

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

December 18, 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The FCC adopted seven items at its December 14, 2017 [Open Meeting](#), including: a [Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, and Order](#) that will return broadband internet access service to its prior classification as an information service and reinstate the private mobile service classification of mobile broadband internet access service. [Chairman Pai](#) and Commissioners [Clyburn](#), [O'Rielly](#), [Carr](#), and [Rosenworcel](#) issued statements.
- The FCC and the FTC released a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) that addresses their plans to coordinate online consumer protection efforts following adoption of the Restoring Internet Freedom Order.
- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to 39 Senators, in which Pai expressed his commitment to addressing uncertainty caused by the current high-cost USF budget control mechanism while being mindful of mitigating incentives to operate inefficiently.
- The FCC [seeks PRA comments](#) on a new information collection pursuant to the requirement that certain carriers with USF high cost reporting obligations must file geo-coded location information demonstrating they meet their broadband deployment obligations via an electronic portal established by USAC. Another [Notice](#) seeks PRA comments on a new information collection related to the Mobility Fund II challenge process. PRA comments on both notices are due January 11, 2018.
- USTelecom [supports](#) both long-term and short-term solutions to ensure sufficiency within the High-Cost USF fund to support the shortfalls in funding for rural areas, including a new proceeding dedicated to a review of the budget. Nine Minnesota cost-based RLECs [urged](#) the FCC to take immediate steps to remedy shortfalls in the high-cost USF. [Alliance Communications Cooperative, et al.](#) and [BEK Communications, et al.](#) also urged the FCC to take immediate steps to remedy shortfalls in the High-Cost USF. [Nine Ohio RLECs](#) and [four Pennsylvania RLECs](#) who accepted A-CAM support urged the FCC to authorize additional A-CAM funding before December 31, 2017.
- The FCC [announced](#) the proposed universal service contribution factor for the first quarter of 2018 will be 19.5 percent, up from the current 18.8 percent.
- The information collection requirements associated with the Part 32 Order [were approved](#) by OMB; amendments to sections 1.1409(g) and 32.1 are effective January 1, 2018.
- Chairman Pai [approved](#) the USAC Board's unanimous nomination of Redha Sekar as CEO of USAC. Chairman Pai [asked](#) the USAC Board of Directors to redouble their efforts on oversight, specifically in the areas of information technology and security.
- NTCA filed [reply comments](#) on its [Petition](#) for a temporary waiver of the updated minimum service standards applicable to fixed, wireline broadband access service eligible for Lifeline Support.
- Verizon [suggested](#) the FCC immediately transition 8YY access charges to bill-and-keep or, as an interim measure, to reduce 8YY access charges to a low uniform national rate. Teliax [responded](#) to Ad Hoc Telecommunications User Committee's [reply comments](#) on 8YY rates.

Other Key Upcoming Dates

- Dec. 19 - Comments [due](#) on Venture's Petition for Waiver of Part 51 rules to implement its planned January 1, 2018 merger of two commonly-owned and merged study areas in the same state. Replies due January 3, 2018.
- Dec. 27 - Comments [due](#) on the [NPRM and NOI](#) on the changes that would be required to implement complete nationwide number portability between all service providers. Replies are due January 26, 2018.

Editor: [Teresa Evert](#) | Assistant Editor: [Shawn O'Brien](#)

