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December 10, 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC issued the [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 reassigned numbers database and a [Declaratory Ruling](#) that would classify SMS and MMS messaging as information services to address robotexting.
- The FCC [announced](#) it launched an investigation into whether one or more major carriers violated the Mobility Fund Phase II reverse auction's mapping rules and submitted incorrect coverage maps.
- Numerous ex partes filed on the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#), including: NTCA [expressed support](#) for the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#) and discussed verification of Form 477 data to accurately confirm any competitive overlap and the operation of budget controls over time; WTA [discussed](#) the draft RoR USF Reform Order and also noted the current freeze of the rate floor is scheduled to end in July 2019; USTelecom [expressed support](#) for the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#), and discussed the potential impacts of a second A-CAM offer and the use of FCC Form 477 data to determine competitive overlap; ITTA [supported](#) the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#) and [suggested](#) a clarification to state that existing A-CAM glide path carriers will be offered a revised offer of A-CAM support with increased deployment obligations.
- [Adak Eagle](#), [Grand River Mutual Telephone](#), and [Hamilton County](#) separately discussed the draft RoR USF Reform [Order](#) that denies their Petitions for Reconsideration on A-CAM funding.
- The Eighth Circuit Court [denied](#) the Minnesota PUC's [Petition for Rehearing](#) of its [decision](#) affirming the Minnesota district court's ruling that Charter's VoIP service is an information service.
- State Members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Separations [suggested](#) the FCC extend the separations freeze rules for up to six years and permit carriers to "unfreeze" the category relationship freeze.
- Verizon [discussed](#) support for the steps the FCC has proposed in the proceedings on access arbitrage and 8YY access charge reform. Verizon also urged the FCC to deny CenturyLink's [Petition](#) asking that over-the-top VoIP providers and their LEC partners may collect end office local switching access reciprocal compensation.
- Oral argument in the case addressing [Petitions for Review](#) of the Restoring Internet Freedom Order is [set](#) for February 1, 2019.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Dec. 12 - Replies due on ITC's [Petition](#) for a waiver of Part 51 rules to allow it to recalculate the rate bands and charges for local switching, tandem switching, and dedicated transport services for two study areas it seeks to merge on January 1, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 13 - Replies [due](#) on expanding the list of interoperable devices for discontinuance applications.

USF Reform

- The FCC issued a [news release](#) on December 7, 2018, announcing the FCC has launched an investigation into whether one or more major carriers violated the Mobility Fund Phase II reverse auction's mapping rules and submitted incorrect coverage maps. It said the investigation comes after a preliminary review of the 20,809,503 speed tests filed with the FCC in connection with the MF-II challenge process, which closed on November 26, 2018. The Commission has suspended the next step of the challenge process, i.e., the opening of a response window, pending the conclusion of this investigation. Commissioner Carr issued [a statement](#) supporting Chairman Pai's decision to launch the investigation.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), and Reps. Frank D. Lucas (R-Okla.), Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), Steve Russell (R-Okla.), and Tom Cole (R-Okla.) on November 29, 2018, in response to their [letter](#) on the Mobility Fund challenge process and broadband mapping. Pai said the Commission required strict standards for broadband deployment maps, a robust challenge process for Phase II of the Mobility Fund, and extended the window for submitting challenges by an additional 90 days so that all challengers would have more time to participate in the process. Pai said the MF II challenge window is now closed and Commission staff are examining all submissions from all carriers for accuracy and consistency.
- Panhandle Telecommunications [met separately](#) with Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force staff, Commissioners Carr and O'Reilly, and Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Rosenworcel and Carr on December 4, 2018, to discuss the Mobility Fund II challenge process. It said like the Rural Wireless Association, Smith Bagley, and a coalition of radio frequency engineering firms, Panhandle has expressed concern regarding Verizon's overstated 4G LTE coverage and urged the Commission to require re-filing of Verizon's data to comport with standard RF engineering practices. Panhandle claimed by the time final MF II challenge process expenses are paid, it estimates it will have spent close to \$1 million, much of which could have been avoided but for overstated Verizon coverage.
- Chairman Pai sent letters to Rep. [Tom Emmer](#) (R-Minn.) ([letter](#)), and Sens. [Ben Sasse](#) (R-Neb.) et al. ([letter](#)), [Charles E. Grassley](#) (R-Iowa) and [Joni K. Ernst](#) (R-Iowa) ([letter](#)), [Heidi Heitkamp](#) (D-N.D.) ([letter](#)) et al., [John Thune](#) (R-S.D.) ([letter](#)) et al., and [Jerry Moran](#) (R-Kan.) ([letter](#)) et al. in response to their letters that urged the Commission to establish a sufficient and predictable budget for the High Cost USF Fund to provide broadband to residents in rural areas. Pai said the proposed [Order](#) that will be considered at the December Open Meeting will: promote efficiency by offering rate-of-return carriers opportunity to opt in to model-based support and ensure support is sufficient by offering additional funding to carriers that currently receive model-based support and who agree to meet increased buildout requirements. Pai also said the FCC is making the program more predictable by setting a new long-term budget for RoR carriers who choose not to opt in to model-based support, ending arbitrary funding cuts, and increasing the target speeds to 25/3 Mbps.
- NTCA [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's Special Counsel on December 6, 2018, to express support for the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#) that is on the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting agenda. NTCA also discussed the need for verification of Form 477 data to accurately confirm the extent of any competitive overlap and the importance of properly calibrated buildout obligations that accurately reflect the costs of delivering higher-speed broadband in rural areas. NTCA also [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on November 30, 2018, to discuss the same issues.
- NTCA [spoke separately with](#) Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr and Carr's Advisor on December 3, 2018, about the importance of fulfilling statutory mandates for predictability and sufficiency of USF funding, promoting the effectiveness of existing USF support mechanisms, and advancing important public policy objectives for promoting network investment and ensuring the availability of services for consumers on a reasonably comparable basis between rural and urban areas.
- WTA [met separately with](#) Acting Special Counsel to Chairman Pai and Advisors to Commissioners [O'Rielly](#), [Carr](#), and [Rosenworcel](#), and [Wireline Competition Bureau staff](#) on December 3 and 4, 2018, to discuss the [draft RoR USF Reform Order](#). WTA supported: granting A-CAM glidepath carriers the

