

NECA's Weekly Federal Regulatory Summary

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December 16, 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC adopted eight items at its December 12, 2019 [Open Meeting](#), including an [order on remand and declaratory ruling](#) that promotes continued investment in IP-based networks by clarifying that a local exchange carrier partnering with a VoIP provider may assess end office switched access charges only if the carrier or its VoIP partner provides a physical connection to the last-mile facilities used to serve the end user.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [concluded](#) the biennial review pursuant to the 2016 [Alaska Plan Order](#). The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau [approved](#) Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative's and GCI's revised performance plans.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau [corrected](#) the ordering clauses of the [order](#) establishing a CAF Phase II eligible locations adjustment process.
- The USDA [announced](#) the availability of \$550 million in the second round of the [Reconnect Pilot Program](#) funding. The application window for this round will open January 31, 2020, and will close March 16, 2020.
- The USDA [announced](#) it invested \$8.1 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural South Carolina. The USDA also announced it invested \$7.9 million in [North Carolina](#), and \$9.5 million in [South Dakota](#). The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect pilot program](#).
- The Office of Native Affairs and Policy [submitted](#) a broadband deployment report from the tribal members of the FCC's Native Nations Communications Task Force.
- [Reply comments were filed](#) on the [15th Broadband Deployment Report Notice of Inquiry](#) to assess the availability of advanced telecommunications capability.
- The FCC [announced](#) the proposed universal service contribution factor for the first quarter of 2020 will be 21.2 percent, down from the previous quarter's 25 percent.
- NTCA [discussed](#) the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.
- [Petitions for rehearing](#) were filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit of the [decision](#) that upheld most of the FCC's Restoring Internet Freedom [order](#).

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 6 - Replies [due](#) on the effectiveness of the [2012 tribal engagement further guidance](#), steps to assist parties with their engagement efforts, and on pending petitions for reconsideration.

USF Reform

- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on December 12, 2019, announcing the conclusion of the biennial review that is required by the FCC, pursuant to the 2016 [Alaska Plan Order](#). The Bureau concluded Circle Telephone and Electric and Bush-Tell will remain authorized to continue to maintain service at existing levels per the December 2016 [public notice](#) and said since the inception of the Alaska Plan, these carriers have not obtained access to new or upgraded middle-mile facilities in any of the areas of Alaska they serve. The Bureau said for the same reasons, Adak Eagle will also remain authorized to continue to maintain service, but noted Adak has a petition for reconsideration pending related to its Alaska Plan authorization. For Arctic Slope Telephone Cooperative and Mukluk Telephone, the Bureau approved the revised performance obligations that are included in the appendix to the public notice.
- The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on December 12, 2019, approving Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative's and GCI Communications' revised performance plans, filed pursuant to the 2016 [Alaska Plan Order](#). The order required eligible wireless service providers participating in the Alaska Plan to submit for Bureau approval individual performance plans with service commitments. The approved performance plans are included in the appendix to the public notice.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [erratum](#) on December 13, 2019, correcting the [order](#) that established an eligible locations adjustment process consistent with the parameters set forth in the CAF Phase II auction [Reconsideration Order](#) and prior FCC guidance for making adjustments to defined deployment obligations. The erratum corrected paragraphs 61 and 62 (ordering clauses) of the order.
- NTCA [met with](#) Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel's chief of staff on December 11, 2019, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. NTCA asserted the current weighting proposals for the RDOF will fall short of achieving reasonable comparability, and suggested the FCC promote the deployment of the most capable services possible in the initial rounds of the RDOF auction, and then to turn to a Remote Areas program to address those areas still remaining unserved thereafter. NTCA discussed its RDOF weighting proposals, urged the FCC to recognize the benefits conferred by services providing symmetrical upload and download speeds through the adoption of a 15 point symmetrical bonus, and discussed the need for more forward-looking usage limitations than those proposed. NTCA also discussed steps the FCC should take to ensure greater accountability in the use of RDOF distributions.
- NTCA [met with](#) Commissioner Starks and his legal advisor on December 9, 2019, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. NTCA discussed the need to recognize the value of better service capabilities and symmetrical services in the RDOF auction and the importance of promoting greater accountability and focus on consumers' experiences both prior to bids and following awards.
- Sacred Wind Communications [met separately with](#) advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioners Rosenworcel and Starks, and Office of Native Affairs and Policy and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 9 and 11, 2019, to discuss A-CAM II, and the RDOF. Sacred Wind said although the FCC's A-CAM II offer was closer than its initial A-CAM offer to meeting Sacred Wind's higher-cost operational cost threshold with a higher cap and Tribal Broadband Factor, the offer was insufficient and could not be accepted as-is. Sacred Wind asserted this resulted in its RUS loans to be adversely impacted and urged the Commission to correct this tribal location shortfall and dedicate more funding for remote Tribal areas. On RDOF, Sacred Wind encouraged the Commission to adopt creative solutions to its existing proposed framework that would incentivize greater participation by Sacred Wind and broadband providers using advanced wireless technologies.
- Hughes Network Systems [met with](#) Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 5, 2019, to discuss the RDOF. Hughes asserted the record demonstrates that hybrid networks are growing in prominence and can be an important part of achieving the RDOF