Open Internet

- The FCC [adopted](#) the Restoring Internet Freedom Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, and Order at its December 14, 2017 Open Meeting. The item, not yet released: restores the classification of BIAS as an information service; reinstates the private mobile service classification of mobile BIAS; adopts transparency requirements that ISPs disclose information about their practices to consumers, entrepreneurs, and the Commission; restores broadband consumer protection authority to the FTC; and eliminates the Internet Conduct Standard. The Order will take effect upon approval by OMB of the new transparency rule that requires the collection of additional information from the industry. Statements were issued by [Chairman Pai](#) and Commissioners [Clyburn](#), [O’Rielly](#), [Carr](#), and [Rosenworcel](#).
- The FCC and the FTC released a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on December 14, 2017, which addresses their plans to coordinate online consumer protection efforts following adoption of the Restoring Internet Freedom Order. The MOU said the FCC will review informal complaints concerning the compliance of ISPs with the disclosure obligations set forth in the new transparency rule, and the FTC will investigate and take enforcement action as appropriate against ISPs concerning the accuracy of those disclosures, as well as other deceptive or unfair acts or practices involving their broadband services. The MOU indicated both agencies will broadly share legal and technical expertise, including the secure sharing of informal complaints regarding the subject matter of the Restoring Internet Freedom Order. Commissioner Clyburn issued a [statement](#) on the MOU.
- Commissioner Rosenworcel issued a [statement](#) on December 13, 2017, on the investigation into identities being misused in the Restoring Internet Freedom proceeding, saying the Commission should not vote on the draft Order at the December 14, 2017 Open Meeting.
- One hundred and fifteen Democratic House members sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on December 13, 2017, to ask him to delay consideration of the draft Restoring Internet Freedom Order and remove it from the December Open Meeting agenda.
- One hundred and five Republican House members sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on December 13, 2017, to express support for the Commission’s proposal to reverse the 2015 Open Internet Order. They asserted the proposal is a major step forward in the effort to clear the way for the substantial investment necessary to advance the internet architecture for the next generation and close the digital divide.
- Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) released a [statement](#) on December 13, 2017, to express support for the Commission’s proposal to repeal the 2015 Open Internet Order. He asserted the 2015 Order subjected the internet to new burdens and regulations and threatened marketplace freedom and innovation, and claimed broadband investment has suffered a serious decline in the last two years.
- The Illinois Attorney General filed a copy of a [letter](#) he sent to Chairman Pai on December 13, 2017, on the Commission’s treatment of public comments in the Restoring Internet Freedom proceeding. The Illinois AG claimed that public confidence in the FCC’s comment process has been undermined, and said a full investigation by law enforcement is needed and the FCC must take steps to ensure that its comment process is more secure. The AG also attached a copy of a letter he sent to the FBI urging an investigation of the source of fraudulent comments submitted in this docket.
- A group of internet pioneers and leaders filed a copy of their [letter](#) on December 11, 2017, that they sent to Congress urging them to call on Chairman Pai to cancel the vote on the draft Restoring Internet Freedom Order. They claimed the proposed Order is based on a flawed and factually inaccurate understanding of internet technology and the FCC could not have adequately considered the over 23 million comments filed in the proceeding.
- Free Press and New America’s Open Technology Institute [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel’s Legal Advisors on December 6, 2017, to discuss the draft Restoring Internet Freedom Order. They

discussed the proper treatment of DNS and caching, internet users' and edge providers' interests in retaining the current open internet rules and legal framework, and what they say are the problems with the Commission's preemption claims.

- The Southwest Colorado Council of Governments sent a [letter](#) to Chairman Pai on December 7, 2017, to urge the Commission to maintain net-neutrality regulations for the provision of internet service. It said rural America faces ongoing internet connectivity challenges, and alleviating these will require higher level requirements than simple profitability for providers.
- InvisiMax, AirLink Internet Services, and Amplex Electric [spoke by phone](#) with Chairman Pai and his Communications staff on December 7, 2017, to discuss the harmful effects of the uncertainty caused by the Title II rules adopted in 2015 and the benefits to rural broadband providers and their customers that repealing those rules would bring about.
- Sjoberg's Inc. [spoke by phone](#) with Chairman Pai on December 7, 2017, to express support for the draft Restoring Internet Freedom Order, and discussed how the 2015 Open Internet Order has impacted its business, restricted its access to capital, and lessened its appetite for investment.
- Free Press filed a [letter](#) on December 11, 2017, to respond to letters by [InvisiMax, et al.](#), [Sjoberg](#) and [Blackfoot](#) that made claims regarding the harmful effects of the 2015 Open Internet Order. Free Press asserted some of the claims are speculative, unverified, and untestable, saying absent from their letters are dollar figures, deployment data, and any other quantifiable metric demonstrating the supposed impact of Title II.
- Oracle [met with](#) Chairman Pai and his Legal Advisor on December 6, 2017, to express support for the draft Restoring Internet Freedom Order.
- R Street Institute, FreedomWorks, the American Conservative Union, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and TechFreedom [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Legal Advisors on December 7, 2017, to express their support for the Commission's plan to undo the 2015 Title II reclassification of BIAS, to eliminate the FCC's nebulous general conduct standard, and to rescind the rules prohibiting blocking, throttling and paid prioritization.