option to elect increased 25/3 build-out obligations in return for a two-year extension of the term of their existing arrangement; new model offers to those RoR carriers that did not elect A-CAM or the Alaska Plan support; updating the RoR high-cost support budget; restoration of budget control mechanism cuts and efforts to address the future impacts of inflation and CBOL adoption; and the inclusion of the same type of Tribal Broadband Factor in the cost-based support mechanisms. WTA also noted the current freeze of the rate floor is scheduled to end in July 2019, which it said will result in substantial and disruptive local service rate increases if action is not taken to extend the existing freeze or eliminate the rule.

- USTelecom [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Legal Advisor on December 3, 2018, to express support for the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#) and Further Notice. It also discussed the potential impacts of a second A-CAM offer and the use of FCC Form 477 data in determining competitive overlap. USTelecom also [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Reilly's Legal Advisor on December 5, 2018, to discuss the same issues.
- ITTA filed a [letter](#) on November 30, 2018, on the draft [RoR USF Reform Order, FNPRM, and Order on Reconsideration](#) recommending a clarification in the draft Order to state expressly that existing A-CAM glide path carriers will be offered a revised offer of support with increased deployment obligations and thus become revised A-CAM I carriers. ITTA said by allowing glide path carriers that accepted the original offer of support to accept a revised offer extending their term to 2028, the Commission would promote a uniform approach to model-based companies.
- ITTA [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's Advisor on November 30, 2018, to express support for the draft [RoR USF Reform Order's](#) provisions to: increase funding for A-CAM carriers and attendant commitments to buildout to additional locations at speeds of 25/3 Mbps; ensure sufficient and predictable support for legacy rate-of-return carriers; make a new model offer for legacy carriers; and separate the budgets for the model-based and legacy programs. ITTA also recommended a modest clarification to the draft to state expressly that existing A-CAM "glide path" carriers will be offered a revised offer of support with increased deployment obligations. ITTA also [met with](#) Commissioner O'Reilly's Legal Advisor on November 28, 2018, to discuss the same issues and concern with the lack of a challenge process for the new model offer.
- Matthey Consulting [spoke with](#) Commissioner O'Reilly's Legal Advisor on behalf of the Nebraska A-CAM Companies on December 6, 2018, to indicate that while the Nebraska A-CAM Companies intend to exceed the minimum requirements for extending broadband service to "reasonable request" locations, it is difficult to predict industry-wide the extent to which other companies will exceed required broadband deployment obligations to serve "reasonable request" locations. Matthey also discussed the potential budgetary impact of a new offer of A-CAM support to companies currently receiving legacy support, and said the Nebraska A-CAM Companies support a new offer of A-CAM support to all companies not currently receiving such support.
- TDS left [a voicemail](#) for Chairman Pai's Special Counsel, Advisors to Commissioners O'Reilly and Rosenworcel, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff, and spoke with Commissioner Carr's Chief of Staff on December 5, 2018, to express support for ITTA's request for clarification in the [RoR USF Reform Order](#) that existing glidepath A-CAM companies be offered a revised offer of support with increased deployment obligations and a term of support through 2028.
- Home Telephone [spoke with](#) Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Reilly and Carr on December 6, 2018, to discuss its proposal for offering additional funding to the thirty-five initial glidepath carriers in the [draft RoR USF Reform Order](#). Home Tel said the ITTA proposal for initial glidepath carriers to be allowed to extend guaranteed model base support until 2028 through the adoption of an expanded 25/3 build-out obligation is a good start, but it does not go far enough. As an alternative option, Home requested the Commission consider allowing the initial glidepath carriers the option of electing the proposed A-CAM II model, which provides support to subscribers in areas where the initial model denied support.
- Hamilton County Telephone filed [a letter](#) on December 6, 2018, to discuss its Petition for Reconsideration that is denied in the [draft RoR USF Reform Order, FNPRM and Order on](#)

[Reconsideration](#). It said that by denying Hamilton's Petition without identifying some solution as to how these residences and businesses will receive broadband, it is apparent the FCC has determined that the "abandoned locations" are just that, "abandoned." Hamilton expressed hope that the Commission will find a solution to fund these locations so the Co-op can have the sufficient USF funding the A-CAM is supposed to provide in order to bring broadband to those unserved areas that have been left behind.

- Adak Eagle Enterprises filed [a letter](#) on December 5, 2018, to urge the Commission to grant its January 2017 Petition for Reconsideration of the decision to deny Adak Eagle a revised offer of A-CAM support. It noted the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#) disposes of three pending Petitions for Reconsideration, but does not propose to act on Adak Eagle's Petition.
- Grand River Mutual Telephone and JSI [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's Acting Special Counsel on November 29, 2018, to discuss the draft RoR USF Reform [Order, FNPRM, and Order on Reconsideration](#) that denies GRM's Petition for Reconsideration of the March 2018 Order on A-CAM funding for unfunded locations. They said if the FCC proceeds in denying its Petition and takes no other steps pertaining to the locations, these locations will have no opportunity to receive high cost support. They urged the FCC to rectify this situation by making a slight modification to the new set of revised model offers that would provide support to existing A-CAM electors up to \$200 per month.