goals. Hughes also said the bidding tier structure should be technology-neutral and advance the FCC's goal of selecting the most efficient provider to serve each area.

- Nextlink [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 11, 2019, to discuss the RDOF. Nextlink discussed the challenges and costs of obtaining irrevocable letters of credit, based on its experience with CAF, and that letters of credit are treated as committed capital which inhibits the ability of CAF recipients to borrow funds to enhance and expedite rural broadband deployments. Nextlink expressed support for reducing the value of letters of credit over time as deployment milestones for the RDOF are met.
- Fiber Broadband Association members [met with](#) Chairman Pai's wireline advisor and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 9, 2019, to discuss the RDOF and fiber deployments. They claimed certain utilities are slowing providers in connecting customers by requiring them to file a new pole attachment application prior to attaching drops. FBA members also said many of them want to participate in the RDOF program and urged the Commission to adopt the weighting methodology proposed by FBA, which they say will help drive competitive bidding within the budget for the program and ensure that eligible areas have access to future-proof broadband service.
- Aristotle, GeoLinks and WISPA [spoke with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of Economics and Analytics staff on December 5, 2019, to discuss the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund proceeding. They discussed proposals to permit performance bonds as an alternative to irrevocable letters of credit for RDOF auction winners. They claimed Aristotle's cost to obtain an LOC is four percent of the one-year support amount, and asserted this cost would increase over time. They asserted permitting RDOF applicants to have the flexibility to obtain performance bonds and to relax the LOC requirements would promote more robust participation in the RDOF auction. GeoLinks and Aristotle also [met with](#) Chairman Pai's senior counsel on December 3, 2019, to discuss the similar issues.
- Midco [spoke with](#) Chairman Pai's legal advisor on December 6, 2019, regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Midco supported adding in an additional tier of 50/5 Mbps with a weight of 30, and keeping a weight of 15 for the 100/20 Mbps tier. Midco also discussed its concerns with the proposed subscribership requirement and the hurdles of ensuring subscribership in rural America. It also discussed spectrum issues.
- Rural Wireless Association members [met with](#) Commissioner Carr's advisor on December 9, 2019, to discuss the [FCC staff report](#) on Mobility Fund Phase II and its impact on those RWA members who currently receive legacy USF support through the former identical support rule. RWA members discussed their costs to participate in the FCC's challenge process and whether there would be an opportunity to recover those costs. RWA also discussed the need to have a funding mechanism in place to replace and remove Huawei and ZTE equipment from its member companies' network so impacted rural carriers could begin the process of building new networks. RWA members also [met with](#) Commissioners Rosenworcel and O'Rielly and their legal advisors, and legal advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Starks on December 10, 2019, and [with](#) staff from the Office of Economics and Analytics and [the Wireline Competition Bureau](#) to discuss similar issues.
- In addition to comments reported in previous edition of *REGScan*, [Union Telephone](#) filed comments on December 5, 2019, on the effectiveness of the FCC's [2012 tribal engagement further guidance](#). Union suggested a publicly accessible map administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs online to better enable initial needs assessments and deployment planning. It also encouraged the Office of Native Affairs and Policy to seek input from tribes to develop materials to guide telecommunications providers on how to respectfully understand and act accordingly to tribal expectations and practices. Replies are due January 6, 2020. [public notice all comments available](#)