[Back to Highlights](#)

USF Reform

- Chairman Pai sent [letters](#) to thirty-nine Senators on December 15, 2017, in response to their letter regarding the delivery affordable access to high-speed internet to all Americans, including those in high-cost rural areas. Pai said the statute directs that USF support be specific, predictable, and sufficient, but today the FCC is not achieving that objective for many legacy rate-of-return carriers. He said the Commission should address the uncertainty caused by the current budget control mechanism, such as guaranteeing at least some minimum level of support to ease the unpredictability and allow reasonable capital planning, while being mindful of mitigating incentives to operate inefficiently.
- The FCC published [a Notice](#) in the Federal Register on December 12, 2017, seeking PRA comments on a new information collection pursuant to the requirement that certain carriers with USF high cost reporting obligations must file geo-coded location information demonstrating they meet their broadband deployment obligations via an electronic portal established by USAC. This information collection addresses CAF Phase II model recipients, RoR carriers, CAF Phase II auction winners, Alaska Plan support, including their submission of fiber/microwave middle mile network maps, and recipients of Phase II support that is awarded in partnership with New York's New NY Broadband Program. PRA comments are due January 11, 2018.
- The FCC published [a Notice](#) in the Federal Register on December 12, 2017, seeking PRA comments on a new information collection related to the Mobility Fund II challenge process. In conjunction with the qualified 4G LTE data separately collected pursuant to another information collection (OMB 3060–

1242), which will be used to create the map of areas presumptively eligible for MF–II support, this information collection pertains to the information a challenger must file to enable the Commission to resolve disputes concerning the eligibility or ineligibility of an area initially deemed ineligible for MF–II support and establish the final map of areas eligible for such support. PRA comments are due January 11, 2018.

- NTCA [spoke by phone](#) with Suzanne Yelen of the Wireline Competition Bureau on December 13, 2017, to address the need for greater clarity related to the recovery of costs associated with providing voice and/or broadband services via the high-cost USF support mechanisms, particularly under a fixed and insufficient budget for programs.
- USTelecom [met with](#) Commissioner Rosenworcel’s Legal Advisor on December 12, 2017, to express support for both long-term and short-term solutions to ensure sufficiency within the High-Cost USF fund to support the shortfalls in funding for rural areas, including a new proceeding dedicated to a review of the budget. It discussed how the insufficiency of funding has effected broadband providers’ ability to build out fiber to rural areas.
- Nine Minnesota cost-based RLECs filed [a letter](#) on December 14, 2017, to urge the Commission to take immediate steps to remedy shortfalls in the high-cost USF fund that they said are resulting in reduced network investments, lower broadband speeds, and higher consumer prices in rural America. They said the cuts in cost-based USF support have risen rapidly from 4.5% to more than 9%, and now to greater than 12%, which frustrates reasonable attempts to plan for future investment. They suggested the FCC continue to collect at least \$4.5 billion consistent with the current overall high-cost USF budget, and use any amounts that may be in excess of that total to assist in funding the shortfall in the cost-based USF mechanism. They also suggested the FCC provide supplemental USF support to fill any remaining shortfall and seek comment on ways to address the budget shortfalls going forward for both cost-based USF mechanisms and the model-based support mechanism.
- Alliance Communications Cooperative, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, et al. filed a [letter](#) on December 12, 2017, to urge the FCC to take immediate steps to remedy shortfalls in the High-Cost USF that they say are resulting in reduced network investments, lower broadband speeds, and higher consumer prices in rural America. They said the FCC should: use the remaining CAF reserves to help fill the shortfall in the cost-based USF programs; continue to collect at least \$4.5 billion consistent with the current overall High-Cost USF budget, and use any amounts that may be in excess of that total to assist in funding the shortfall in the cost-based USF mechanism; provide supplemental USF support to fill any remaining shortfall; and seek comment on ways to address the budget shortfalls going forward. A similar [letter](#) was filed by BEK Communications Cooperative, Consolidated Telcom, et al.
- [Nine Ohio RLECs](#) and [four Pennsylvania RLECs](#) who accepted A-CAM support filed letters on December 8 and 11, 2017, to urge the Commission to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible customer location before December 31st, 2017.
- The National Tribal Telecommunications Association, Mescalero Apache Telecommunications, and Alexicon [met with](#) Chairman Pai, his Wireline Adviser, and Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau and Office of Native Affairs and Policy staff on December 11, 2017, to discuss relief from the operations expense caps imposed in the March 2016 USF reforms. Mescalero Apache asserted the USF reforms have resulted in unintentional consequences related to operational costs incurred by carriers serving Tribal lands, and asserted financial forecasts show the company will be cash flow negative at the end of 2019 unless immediate steps are taken to provide relief. They also [discussed](#) with Office of Native Affairs and Policy staff the Lifeline third party verifier, the ongoing efforts to improve Tribal consultation, and spectrum issues.
- GCI and the Alaska Telephone Association [met with](#) Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 12, 2017, to discuss an alternative proposal for how Alaska Plan participants could map their fiber and microwave middle mile networks, as required by the Alaska Plan Order. They explained the requirements, as adopted in the Middle Mile Mapping Public Notice, require more information, and at a higher level of granularity, than is required to assess the quality of