WISPA [met with](#) Commissioner Carr's Legal Advisor on December 4, 2018, to suggested in lieu of offering A-CAM II support to rate-of-return carriers in areas that are already served by unsubsidized providers offering broadband service below 25/3 Mbps speeds, the Commission should lower the speed threshold for unsubsidized competitors to 10/1 Mbps or seek further comment on the appropriate speed threshold in the FNPRM. WISPA also said the Commission should rely on the most recent version of Form 477 data in determining the broadband speeds offered by unsubsidized competitors in defining areas eligible for A-CAM II support. WISPA asserted the Commission's goals would be better served by directing A-CAM support to areas that lack any service at all and those that have access only below 10/1 Mbps, before allocating finite USF resources to areas that fall short of the 25/3 Mbps proposed speed. WISPA also [met separately with](#) Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner O'Reilly on December 6, 2018, to discuss the same issues.

- The National Tribal Telecommunications Association filed a [letter](#) on December 5, 2018, saying it is NTTA's understanding that the Tribal Broadband Factor in the draft RoR USF Reform Order will only be applied to the new offer of A-CAM support, called "A-CAM II." It said there appears to be an inconsistency in the way the Commission treats the additional support needs in Tribal areas between future A-CAM II support recipients and all other RoR carriers serving rural Tribal areas. It suggested the Commission: recognize the principle of the TBF regarding the "lower expected end-user revenues in rural, Tribal areas" in areas served by non-A-CAM II support recipients and reduce the end-user revenues implicit in the calculation of CAF BLS; revise the HCLS algorithm using a similar 25% factor; and give current A-CAM recipients the same treatment as outlined in the TBF in regard to the 25% reduction of the monthly per-line high cost threshold.
- Gila River Telecommunications filed [a letter](#) on December 5, 2018, to request that the Commission include a Tribal Broadband Factor for RoR companies that remain on the legacy USF support system similar to the mechanism the draft [RoR USF Reform Order](#) sets forth for A-CAM recipients. It said the record developed in WC Docket No. 10-90 provides significant support and no opposition to the necessity of a TBF for all RoR carriers serving Tribal lands. It suggested the Commission could implement this, as NTTA outlined in its October 25, 2018 ex parte filing, by reducing the \$42 per month per line funding threshold by 25 percent to \$31.50.15, revising the HCLS algorithm using a similar 25 percent factor, and allowing the 25 percent discount of the monthly per-line high cost threshold for RoR carriers serving Tribal lands.
- WISPA filed [a letter](#) on December 4, 2018, to respond to NTCA's November 14, 2018 [ex parte](#), claiming the NTCA letter is an effort to re-write both Title II of the Communications Act and the rules of the CAF Phase II reverse auction. NTCA's [letter](#) said the Act is clear that: to receive USF, an entity must be an ETC; to be an ETC, an entity must be a telecommunications carrier; and to be a telecommunications carrier, an entity must offer a telecommunications service. NTCA suggested "the Commission or any reviewing state commission must scrutinize the proposal to confirm that the [voice] offering meets the criteria for classification as a telecommunications service." NTCA also asked the

Commission to make CAF winners' long-form technical information available to interested parties pursuant to a protective order and then subject the technical showings to a brief window for review and comment. WISPA argued NTCA's arguments seek to saddle auction winners with additional obligations not required by long-established law, undermine the Commission's consideration of long-form applications submitted by auction winners, and delay the deployment of broadband and voice services to unserved rural consumers.

- The Colorado Broadband Deployment Board filed a [Petition for Waiver](#) on November 30, 2018, from § 54.801, which requires the use of competitive bidding to determine the recipients of Remote Areas Fund support. The Board requested that the FCC set aside a fair and proportional amount of support for Colorado remote areas and allow the Board to select the recipients of the support, subject to conditions designed to meet the federal and state mutual objective for universal broadband service. It claimed this would enable coordination and maximization of support for Colorado's remote areas, without compromising the performance, technical, and financial standards as set forth by both the Board and the FCC.
- Consolidated filed [a letter](#) on November 30, 2018, to notify the Commission, USAC, the state of Florida, and any affected Tribal governments that while it has met its deployment milestone for CAF Phase II for calendar year 2017 (40 percent), and timely filed its data and certifications, respectively, on July 1, 2016, July 1, 2017, and July 1, 2018, it has come to Consolidated's attention that, as a result of Hurricane Michael making landfall in Florida in mid-October 2018, a number of the locations to which the company had deployed CAF Phase II-qualifying broadband no longer may be habitable. It said if a field audit were to be conducted today, the required number of locations may not be found, as the storm may have destroyed a number of these structures. Consolidated does not believe a waiver is required, but will continue to report as more specific location information becomes available, and will seek a waiver of the applicable deployment requirements to the extent necessary.
- Alaska Communications Systems filed [a letter](#) on December 5, 2018, to provide a list of 15 census blocks in ACS' price cap local exchange service territory which it claimed meet the definition of high-cost or extremely high-cost and are unserved by an unsubsidized competitor with broadband at speeds of at least 10 Mbps/1 Mbps. ACS asserted they qualify for high-cost support under the CAF Phase II parameters for ACS. It said these census blocks were reported in December 2016 FCC Form 477 filings as "served" by GCI; however, GCI recently filed information with the Commission confirming that these census blocks, in fact, are unserved.
- The Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and the Wireline Competition and Wireless Telecommunications Bureaus issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 3, 2018, to provide the seventh update on the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process. The window to file challenges closed on November 27, 2018, and by the close of the challenge window, challengers submitted data for 20,809,503 speed test results across 37 states and certified challenges to 129,537 square kilometer grid cells. The FCC said a total of 106 entities had access to the USAC MF-II Challenge Process Portal at the close of the window. Dates for the challenge process response window will be announced in a later public notice.