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ICC

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to six members of Congress representing Iowa on December 4, 2019, in response to their letter expressing concern with the draft access arbitration [order](#), which was adopted in September 2019. Pai said the order shifted the financial responsibility for paying certain access charges to the access-stimulating carriers that are responsible for generating them, and closed a loophole that allowed access-stimulating carriers to profit from high-volume calling even without using a revenue sharing agreement. Pai also said the FCC calibrated the new rules to avoid ensnaring rural carriers that have higher ratios of inbound to outbound calling traffic but are not engaged in access stimulation, and adopted a reasonable transition period for carriers to implement any changes to their tariffs and billing systems.
- ITTA [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on December 6, 2019, to discuss the June 2018 [FNPRM](#) on 8YY access charge reform. ITTA asserted the FCC should take targeted actions to address any arbitration and abuses associated with 8YY originating access. ITTA suggested the FCC take a limited step of reforming 8YY database query charges and expressed support for applying a nationwide cap to impose discipline upon such charges and the FNPRM's proposal to allow only one database query charge per 8YY call. ITTA asserted the FCC should not transition 8YY originating access to bill-and-keep, and said if the FCC does so, originating LECs will either have to absorb the revenue loss or recoup the lost revenues from their customers.
- The FCC released a [public notice](#) on December 10, 2019, announcing a [petition for reconsideration](#) of the September 2019 access arbitration [report and order](#) has been filed by Aureon Network Services. Oppositions to the petition will be due 15 days after this public notice is published in the Federal Register, and replies to oppositions will be due 10 days after the time for filing oppositions has expired.

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Broadband

- The USDA [announced](#) on December 12, 2019, the availability of \$550 million in the second round of the [Reconnect Pilot Program](#) funding. The USDA will make available up to \$200 million for grants, up to \$200 million for 50/50 grant/loan combinations, and up to \$200 million for low-interest loans. The application window for this round of funding will open January 31, 2020. Applications for all funding products will be accepted in the same application window, which will close no later than March 16, 2020. A full description of 2020 ReConnect Pilot Program funding is in the December 12, 2019 [Federal Register](#) notice.
- The USDA [announced](#) on December 9, 2019, it invested \$8.1 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure that will create or improve e-connectivity in rural South Carolina. The USDA said Home Telecom will use the funding to deploy 96 miles of fiber-optic cable in unserved areas of Charleston and Berkeley counties in South Carolina, and is anticipated to reach 3,780 rural households, 23 farms, 19 businesses, 19 educational facilities, and eight fire stations. The USDA also announced it invested \$7.9 million in [North Carolina](#), and [announced](#) \$9.5 million in South Dakota. The funding is through the [USDA's ReConnect pilot program](#).
- The Office of Native Affairs and Policy filed a [letter](#) on December 10, 2019, to submit into the record a report from the tribal members of the FCC's Native Nations Communications Task Force entitled *Improving and Increasing Broadband Deployment on Tribal Lands*. The task force said the primary objectives of the report are to inform policymakers about continuing obstacles to broadband deployment on Tribal lands, highlight Tribal success stories and provide potential solutions that could benefit residents of Indian country.
- Reply comments were filed on December 9, 2019, on the [15th Broadband Deployment Report Notice of Inquiry](#) that initiates the next annual assessment of the availability of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion. [USTelecom](#) claimed the record supports a continued finding that deployment remains reasonable and timely, and said the Commission should

