooing measures, and other anti-spam features. The draft Declaratory Ruling on text messaging would formally rule that text-messaging services are information services, not telecommunications services, thus allowing carriers to continue using robotext-blocking and anti-spoofing measures to protect consumers from unwanted text messages.
- The FCC released on November 19, 2018, the following items that were adopted at its November 15, 2018 [Open Meeting](#): a [Memorandum Opinion, Order, and Authorization](#) granting SpaceX's request to deploy and operate a proposed non-geostationary constellation to provide broadband services around the world; an [Order and Declaratory Ruling](#) granting Kepler's request for U.S. market access to offer global connectivity for the Internet of Things using a proposed constellation of non-geostationary orbit satellites; an [Order and Declaratory Ruling](#) granting Telesat's request to access the U.S. market to provide broadband services; an [Order and Declaratory Ruling](#) granting LeoSat's request for U.S. market access to provide satellite broadband services; and an [NPRM and Order on Reconsideration](#) to update the orbital debris rules for all Commission-authorized satellites.
- [AT&T](#), [Verizon](#), [Comcast](#), and other voice providers responded on November 19, 2018, to [letters](#) from Chairman Pai, which urged them to adopt a robust call authentication system to combat illegal caller ID spoofing and launch that system no later than next year. [AT&T](#) provided a timeline detailing its plans for deployment of SHAKEN/STIR, which includes implementation benchmarks for testing, certain network buildout, exchange of certificates, and call-signature display capability. [Verizon](#) said it anticipates a large portion of voice minutes its customers send and receive will be "signed" under the SHAKEN/STIR authentication standard in 2019. [Comcast](#) said it expects to have implemented the capability to sign calls originating from its residential voice customers for its entire residential subscriber base by the end of December 2018. [Sprint](#) said it is fully committed to deploying and implementing SHAKEN/STIR and has worked with TNS and its Cequent mobile client subsidiary to develop an application for Sprint wireless customers that provides a robocall labeling and blocking service called Premium Caller ID. [Google](#) said it is working toward the goal of implementing SHAKEN/STIR once the standards are finalized and approved. It also said Google's Phone app offers a robust solution for reducing the number of illegally spoofed calls on Android phones and any device manufacturer and/or carrier can adopt this solution and preload it on the devices they sell, with no cost to them or to the users who benefit. Google also said it provides Android users with the ability to filter out spam calls and recently began offering the Call Screen feature on Pixel devices. [All letters available to date.](#)

- Somos, the Toll-Free Numbering Administrator, [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 14 and 19, 2018, to discuss the Commission's proposal to create a reassigned number database. Somos confirmed that it is capable of providing TFN disconnected data, and stated that it would be more efficient for Somos, as the TFNA, to provide the collective information rather than having the 470+ Resp Orgs provide it individually. Somos also clarified that the SMS/800 Toll-Free Number Registry automatically returns a TFN to the spare pool if it has been in disconnect status for four calendar months. It stated that should the Commission institute a minimum aging period for disconnected TFNs, Somos will update the SMS/800 Toll-Free Number Registry to ensure that TFNs cannot be spared before that minimum time expires.
- First Orion [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly and his Advisors on November 14, 2018, to discuss robocall issues. It expressed support for the "ScamLikely" service that informs T-Mobile subscribers when an inbound call has a high likelihood of being placed for fraudulent purposes. It also discussed its ability to differentiate between "bad numbers" and "bad calls" and discussed its ongoing efforts with call originators to facilitate the delivery of wanted or legitimate calls.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued its [Voice Telephone Services Report](#) on November 20, 2018, which summarized the information collected on telephone services as of June 30, 2017. The report noted in June 2017, there were 55 million end-user switched access lines in service, 64 million interconnected VoIP subscriptions, and 336 million mobile subscriptions in the United States. Over the three-year period, interconnected VoIP subscriptions increased at a compound annual growth rate of eight percent, mobile voice subscriptions increased at a compound annual growth rate of two percent, and retail switched access lines declined at 11 percent per year.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on November 20, 2018, seeking comment on an [application](#) filed by Robert L. Hart and STEL-CO, pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act and sections 63.03-04 of the Commission's rules, requesting consent for the transfer of control of Le-Ru Telephone and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Le-Ru Long Distance Company, from Mr. Hart to STEL-CO. Comments are due December 4, 2018; replies are due December 11, 2018.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [Order](#) on November 23, 2018, granting, on its own motion, a temporary waiver of the FCC's telephone number aging rule for all companies that provide service in areas of California covered by the Major Disaster Declaration due to severe wildfires. The Bureau waived section 52.15(f)(ii), which says that service providers may only age telephone numbers that have been disconnected for up to 90 days before assigning them to other customers. The Bureau said waiver of section 52.15(f)(ii) will allow service providers in the affected areas, upon customers' request, to disconnect temporarily customers' telephone service to avoid billing issues, and then reinstate the customers' same numbers when service is reconnected. This waiver is in effect immediately and for a nine-month period, expiring on August 22, 2019.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on November 23, 2018, announcing it granted Consolidated Long Distance's application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. This docket will be closed 60 days from the date of this Public Notice if there are no further filings in this proceeding.

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## Upcoming Filing Dates

- Nov. 27 - Comments due on Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative's [Petition](#) for a waiver of sections 51.909(a), 51.917(b)(1) and 51.917(b)(7) to allow it to recalculate the rate bands and charges for local switching, tandem switching, and dedicated transport services for two study areas it seeks to merge on January 1, 2019. Replies are due December 12, 2018. [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](#)
- Nov. 30 - Replies due on Q Link Wireless' [Petition](#) for 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](#). [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. 4 - Comments due on an [application](#) filed by Robert L. Hart and STEL-CO, requesting consent for the transfer of control of Le-Ru Telephone and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Le-Ru Long Distance Company, from Mr. Hart to STEL-CO. Replies are due December 11, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 5 - Oppositions due to Aureon's direct case in connection with its Tariff No. 1 revisions filed on September 24, 2018. [Order](#)
- 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. 11 - Replies due on an [application](#) filed by Robert L. Hart and STEL-CO, requesting consent for the transfer of control of Le-Ru Telephone and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Le-Ru Long Distance Company, from Mr. Hart to STEL-CO. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 12 - Replies due on Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative's [Petition](#) for a waiver of sections 51.909(a), 51.917(b)(1) and 51.917(b)(7) to allow it to recalculate the rate bands and charges for local switching, tandem switching, and dedicated transport services for two study areas it seeks to merge on January 1, 2019. [Public 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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