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- Verizon [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Carr on November 29, 2018, to discuss its support for intercarrier-compensation reform, including the steps the Commission has proposed in the proceedings on access arbitrage and 8YY access charge reform. Verizon also urged the Commission to deny CenturyLink's [Petition](#) asking that over-the-top VoIP providers and their LEC partners may collect end office local switching access reciprocal compensation. Verizon suggested the FCC reaffirm that a LEC cannot assess tariffed end-office switching charges on over-the-top VoIP traffic it routes over the public Internet.

- CenturyLink [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 4, 2018, to reiterate its support for its [Petition for a Declaratory Ruling](#) that over-the-top VoIP providers and their LEC partners perform the functional equivalent of end office switching and may collect end office local switching access reciprocal compensation under the Commission's rules. It claimed AT&T's proposed reading of the VoIP Symmetry Rule would draw an arbitrary and capricious line between forms of VoIP that are compensable and forms of VoIP that are not compensable, yet AT&T has failed to explain which call scenarios permit a LEC to assess end office switching charges and which do not, and why. CenturyLink claimed it would be impossible for AT&T to do so. It suggested if the Commission decides to embrace AT&T's approach, it will have to explain when access charges are available and when they are not, and provide a reasoned basis for any distinctions it might draw.
- AT&T [met with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor on December 3, 2018, to discuss the access stimulation NPRM. AT&T encouraged the Commission to adopt the NPRM's "prong one," which would require the cost causer in current schemes to accept the financial obligation for the routing it has chosen in associating its high-volume services in remote areas. It claimed the "second prong," direct interconnection, would allow those engaged in arbitrage to dictate the marketplace. AT&T also expressed support for Verizon's November 28, 2018 ex parte opposing the tariffing of end-office switching charges for OTT VoIP traffic, and encouraged the Commission to complete the transition to a nationwide de-tariffed regime in which carriers seek cost recovery from their own end users. AT&T also [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 29, 2018, to discuss the same issues.
- AT&T filed an [opposition](#) on December 6, 2018, to Aureon's direct case in connection with its Tariff No. 1 revisions filed on September 24, 2018. AT&T said the Commission should find Aureon's revised rate to be unreasonable, direct Aureon to refund the difference between the prescribed rate and its current CEA rate of \$0.00296 per minute, and initiate an investigation into Aureon's practices. [Order](#)

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Broadband

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.) on November 27, 2018, in response to their [letter](#) on broadband mapping. Pai said in an August 2017 FNPRM, the Commission initiated a proceeding to take a focused look at FCC Form 477 to explore how it can revise aspects of the data collection to increase its usefulness to the Commission, Congress, the industry, and the public. Pai also said the Commission's Speed Test App is one way consumers can participate in collecting data about broadband deployment, and FCC staff are examining if it could be leveraged to better understand wireless broadband network performance.
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology [released](#) the witness list for its December 6, 2018 [hearing](#) entitled *RAY BAUM'S Act: A Bipartisan Foundation for Bridging the Digital Divide*. The witnesses were: Curtis LeGeyt, National Association of Broadcasters; Tim Donovan, Competitive Carriers Association; Jeff Cohen, APCO International; and Bohdan Zachary, Milwaukee Public Broadcast Station.
- The FCC issued a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on December 5, 2018, seeking Paperwork Reduction Act comments on a revision of a currently-approved information collection regarding pole attachment complaint procedures. As a result of the August 3, 2018 [Third Report and Order and Declaratory Ruling](#), there is an incremental paperwork burden on utilities should they elect to challenge the presumption that ILECs are entitled to rates, terms, and conditions of similarly-situated telecommunications attachers. PRA comments are due January 4, 2019.
- The FCC filed a [Brief](#) with the D.C. Court of Appeals on December 6, 2018, in the case reviewing petitions for review of the March 2018 [Second Report and Order](#) that adopted new rules to streamline the wireless infrastructure siting review process. The FCC asserted Petitioners asked the Court to endorse a new theory that conflicts with decades of precedent from this Court and other circuits and

threatens to federalize broad swaths of private conduct in both the telecom and non-telecom spaces alike. The FCC also claimed Petitioners' Administrative Procedures Act challenges fail.

- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 4, 2018, announcing it released a draft of the [appendices](#) to the [Communications Marketplace Report](#), which will be considered at the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting. The appendices include the data collected and analyzed by Commission staff in developing the draft Communications Marketplace Report. The FCC said the broadband deployment data in the appendices reflect updates to data received and processed after the release of the draft Communications Marketplace Report on November 21, 2018, and certain figures reported in the final version of the Communications Marketplace Report may differ from those in the publicly released draft.
- New America's Open Technology Institute [spoke with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel's Legal Advisors on November 30, 2018, to express concern with the draft Communications Marketplace [Report](#), which will be considered at the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting. OTI asserted that in its evaluation of competition in the fixed broadband marketplace, the Commission relies almost entirely on Form 477 data, and claimed this data set is fundamentally insufficient for measuring competition in the broadband marketplace. OTI also expressed concern with certain assumptions in the Report about broadband competition, including the Report's assertion that markets with two providers are sufficiently competitive. OTI asserted a market with only two providers is not competitive, and it urged the FCC to refrain from adopting the Report as currently drafted.
- INCOMPAS [spoke with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Rosenworcel, and Carr and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 3, 4, and 6, 2018, to discuss the draft Communications Marketplace [Report](#) that will be considered at the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting. INCOMPAS claimed the Commission's current draft report is flawed with respect to its analysis of fixed broadband competition due to its current reliance on the Form 477 data without the appropriate caveats. INCOMPAS requested that the FCC modify its draft and include the same caveat as the Internet Access Services Report that the data "does not necessarily reflect the number of choices available to any particular household and does not purport to measure competition."
- T-Mobile spoke with Legal Advisors to Commissioners [Carr](#) and [O'Rielly](#) on December 3, 2018, to discuss items that will be considered at the FCC's December Open Meeting. T-Mobile urged the Commission to safeguard the future of the high-band spectrum allocations at issue by adopting the [Report and Order](#) as drafted and by moving forward with auctioning the bands. T-Mobile also expressed support for the draft Communications Marketplace [Report](#) and the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) on wireless messaging.
- Microsoft [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 3, 2018, to discuss the results of its data sets illustrating broadband usage nationwide based on the speeds defined by the Commission (25 Mbps/3 Mbps). Microsoft said it compared the FCC's broadband availability data from its Form 477 process and Microsoft's broadband usage data, and said its usage data suggested that only a small percentage of consumers actually access the internet at these broadband speeds in those areas. Microsoft said the Form 477 instructions should be modified so that the FCC is able to report where fixed broadband connections are actually being provisioned, rather than where broadband could be provided.
- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) on November 26, 2018, in response to his [letter](#) on USTelecom's Petition for Forbearance from the Communications Act's resale and unbundled network element requirements. Pai said the comment cycle on the matter has closed, and Commission staff are now reviewing the record in the proceeding.
- U.S. TelePacific, Mpower Communications, and Arrival Communications, all d/b/a TPx Communications, filed a [letter](#) on December 3, 2018, claiming there is a lack of information about commercial arrangements that ILECs intend to offer if the Commission grants forbearance from legacy UNE and resale obligations. TPx said the Commission cannot make a reasoned analysis of the impact forbearance would have on competition, or determine whether granting forbearance would be in the public interest, without evaluating the ILECs' planned post-forbearance offerings. TPx asserted that

while AT&T and CenturyLink have indicated a willingness to discuss commercial replacement products, Verizon and Frontier have told TPx that they will not offer any such details until after the Commission grants [USTelecom's Petition](#).

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Open Internet

- The D.C. Court of Appeals released an [Order](#) on September 21, 2018, announcing oral argument in the Restoring Internet Freedom Order appeal will take place on February 1, 2019. [Fifteen Petitions for Review](#) were filed.

Universal Service

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 4, 2018, seeking additional comments on issues raised in the [NPRM](#) on promoting telehealth in rural areas related to determining the urban and rural rates used to calculate support in the Telecommunications Program within the Rural Health Care Program. The Bureau said since the close of comments on the NPRM, USAC has undertaken extensive reviews of applications for compliance with the Commission's urban and rural rate rules and several carriers submitted requests for approval of cost-based rural rates to the Bureau. The Bureau is reopening a limited comment period to allow parties to supplement the record with any new information or arguments pertaining to the pending urban and rural rate issues and proposals. Comments are due January 7, 2019; replies are due January 21, 2019.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 4, 2018, seeking comment on TracFone's [Petition](#) for an Order directing USAC to alter the implementation of the Lifeline National Verifier and a waiver of section 54.410, as well as a new rulemaking to develop new Lifeline policies. TracFone asked the Commission to direct USAC to implement 15 specific modifications of the National Verifier, including simplifying the paper application and allowing service providers to check applicant verification via APIs. TracFone also asked the Commission to initiate a new rulemaking which would, among other things, explore other methods by which current low-income program participation could be verified more efficiently and by which invalid addresses could be verified more efficiently. Comments are due December 18, 2018; replies are due December 26, 2018.
- Q Link Wireless filed [Reply Comments](#) on November 30, 2018, on its [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](#). Q Link claimed all comments supported its Petition, and asserted the hard launches in the first wave of states shows the current National Verifier interface is a serious impediment to consumer enrollment.
- USTelecom, CTIA, and ITTA filed a [Petition](#) on December 6, 2018, for a one-time waiver of section 54.420, which requires completion of a biennial audit. They said such waiver should apply only to ETCs that have been selected for a Forensic Audit but also remain subject to the existing Biennial Audit requirement, and should extend for a period of two years following the completion of a Forensic Audit, consistent with the framework of biennial audits. They said granting the requested waiver for Biennial Audits would remove the duplication of audits of Lifeline ETCs while still ensuring that the Commission's overall policy of rooting out fraud, waste, and abuse in the Lifeline program is not hindered.
- The Michigan PUC filed a [letter](#) on December 6, 2018, to ask the Commission to grant an additional extension to Michigan's current Lifeline waiver for another 6 months until June 28, 2019. The PUC said there still has been no legislative movement to change the current law in Michigan regarding the Michigan Lifeline eligibility criteria and, as such, the Michigan Lifeline Eligibility Database will not be aligned with the new federal eligibility criteria by December 31, 2018. The MPSC said the 6-month extension of its current waiver would also allow more time for the MPSC and USAC to complete the

work necessary for the integration of Michigan's data sources into a solution that will interface with the National Verifier.