continue to utilize the 25/3 Mbps benchmark as its goal for fixed service. It also said the FCC should continue to use the FCC Form 477 data to evaluate deployment of fixed broadband service until more comprehensive data is an option. [NCTA](#) said the Commission should retain the 25/3 Mbps threshold it has used in recent reports and should continue to rely primarily on Form 477 data regarding fixed broadband deployment. The [Utilities Technology Council](#) asserted the Commission should adopt benchmark speeds for broadband that are faster than 25/3 Mbps, and not treat mobile broadband as a substitute for fixed wireline broadband. It also supported the Commission's proposal to separately assess satellite service, and suggested the Commission revise the methodology by which it calculates the number of Americans receiving advanced telecommunications capability. The [CWA](#) asserted the FCC should find that advanced telecommunications services are not being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion, and suggested the FCC raise the broadband benchmark to 100/10 Mbps. It also suggested the FCC recognize that mobile services are not a functional substitute for fixed broadband. The [ALA](#) asserted the FCC does not have adequate information about the availability of or quality of broadband offered to community anchor institutions. It also asserted mobile internet access should not be considered part of the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability because the capabilities of mobile service do not yet meet those of wired broadband access and many services are subject to data caps. [all replies available](#).

- Commissioner Starks [spoke](#) at the Fiber Broadband Association 2019 Annual Premier Membership and Strategic meeting on December 10, 2019, on internet inequality and broadband deployment data. He detailed his plan to make FCC support for expanding rural broadband more effective which includes: funding rural broadband with accurate and actionable maps and data; advancing more affordable internet connections; incentivizing futureproof connections; and investing in responsible auction winners. Starks also [spoke](#) at the Center for American and International Law Institute for Law and Technology on December 4, 2019, on broadband and 5G. He discussed his plan to make FCC support for expanding rural broadband more effective, steps to secure the networks for the 5G era, and ensuring voting systems for elections are secure.
- Commissioner Carr [spoke](#) at the International Institute Of Communications 2019 Telecommunications and Media Forum on December 10, 2019, on 5G. He said the FCC has been focused on updating its broadband infrastructure rules by modernizing its rules and cutting red tape. He asserted these efforts are already delivering results and internet speeds are now up 56 percent compared to just two years ago and the digital divide narrowed by about 20 percent. He also discussed the security of networks and noted the FCC recently voted to prohibit carriers from using federal dollars to purchase any equipment or services from companies that pose a national security threat.
- The Enforcement Bureau [granted](#) on December 9, 2019, an unopposed [motion](#) filed by First Energy Utilities for adjustment of filing deadlines in two proceedings involving pole attachment complaints filed by [Verizon Maryland](#) and [Verizon Pennsylvania and Verizon North](#). The Bureau revised the filing schedule in each proceeding and extended the review periods for final actions on the complaints.

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Robocalls

- The FCC released the [notice of apparent liability for forfeiture](#) and a [citation and order](#) that was adopted at its December 12, 2019 Open Meeting, which proposes to impose a \$9,997,750 fine on Kenneth Moser and his telemarketing company Marketing Support Systems, for apparently making more than 47,000 unlawful spoofed robocalls over a two-day period. [news release](#)
- Peerless Network [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics staff on December 10, 2019, to discuss robocalls, access stimulation and 8YY access charge reform. Peerless discussed its efforts to combat illegal robocalls and said it is fully compliant with the SHAKEN/STIR call authentication standards. Peerless discussed the potential impact of the FCC's recent reforms to reduce access stimulation, and recommended that the FCC consider the proposed reforms to its toll-free access charge regime to avoid undermining its goal of transitioning legacy time-division multiplexing networks to IP-based networks.