broadband that can be made available to a community. They attached a diagram as a simplified illustration of what would be reported pursuant to the alternative proposal.

- The Competitive Carriers Association filed [comments](#) on December 12, 2017, on the FCC's [Notice](#) seeking PRA comments on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the qualified 4G LTE coverage data collection for Mobility Fund Phase II. CCA urged the FCC to review and revise its initial burden assessments for the data collection to reflect an accurate assessment of the number of respondents, time, and, most notably, costs associated with the data collection.
- U.S. Cellular [met separately with](#) Commissioner O'Rielly's Legal Advisor and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff on December 11, 2017, to discuss the Mobility Fund II challenge process. It agreed that 150 days is sufficient time within which to develop data and file a challenge, but said the 150-day window should not open until approximately May 1, 2018, to avoid having most of the challenge period occur during winter. U.S. Cellular also asserted thirty days is an insufficient period to respond to a challenge, especially for small carriers. It suggested the Commission extend the rebuttal window to 60 days.
- The Rural Wireless Association [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Advisors, Commissioners Clyburn, Carr, and O'Rielly and their Advisors, Commissioner Rosenworcel's Advisor, and staff from the Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureaus and Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force on December 6 and 7, 2017, to discuss the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process and pending Petitions for Reconsideration. It made recommendations on a number of issues relating to the Mobility Fund and the CAF Phase II auctions including: the use of a one square kilometer grid to determine MF II challenge areas; requiring challengers to submit extraneous data parameters; the commencement of the 150-day challenge period; retaining the 10/1 Mbps MFII buildout standard; the requirement for letters of credit; front-loading MFII support; and the tower collocation requirement. RWA reiterated its support for the CAF II auction to: use census block groups; adopt anti-collusion rules that facilitate participation by small and rural service providers with assistance of counsel/consultants; address the "locations gap" that exists between the model-indicated locations and the actual number of locations; and not to impose additional CAFII auction eligibility requirements on spectrum-based applicants.

[Back to Highlights](#)

ICC

- Verizon [met with](#) Chairman Pai's Senior Counsel and Wireline Advisor on December 8, 2017, to state that FCC action to transition originating access rates and the remaining transport rates to bill-and-keep is overdue, and claimed the delay in completing the transition to bill-and-keep has allowed both 8YY- and transport-based arbitrage schemes to proliferate. Verizon said the FCC should act immediately to transition 8YY access charges to bill-and-keep or, as an interim measure, to reduce 8YY access charges to a low uniform national rate.
- West Telecom Services filed [a letter](#) on December 14, 2017, to disavow the joint statements about T-Mobile made in [filings](#) it made jointly with Consolidated Communications and Peerless Network. It said it was informed by T-Mobile that it does not refuse to establish direct connections with other carriers to engage in arbitrage and that T-Mobile does not receive compensation for access or non-access traffic routed through Inteliquent. West Telecom also indicated it understands from T-Mobile that T-Mobile has established direct connections with several carriers.
- Charter Communications and Comcast [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 12, 2017, to assert the way Charter and Comcast route toll-free calls is more efficient than TDM network architecture, but Charter and Comcast must still incur a charge for querying the 8YY database. They expressed support for rules designed to address 8YY arbitrage, and said they are willing to explore different options for addressing high database dip charges, such as adopting a national cap or unified rate for database query charges. They also claimed aggregation of 8YY traffic can increase network efficiency and is not necessarily bad.