- Q Link Wireless filed a [letter](#) on December 6, 2018, to express support for TracFone's concerns about USAC's implementation of new criteria for SNAP cards that will be acceptable proof of eligibility for Lifeline. Q Link said without any comment process, transparency, or authority, USAC has reversed the Commission's 2012 Lifeline Order. Q Link also said the new criteria are not fully considered and, if continued, will lead to erroneously cutting eligible SNAP participants from the Lifeline program.
- Comcast [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Advisor on November 29, 2018, to reiterate its support for Commission efforts to modernize the Lifeline program to support broadband services and for the Commission's continued implementation of the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier. Comcast said if the Commission decides to eliminate the streamlined designation process, it should adopt appropriate guidelines and constraints for the federal Lifeline program to ensure that states do not impose disparate and potentially costly obligations that are inconsistent with federal ETC designation criteria and other Commission orders and policies, particularly on services and service providers not otherwise subject to regulation by the state.
- Sprint filed a copy of a [letter](#) it sent to USAC on December 3, 2018, to request a revision to USAC's deadlines for submission of reverification information for certain customers affected by the launch of the National Verifier in Colorado, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Sprint asserted USAC's original schedule should be revised to reflect the fact that service providers were not advised of the availability of the final report listing the subscribers for whom updated documentation was required, and the type of additional documentation being requested, until November 16, 2018.
- TracFone [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's Advisor on November 29, 2018, to discuss its concerns regarding a USAC policy change that Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program benefit cards and most Medicaid cards no longer would be acceptable documentation of enrollment in Lifeline-qualifying programs. TracFone asserted implementation of USAC's changed policy would preclude many Lifeline-eligible low-income households from demonstrating their eligibility.
- TracFone [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff and Chairman Pai's Advisor on December 4 and 6, 2018, to discuss concerns relating to the launch of the National Verifier, including the requirement to mandate an issued or expiration date on the acceptable eligibility documentation and its impact on current proofs of eligibility, such as a benefit card used for the SNAP program or a Medicaid card that does not have an issued or expiration date. TracFone also discussed its pending [Petition](#) urging the Commission to direct USAC to expedite efforts to obtain access to key databases and postpone including a hard launch of the National Verifier until access to such key databases has been secured.
- The Telecommunications Regulatory Board of Puerto Rico [met separately with](#) Chairman Pai, Commissioners Rosenworcel, O'Rielly and Carr and their Advisors, and staff from the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau on November 28 and 29, 2018, to discuss restoring and advancing Puerto Rico communications after hurricanes. It also discussed stage two funding for Puerto Rico, and recommended the Commission revisit the current budget.
- Reply comments were filed on December 7, 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. [WISPA](#) urged the Commission to reject an overbroad construction of the government procurement, loan, and grant limitations established under the 2019 NDAA, and revise its proposed rule consistent with this appropriately narrow interpretation of Section 889(b)(1) of the statute. [Hytera Communications](#) said in implementing NDAA, the Commission and other agencies must be careful not to sweep overly broad, lest vendors and equipment posing no cybersecurity risk be banned. [TIA](#) said with 5G deployments beginning in earnest, the Commission should move forward by adopting a rule that promotes national security and provides certainty for the marketplace, and claimed the

Commission currently has the authority to adopt a narrowly-tailored rule focused on specific suppliers of concern. [Public Notice](#)

- West River Telecommunications filed [a letter](#) on December 6, 2018, to provide an updated list of census blocks for Grant and Morton counties in North Dakota pursuant to its Petition for Waiver of study area boundaries.

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State Actions

- [Windstream Iowa Communications](#), [CenturyLink](#), and the [Office of Consumer Advocate](#) filed responses on December 3, 2018, to an Iowa Utilities Board [Order](#) opening an investigation into call completion involving Mahaska Communications. Windstream said it determined it is not the long-distance provider for MCG, nor was it able to recreate any of the calling or voice issues described, and requested the Commission dismiss it from the investigation. CenturyLink said it searched its call history for calls originating from each of the originating telephone numbers identified by Mahaska on the dates and times indicated and was unable to locate any evidence of failed intrastate call attempts. The OCA said it has no initial comments but reserves the right to submit comments in reply to comments filed by other parties.

Misc.

- The FCC issued the [agenda](#) on December 4, 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 database to enable callers to verify whether a telephone number has been disconnected 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 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 Eighth Circuit Court issued an [Order](#) on December 4, 2018, denying the Minnesota PUC's [Petition for Rehearing](#) of the Court's September 17, 2018 [decision](#) affirming the Minnesota district court's ruling that Charter's VoIP service is an information service under the Telecommunications Act.
- State Members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Separations filed a [letter](#) on December 7, 2018, to recommend the Commission extend the current separations freeze rules for up to six years to allow more time for the Board to conclude its work on comprehensive separations reform. The Board also recommended the FCC permit carriers a one-time opportunity to "unfreeze" the category relationship freeze.