- The FCC [announced](#) on December 9, 2019, Chairman Pai and Ian Scott, Chairperson and CEO of the Canadian Radiotelevision and Telecommunications Commission, completed the first official cross-border call using a new system aimed at combating illegal caller ID spoofing. The call took place between Comcast and TELUS networks using a caller ID authentication framework known as SHAKEN/STIR.
- The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation [approved](#) 13 bills on December 11, 2019, including [S. 2204](#), Data Analytics Robocall Technology Act and [S. 2881](#), 5G Spectrum Act.

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Open Internet

- Petitions for rehearing were filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit on December 13, 2019, of the October 1, 2019 [decision](#) that upheld most of the FCC's Restoring Internet Freedom [order](#). [Mozilla, et al.](#) asserted rehearing is warranted because the decision conflicts with the Supreme Court's Brand X [decision](#), and the D.C. Circuit's [USTA v. FCC decision](#). Petitions for rehearing were also filed by the [National Hispanic Media Coalition](#), [New America's OTI et al.](#), and the [County of Santa Clara, et al.](#) The States of New York, et al., filed a [notice](#) to join the petitions filed by Mozilla, et al., and New America's OTI, et al. The Digital Justice Foundation had filed a [petition](#) for rehearing on October 31, 2019. [all petitions for rehearing available](#).
- The FCC issued citations and orders on December 10, 2019, to the following providers of broadband internet access services for failure to prominently disclose its network management practices, performance and commercial terms association with its BIAS service: [ASA Networks](#), [Bridger Cable](#), [Cape Ann Communications](#), [Micro-Tek Solutions](#), [International Power Systems](#), [North Texas Broadband](#), [Reynolds Cable TV](#), and [Ripflo Network](#). The FCC also issued admonishment orders to providers for failing to prominently disclose information as required by the Commission's transparency rule. Orders issued to [Basin 2 Way Radio](#), [Cedar Creek Wireless](#), [Central Communications and Electronics](#), [City of Commerce, GA](#), [ConnectTo Communications](#), [Digital Connections](#), [Flashpoint ISP](#), [Gunby Communications](#), [Leonore Mutual Telephone](#), [MJM Telecom](#), [Native American Telecom-Pine Ridge](#), [OneTone Telecom](#), [Signal](#), [Stoneham Cooperative Telephone Corporation](#), [Tristate Internet](#), and [Two-Way Radio Services](#). The FCC ordered each company to publicly disclose the required information via a publicly available website, or by transmittal to the Commission, within 30 days after the date of the orders, and said failure to do so may result in substantial fines or forfeitures.

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Universal Service

- The FCC Office of Managing Director released a [public notice](#) on December 12, 2019, announcing the proposed universal service contribution factor for the first quarter of 2020 will be 21.2 percent, down from the previous quarter's 25 percent.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued an [order](#) on December 9, 2019, adopting the final E-Rate eligible services list for funding year 2020, which is attached as appendix A to the order. The Bureau removed the explanatory language included in the proposed funding year 2020 ESL under the section entitled "Eligibility Limitations for Category Two," addressed a request for clarification regarding the eligibility of virtualized equivalents of eligible services or equipment, and declined several requests it said are beyond the scope of the proceeding, including requests to add services to the list or modify the category of service under which a specific service is eligible.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on December 9, 2019, to announce the National Lifeline Verifier will soft launch on December 16, 2019, in Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The launch period will allow ETCs to become familiar with the National Verifier and

adjust and test their systems and business processes before use of the National Verifier becomes mandatory.