- Teliax filed [a letter](#) on December 11, 2017, to respond to the Ad Hoc Telecommunications User Committee's August 15, 2017 [reply comments](#), in which Ad Hoc claimed Teliax charges excessive 8YY rates and pays other CLECs and IP providers to deliver their 8YY calls to it for termination. Teliax said it has heavily invested in its toll-free origination network and software and is interested in maximizing those investments in the same manner as large carriers. It claimed Ad Hoc's argument that Teliax's revenues are excessively lucrative is flawed, indicating its originating end office switching and common trunk port rates are benchmarked to CenturyLink's Colorado interstate rates, which it said are presumed by FCC rules to be the lowest in the state.
- HD Tandem and Dentons [met separately with](#) Advisors to Chairman Pai and Commissioner Rosenworcel and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 7, 2017, to discuss HD Tandem's IP Homing Tandem proposal that calls for LECs that are hosting high-volume voice applications to be required to home to a new application IPHT. HD Tandem said originating carriers could then choose over which route to send their traffic - via the legacy TDM tandem or via the IPHT. It claimed this proposal would address industry concerns in the near term as well as stimulate the IP transition in the long term by incentivizing carriers to embrace IP networks and technologies.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Broadband

- The FCC [published](#) in the Federal Register on December 14, 2017, a [Report and Order](#) that eliminates the requirement for historic preservation review when utility poles are replaced with substantially identical poles that can support antennas or other wireless communications equipment. The Order is effective January 16, 2018.
- The FCC's Connect2Health Task Force [announced](#) on December 12, 2017, the FCC and the National Cancer Institute signed a Memorandum of Understanding to study how increasing broadband access and adoption in rural areas can improve the lives of rural cancer patients. The agencies have convened a public-private collaboration to help bridge the broadband health connectivity gap in Appalachia. The project will target areas that face the dual challenge of higher cancer mortality rates and lower levels of broadband access. The initial geographic focus is planned for rural Kentucky.
- CenturyLink, USTelecom, Frontier, Verizon, AT&T, and USTelecom [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 6, 2017, to discuss USTelecom's 2017 Pole Attachment Rate and Pole Ownership [Report](#). They claimed the findings of the survey provide compelling data demonstrating that: the rate goals for ILECs set in the FCC's 2011 Pole Attachment Order remain unrealized; ILECs remain in a lopsided bargaining position; and significant disparities remain in pole attachment rates paid by ILECs to investor-owned utilities and those paid by CLEC and cable broadband competitors to ILECs. They urged the Commission to adopt a presumption that the most recent telecom formula yields a just and reasonable rate for ILEC attachments.
- The Edison Electric Institute filed a [letter](#) on December 8, 2017, on the November 9, 2017 report from the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee's Competitive Access to Broadband Infrastructure Working Group. EEI said utilities must be permitted to maintain exclusive control over the electric supply space on their poles, and said no OTMR proposal should include work performed in the electric supply space. EEI also said when considering the value of a pole and attachment database, the Working Group should consider the significant costs, claiming the burdens of the proposed data disclosures far outweigh the benefits new attachers would receive from this information.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Universal Service