- The Commission released an [Erratum](#) on December 7, 2018, to make corrections to Appendix A (final rules) of the October 17, 2018 [Report and Order](#) that allowed all carriers to use the simpler jurisdictional separations processes previously reserved for smaller carriers, by harmonizing its Part 36 rules with the Commission's previous amendments to its Part 32 accounting rules.
- Chairman Pai sent letters to Reps. [Michael Burgess](#) (R-Texas) and [Bob Goodlatte](#) (R-Va.) on November 26 and 29, 2018, in response to [their letters](#) expressing support for Commission efforts to combat robocalls and seeking clarification of issues under the TCPA. Pai said the Commission has sought comment on a number of issues relating to robocalls and is poised to examine and reconsider the issues.
- The American Cable Association and NTCA [met with](#) Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly and Carr on December 3 and 6, 2018, to urge the Commission to make changes to the draft Robocalls Order to help ensure the final process by which service providers report information on discontinued telephone numbers is as minimally burdensome as intended, particularly for smaller providers. They also suggested rather than relying on payments from service providers to fund the creation of the reassigned numbers database, the final Order should state that the independent third-party Administrator selected to administer the database should cover the startup costs, then reimburse itself from the fees paid by database users. In the alternative, they suggested that carriers whose total upfront payment, based on reported revenues, would be less than a *de minimis* amount are exempt from paying any startup costs. They also suggested allowing service providers to be compensated for ongoing reporting and recordkeeping costs.
- The American Cable Association, NTCA, CTIA, and USTelecom filed [a letter](#) on December 3, 2018, to suggest three areas where modifications to the [Draft Order on Robocalls](#) can support the Commission's objectives. They suggested the Commission give the NANC at least nine months to complete its work, instead of six, to issue technical recommendations for implementing and operating the new reassigned numbers database and to recommend a fee structure and fee amounts, as well as direct NANC to consider minimizing the burdens on reporting providers as one of its primary goals. They also suggested the Commission build in a measure of flexibility for voice providers to comply with the proposed 45-day minimum numbers aging period and address TCPA liability issues and provide a safe harbor for callers that utilize the new reassigned numbers database.
- iconectiv [met separately with](#) Commissioner O' Reilly and his Advisor and Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Rosenworcel on December 4, 2018, to discuss a number of operational and design differences between the proposed reassigned numbers database and the functions of the NANPA and Pooling Administration databases. iconectiv also noted the draft Order indicates the Commission intends to select an administrator for the database through a competitive bidding process, but said this presupposes combining the RND service with the consolidated NANPA/PA, which would constrain the options and timeline for how a vendor would be selected and is likely to limit competition for offering the service. iconectiv recommended the Commission instead refer the issues to the NANC and clarify that the NANC will have latitude to recommend an approach best suited to a successful competitive procurement. iconectiv, as Administrator of the NPAC, also addressed certain statements in the draft Order concerning the relative costs of the NPAC operations with the expected costs of operating the proposed RND.
- iconectiv [spoke with](#) Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on November 29, 2018, to discuss the differences between the proposed database for reassigned numbers and the functions of the NANPA and Pooling Administration databases. iconectiv said while the draft Order indicates the Commission intends to select an administrator for the reassigned numbers database through a competitive bidding process, constraining the options for how a vendor would be selected is likely to unnecessarily limit competition for offering the service with potentially negative impacts on the ultimate quality and cost. It recommended the Commission instead refer them to the NANC and the Order clarify that the NANC will have latitude to recommend an approach best suited to a successful competitive procurement.

- CTIA [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner O’Rielly on November 29, 2018, to express appreciation that the draft Order on robocalls seeks to address concerns from callers and consumers about unwanted calls to reassigned numbers while attempting to minimize unnecessary burdens on voice providers. CTIA also expressed support for the draft Declaratory Ruling on unwanted spam messages and for the draft Communications Marketplace Report on the state of the wireless marketplace.
- NCTA [met with](#) Chairman Pai’s Legal Advisor on December 4, 2018, to discuss the draft Order on robocalls. NCTA encouraged the Commission to include a safe harbor from TCPA liability for callers that make use of the reassigned numbers database. It proposed language to provide a safe harbor from TCPA liability for callers that consult the reassigned numbers database within 31 days prior to calling and do not have actual knowledge that the number has been reassigned or that their consent to call the number has been revoked. NCTA also [spoke with](#) Advisors to Commissioners O’Rielly, Carr, and Rosenworcel on November 29 and 30, 2018, to discuss the same issue, suggesting a safe harbor because it would increase the incentive of callers to use the database and thereby reduce the number of calls made to reassigned numbers.
- ZipDX [met with](#) FCC CTO Eric Burger on November 29, 2018, to discuss illegal robocalls. It said the deployment of SHAKEN/STIR will have a measurable effect when: industry moves from the initial version with Service Provider authentication to subsequent deployment of Telephone Number authentication; all providers deploy it; and providers employ appropriate diligence in which calls they sign and at what level of attestation. ZipDx said STIR/SHAKEN will be helpful initially in giving choices to consumers regarding legal robocalls, allowing them to differentially disposition calls that they want versus those they do not.
- Verizon [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O’Rielly and Carr on December 3 and 4, 2018, to express support for the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) that would classify SMS and MMS wireless messaging as information services to help prevent consumers from receiving spam robotexts. Verizon said this classification will enable mobile providers to continue to deliver a trusted messaging platform for consumers that, in contrast to voice networks, remains virtually spam-free. Verizon asserted the analysis supporting the classification of SMS and MMS logically extends to successor protocols such as the Rich Communications Suite or Service.
- AT&T [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and [Commissioners O’Rielly, Rosenworcel](#), and [Carr](#) on December 3, 2018, to express support for the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) on wireless messaging. AT&T asserted this classification ensures greater consistency in the regulatory treatment of these services across the messaging ecosystem and empowers wireless providers to continue protecting consumers from unwanted text messages, thereby keeping messaging services relatively spam-free.
- Public Knowledge, et al. filed a [letter](#) on December 4, 2018, on the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) that would classify two forms of wireless messaging, SMS and MMMS, as information services to help prevent consumers from receiving spam robotexts, which will be considered at the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting. PK, et al. said, among other things, the draft Order rewrites the Communications Act, could apply to voice calling as well, and would undermine the financial stability of the Universal Service Fund. They suggested not only does this classification of SMS messaging and short codes as Title I deprive the USF of potential revenue going forward, it will withdraw from the already shrinking USF contribution revenue the funds from those carriers that continue to treat text messaging revenue as subject to USF contribution.
- T-Mobile [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai’s Legal Advisor on December 4, 2018, about the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) that would classify SMS and MMS wireless messaging as information services to help prevent consumers from receiving spam robotexts. T-Mobile supported the FCC’s decision to deny the pending petitions of Public Knowledge and Twilio, asking the Commission to declare SMS and MMS messaging Title II telecommunications services or commercial mobile services or their functional equivalent. T-Mobile claimed this decision will allow industry to continue to protect the messaging ecosystem and spare consumers from receiving unlawful and unwanted spam.