- The Enforcement Bureau issued an [advisory](#) on December 9, 2019, to emphasize ETCs receiving federal USF support for the Lifeline program remain responsible for claiming Lifeline support only for eligible low-income consumers. The Bureau said while the Commission has created systems to enhance the overall integrity of the Lifeline program and combat waste, fraud, and abuse, it reiterated these efforts do not relieve ETCs of their responsibilities to submit accurate claims for Lifeline reimbursement.
- The FCC [announced](#) on December 10, 2019, the launch of an electronic interface that participating carriers can use when verifying a potential subscriber's eligibility for the Lifeline program. The application programming interface, or API, connects carriers' systems to the Lifeline program's National Eligibility Verifier and will enable carriers to send applicant information directly to the National Verifier for an eligibility check, thereby reducing the paperwork required from potential subscriber.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to eight members of Congress on December 2, 2019, in response to their letter asking the FCC to delay the hard launch of the National Lifeline Verifier in a state until the FCC establishes connections to Medicaid or SNAP databases for eligibility verification in that state. Pai said USAC and the FCC continue to work to increase the number of automated connections with states and federal eligibility systems available through the National Verifier as the rollout progresses and have already completed an automated connection with Medicaid databases. Pai also sent a similar [letter](#) to Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif) on December 3, 2019, in response to her letter on the announcement that the National Lifeline Verifier is now connected to the Medicaid database.
- Chairman Pai [sent letters](#) to 14 members of Congress on December 2, 2019, in response to their letter expressing concern with the proposed USF budget cap, and urged the FCC not to establish an overall cap or combine the cap of any USF programs. Pai asserted each of the USF programs is currently capped or operating under a targeted budget, and an overall cap could help limit the overall contributions burden, and provide regulatory and financial certainty to both recipients of and contributors to these programs.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to Reps. Greg Gianforte (R-Mont.), Bill Flores (R-Texas), and Pete Olson (R-Texas) on December 3, 2019, in response to their letter expressing concern with overbuilding of existing broadband networks. Pai said the Commission is reviewing a petition urging the Commission to prohibit the use of E-Rate funds for special construction of fiber networks that overbuild existing networks. Pai also said the Commission is seeking to create a Digital Opportunity Data Collection to generate more granular and accurate broadband maps, and sought comment on how the maps and datasets can be used to avoid duplicative E-Rate funding. Pai sent a similar [letter](#) to nine members of Congress in response to their letter on overbuilding of broadband networks.
- The FCC issued an [erratum](#) on December 10, 2019, to the December 3, 2019 [report and order](#) on the E-Rate category two budget approach. The erratum corrected paragraph (2) of section 54.502(c) (eligible services) in appendix A of the order.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on December 10, 2019, to provide guidance on the implementation schedule for reforms adopted in the August 2019 [report and order](#) on rural health care reforms, including competitive bidding, opening of the application windows, and the start of funding years.
- Viya filed a [petition](#) for clarification or reconsideration on December 9, 2019, of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds [report and order](#). Viya seeks clarification or reconsideration regarding the appropriate resiliency scoring for buried coaxial cable proposed in competitive proposals seeking Stage 2 fixed funding from the Connect USVI Fund and the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund. Viya said if the FCC declines to issue this clarification, the FCC should rule that buried coaxial cable should be treated equally to buried fiber for resiliency scoring purposes and that buried coaxial cable should have a substantial scoring preference over wireline aerial deployments.

- Carriers filed notices of election on December 9, 2019, for stage 2 high cost support for restoration of service, pursuant to the Uniendo a Puerto Rico and Connect USVI Funds [report and order](#). [AT&T](#), [PR Wireless](#), and [T-Mobile](#) filed elections to receive support in Puerto Rico, and [AT&T](#), [Viya Wireless](#) and [Choice Communications](#) filed elections to receive support in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Misc.