- The FCC Managing Director issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 14, 2017, announcing the proposed universal service contribution factor for the first quarter of 2018 will be 19.5 percent, up from the current 18.8 percent.
- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to Dr. Brian Talbott, USAC Chairman of the Board, on December 13, 2017, to state he approved the Board's unanimous nomination of Redha Sekar as CEO of USAC. The FCC also issued a [statement](#) on the approval.
- Chairman Pai sent a [letter](#) to the USAC Board of Directors on December 13, 2017, to ask them to redouble their efforts on oversight, specifically in the areas of information technology and security. He said USAC has not ensured that the technology systems it has implemented to administer the USF are available, reliable, secure, and compliant with applicable guidance, and has not adequately planned for, coordinated, and executed testing and review activities necessary to prove the security, reliability, and functionality of its systems.
- NTCA filed [reply comments](#) on December 12, 2017, on its [Petition](#) for a temporary waiver of the updated minimum service standards applicable to fixed, wireline broadband access service eligible for Lifeline Support. NTCA said grant of the Petition would allow customers currently subscribing to 10 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload service and receiving the Lifeline discount to continue to receive that service should they so choose. [Public Notice](#)
- The Michigan PSC filed a [letter](#) on December 11, 2017, to provide supplemental information for its November 30, 2017 [request](#) for a 12-month extension of the previously-granted waiver of the effective dates of certain Lifeline rules, until December 31, 2018. The MPSC provided information, as requested by Commission staff, on the legislative process and the timing related to the possible development of a portal for USAC to the Michigan data by the Michigan Department of Technology and Budget.
- GCI [met separately](#) with Legal Advisors to Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Rosenworcel and Carr, and Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 5 and 6, 2017, to discuss the draft Promoting Telehealth in Rural America [Order and NPRM](#). GCI said it appreciates that the draft seeks comment on GCI's long-term proposal for prioritizing service to highly rural areas. GCI also suggested the Commission seek comment on how best to allocate the funding shortfall within any given priority tier and on permitting providers to utilize non-public rates received from third party carriers, whether embodied in contracts or only quotes, to determine the average rural rate.
- The Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network filed a [letter](#) on December 12, 2017, to discuss the draft Promoting Telehealth in Rural America [Order and NPRM](#). It expressed support for the Commission's proposal to carry forward from prior years to the RHC Program funding for FY 2017 to reduce proration, but asked the Commission to direct USAC to distribute unused funds carried forward from prior years in an equitable manner for all RHC program participants.
- Community Hospital Corporation filed a [letter](#) on December 12, 2017, to express concern with the financial hardship it says is caused by the standstill in FY2017 RHC funding and the draft Promoting Telehealth in Rural America [Order and NPRM](#). CHC urged the Commission to fully fund all approved applications that were submitted within the FY2017 filing window, using any rollover funds available, as proposed in the draft NPRM.
- MiCTA filed a [letter](#) on December 9, 2017, saying the proposal in the draft Promoting Telehealth in Rural America [Order and NPRM](#) to direct USAC to make unused RHC Program funding available at the time of the proration into the RHC Program for FY 2017 funding to lower or eliminate the proration factor for all qualifying funding requests from non-consortia rural healthcare providers would be an extremely unfair decision allowing individual rural healthcare providers to receive an even larger share of RHC Program funds. It asked the Commission to reconsider this and direct USAC to distribute unused funds carried forward from prior years in a fair and equal manner for all RHC FY 2017 approved applicants, as well as applying any proration that may need to be administered in the same manner.

Misc.