- CTIA [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Commissioner Rosenworcel and Commissioner Carr's Chief of Staff on December 3, 2018, to discuss items on the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting agenda. CTIA expressed support for the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) on wireless messaging and the draft Second Report and Order on robocalls. CTIA also expressed support for the draft Communications Marketplace Report on the state of the wireless marketplace. CTIA filed a [letter](#) on December 6, 2018, to express support for the draft Declaratory Ruling on wireless messaging.
- Twilio [met with](#) Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Reilly and Rosenworcel, and Commissioner Carr's Chief of Staff on December 4 and 6, 2018, to discuss the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) on wireless messaging. Twilio asserted it is not fairly described in the draft item, saying certain language in the draft item describes Twilio's services inaccurately, and it asked for these characterizations to be corrected. Twilio attached suggested edits to the draft Order, claiming the proposed edits do not affect the analysis or conclusion reflected in the draft Order.
- Zipwhip filed a [letter](#) on December 6, 2018, in support of the draft [Declaratory Ruling](#) that would classify SMS and MMS wireless messaging as information services to help prevent consumers from receiving spam robotexts. Zipwhip said the reasoning employed in the draft applies equally to other texting technologies, such as Rich Communication Service, and said the Commission should broaden the reach of its Declaratory Ruling to include successors to SMS and MMS, such as RCS.
- The FCC [published](#) in the Federal Register on December 12, 2018, the January 2018 [Order](#) that established an Office of Economics and Analytics within the FCC. The Order is effective Dec. 7, 2018.
- Chairman Pai [announced](#) on December 6, 2018, Jane Hinckley Halprin will serve as the FCC's Administrative Law Judge, replacing Judge Richard Sippel, who retired on December 1, 2018. Halprin joined the FCC in 1987 as a staff attorney in the former Common Carrier Bureau, and for the past 14 years, she has served in the Office of General Counsel as an Ethics Counsel and for the past year has led the agency's ethics team as Assistant General Counsel for Ethics.
- The FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 3, 2018, announcing in observance of the national day of mourning for President George H.W. Bush, the FCC will be closed on December 5, 2018. All paper and electronic filings due on December 5, 2018, are now due on December 6, 2018, the Commission's next official business day. The FCC also said December 5, 2018, will not count in computing filing periods of less than seven days, since it will be a Commission holiday. Regarding the December 12, 2018 Open Meeting, the Commission delayed the onset of the sunshine period prohibition, and it will now begin at 11:59 PM on December 6, 2018, rather than at 11:59 PM on December 5, 2018.
- The FCC issued public notices on December 3, 2018, to announce rescheduling of two meetings due to closure of the FCC on December 5, 2018, in observance of the national day of mourning for President George H.W. Bush. The [Technological Advisory Council](#) meeting scheduled for December 5, 2018, is canceled and a new date will be announced in the near future. The [Native Nations Communications Task Force](#) meeting, originally scheduled for December 4 and 5, 2018, will now be held entirely on December 4, 2018.
- No comments were filed 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](#)
- No replies were filed 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](#)

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- 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 - Comments due on Hadlo Technologies' application seeking authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. [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 - Comments due on Sunset Digital Communications' [Petition](#) seeking ETC designation in Tennessee and Virginia for the purpose of receiving CAF Phase II support. Replies are due December 20, 2018. [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. 13 - Comments due on an [application \(supplement\)](#) filed by Curtis H. Hunt and Herman C. Roark (Transferors) and Hilliary Acquisition B2B (Transferee) for transfer of control of Border to Border Communications from Transferors to Hilliary. Replies are due December 20, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 18 - Oppositions due to SDN's direct case in the proceeding on the appropriate benchmark rate for SDN's interstate switched access service that is contained in its tariff revisions filed on September 17, 2018. [Order](#)
- Dec. 18 - Comments due on TracFone's [Petition](#) for an Order directing USAC to alter the implementation of the Lifeline National Verifier and a waiver of section 54.410, as well as a new rulemaking to develop new Lifeline policies. Replies are due December 26, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 20 - Replies due on Sunset Digital Communications' [Petition](#) seeking ETC designation in Tennessee and Virginia for the purpose of receiving CAF Phase II support. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 20 – Replies due on an [application \(supplement\)](#) filed by Curtis H. Hunt and Herman C. Roark (Transferors) and Hilliary Acquisition B2B (Transferee) for transfer of control of Border to Border Communications from Transferors to Hilliary. [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](#)
- Dec. 26 - Replies due on TracFone's [Petition](#) for an Order directing USAC to alter the implementation of the Lifeline National Verifier and a waiver of section 54.410, as well as a new rulemaking to develop new Lifeline policies. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 27 - PRA comments due on the information collection required by the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017, which requires the Commission to establish a registry for intermediate providers and requires intermediate providers to register with the Commission before offering to transmit covered voice communications. [Notice](#)

- Jan. 4 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently-approved information collection regarding pole attachment complaint procedures. [Notice](#)
- Jan. 7 - Comments due on issues raised in the [NPRM](#) on promoting telehealth in rural areas related to determining the urban and rural rates used to calculate support in the Telecommunications Program within the Rural Health Care Program. Replies are due January 21, 2019. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 14 - Comments due on the Second FNPRM and FNPRM that accompanied the [Report and Order](#) that allows certain RLECs that receive fixed high-cost support to transition from RoR regulation to incentive regulation for their business data services. Reply comments are due February 12, 2019. [FR](#)
- Jan. 21 - Replies due on issues raised in the [NPRM](#) on promoting telehealth in rural areas related to determining the urban and rural rates used to calculate support in the Telecommunications Program within the Rural Health Care Program. [Public Notice](#)
- Feb. 12 -Replies due on the Second FNPRM and FNPRM that accompanied the [Report and Order](#) that allows certain RLECs that receive fixed high-cost support to transition from RoR regulation to incentive regulation for their business data services. [FR](#)

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