- The FCC adopted eight items at its December 12, 2019 [Open Meeting](#), including an [order on remand and declaratory ruling](#) that promotes continued investment in IP-based networks by clarifying that a local exchange carrier partnering with a VoIP provider may assess end office switched access charges only if the carrier or its VoIP partner provides a physical connection to the last-mile facilities used to serve the end user. The FCC also adopted: an [NPRM](#) proposing to designate 988 as the 3-digit number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline; an [NPRM](#) taking a comprehensive look at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band and propose, among other things, to make the lower 45 MHz of the band available for unlicensed operations and to permit Cellular Vehicle to Everything (C-V2X) operations in the upper 20 megahertz of the band; an [NPRM](#) on removing the existing non-federal allocations in the 3.3-3.55 GHz band as a step towards potential future shared use between federal incumbents and commercial users; an [NPRM](#) on modernizing requirements for notices cable operators must provide consumers and local franchise authorities; and three enforcement actions on [spoofed robocalls](#), and [unlicensed broadcasting](#). Most of the items are not yet released.
- The FCC [deleted](#) from the December 12, 2019, Open Meeting [agenda](#), the [report and order](#) that would revise the Commission's Noncommercial Educational Broadcast Station and Low Power FM Station comparative processing and licensing rules. The FCC said the item has already been adopted.
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued a [public notice](#) on December 13, 2019, seeking to refresh the record on ways to modernize and strengthen the truth-in-billing rules. The Bureau asked, among other things, if it should extend its existing truth-in-billing rules, which currently apply only to wireline and wireless common carriers, to interconnected VoIP service providers. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; replies are due 60 days after publication.
- In addition to comments reported in a previous edition of *REGScan*, comments were filed on December 6, 2019, on the [FNPRM](#) on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. The [North American Submarine Cable Association](#) urged the Commission to undertake a review of its full-time equivalent employee allocations so that it may accurately align revenue requirements with direct FTEs for particular categories of payors based on the actual number of FTEs that work on matters related to those payors, as required by statute. The [National Association of Broadcasters](#) requested the Commission revise the proposed regulatory fees for VHF stations to more accurately reflect their actual population served. [Puerto Rico Television Broadcasters](#) suggested the Commission either reinstate the uniform satellite fee rule for satellite stations in Puerto Rico, or set a standard that limits the market served by a primary station and any commonly owned satellites in Puerto Rico to no more than the total population of the Puerto Rico DMA. Reply comments are due January 6, 2020. [order all comments available](#)
- The Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of Economics and Analytics issued a [public notice](#) on December 10, 2019, announcing Somos issued a [public notice](#) announcing that 44 applicants are qualified to bid in the auction of toll free numbers in the 833 code. The WCB and OEA said Somos' notice lists auction applicants' status as qualified or non-qualified and includes information on bidding and post-bidding processes. They said only qualified bidders will be able to bid in the 833 auction, which will occur on December 17, 2019.
- The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau issued an [order](#) on December 13, 2019, addressing a slamming complaint against Telplex Communications. The Bureau found Telplex responded fully to and took action to resolve the complaint.

- Chairman Pai [announced](#) the appointment of Francisco Salguero as the Commission's Chief Information Officer on December 9, 2019. He was previously with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- No replies were filed on a section 214 application filed by Charles W. Crow, Ruth Ann Crow, and David R. Crow (transferors) and New Florence Telephone, requesting consent to transfer control of Farber Telephone from transferors to New Florence. [public notice](#)

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Upcoming Filing Dates

- Dec 24 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 833, application to participate in a toll-free number auction. [FR](#)
- Dec. 24 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with numbering resource optimization- phase 3. [FR](#)
- Dec. 27 - Comments due on Department of Commerce notice of proposed rulemaking seeking comment on implementation of the May 15, 2019 [executive order](#) which prohibited any transactions involving information and communications technology or services designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign adversary. [notice](#)
- Jan. 6 - Replies due on the effectiveness of the FCC's [2012 tribal engagement further guidance](#), steps the FCC can take to assist parties with their engagement efforts, and refreshing the record on pending petitions for reconsideration that were filed on the tribal engagement obligation reporting. [public notice](#)
- Jan. 6 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) on proposals to amend the FCC's schedule of regulatory fees for FY 2020. [FR, order](#)
- Jan. 13 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with FCC Form 477, Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting. The revisions to the information collection are necessitated by the August 2019 [report and order](#) on the new Digital Opportunity Data Collection. [notice](#)
- Jan. 27 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with tariffing rules. The revisions to the information collection are necessitated by the access arbitrage [order](#). [notice](#)

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