- The FCC adopted the following items at its December 14, 2017 [Open Meeting](#): a [Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, and Order](#) that will return broadband internet access service to its prior classification as an information service and reinstate the private mobile service classification of mobile broadband internet access service; an [NPRM and Order](#) to strengthen the Rural Health Care Program; a [Public Notice](#) addressing co-location on twilight towers; a [Report and Order](#) to harmonize the Commission's rules by eliminating the commercial mobile radio service presumption; and an [NPRM](#) to amend the national television multiple ownership rule. These items have not yet been released. The FCC adopted and released a [Report and Order](#) that amends the Emergency Alert System rules and an [NPRM](#) on the electronic delivery of cable communications.
- Comments were filed on December 11, 2017, on Verizon's [Petition for Waiver](#) of rule 61.74(a) when one of Verizon's FCC tariffs references another. [AT&T](#) said it also filed a petition seeking similar relief, and said requiring special permission from the Commission just to allow Verizon to insert in its tariffs a cross-reference to other relevant Verizon FCC tariffs adds no value and no public policy purpose. [AT&T](#) said the waiver would not affect the Commission's authority to suspend, reject, or further investigate tariff filings, and would not affect the right of review of any interested parties. [CenturyLink](#) said the Commission should grant Verizon's Petition and extend its requested relief to all tariff filers. [CenturyLink](#) said a blanket waiver allows CenturyLink and other ILECs to provide service more quickly and compete more effectively, and will enable the Commission to dedicate its finite resources to more productive use. Replies are due January 10, 2018. Public Notice
- The FCC published a [Notice](#) in the Federal Register on December 18, 2017, announcing OMB approval of the information collection requirements associated with the February 2017 Part 32 [Order](#). Amendments to sections 1.1409(g) and 32.1 are effective January 1, 2018.
- Terral Telephone [met with](#) Wireline Competition Bureau staff on December 8, 2017, to discuss Terral's Petition for Waiver of sections 36.3, 36.123-126, 36.141, 36.152-157, 36.191 and 36.372-382 to unfreeze its Part 36 category relationships, filed on August 29, 2012, and the updated information filed on October 31, 2017, concerning the revenue impact to Terral if the waiver is granted.
- ATIS [met with](#) the FCC's Chief Technology Officer and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Chief Technologist on December 7, 2017, to discuss ATIS' proposal for the SHAKEN Governance Authority. ATIS explained that membership in ATIS would not be a requirement for participation in either the proposed Governance Authority or its Advisory Council. ATIS also discussed its Robocalling Testbed, and explained the rationale for allowing observers was to accommodate service providers who were not ready to participate in testing immediately, but who wanted to observe testing to gain insight into the state of SHAKEN implementations and to understand what would be required to directly participate in SHAKEN testing in the future.
- Reply comments were filed on December 12, 2017, on the [NPRM](#) proposing to allow the FCC to assign toll-free numbers by auction, on a first-come, first-served basis, by an alternative assignment methodology, or by a combination of methodologies. The NPRM also sought comment on whether to consider changes to overall toll-free number administration. [Verizon](#) said any new auction-based method of assigning toll-free numbers should preserve the timely and cost-efficient availability of numbers to consumers, while limiting secondary market transactions to non-speculative corporate ownership changes and ensuring that RespOrgs and their subscribers utilize numbers efficiently. [ATIS](#) agreed with CenturyLink that the FCC should move forward with auctions only if there are significant allocation problems that would be solved by the introduction of auctions and only if the benefits of these auctions would outweigh their harms. [ATIS](#) also said the existing toll-free allocation methodology is effective to fairly address mutually exclusive applications for new code releases. [Somos](#) said if the FCC enacts an auction mechanism or a secondary market, it should clarify the scope of Resp Org authority with regard to management and administration of TFNs. [800 Response Information Services](#) claimed the problem with the FCC's suggested approach is that limiting auctions to Resp Orgs would impose inordinate costs on the industry. The [Association of Toll Free Professionals](#) suggested the

Commission retain warehousing restrictions that make the conversion of disconnected numbers without the subscriber's knowledge and other forms of self-dealing unlawful. [All replies available to date. Federal Register.](#)

- Neustar filed [a letter](#) on December 15, 2017, attaching its response to the Transition Oversight Manager and North American Portability Management on the November 30, 2017 LNP Administrator transition status report and the NAPM's December 7, 2017 Report to the NANC. Neustar claimed these reports fail to inform stakeholders of key elements of transition readiness and the potential for consumer disruption, expressing specific concerns over inadequate and compressed testing of iconectiv's NPAC and lack of an agreed-upon viable rollback solution should the transition to that NPAC fail.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 15, 2017, seeking comment on One Ring Networks' application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. Comments are due December 30, 2017.
- The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a [Public Notice](#) on December 12, 2017, seeking comments on RCLEC's application for authorization to obtain North American Numbering Plan telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. Comments are due December 27, 2017.

[Back to Highlights](#)

Upcoming Filing Dates

- Dec. 18 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) on the appropriate tiers for calculating terrestrial and satellite international bearer circuit fees and the methodology for calculating cable TV subscribers in multiple dwelling units. It also seeks comment on the proposal to adopt a regulatory fee for all holders of section 214 international authorizations. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 19 - Comments due on Champaign Telephone Company's [Petition for Waiver](#) of the requirement that "investments once allocated to nonregulated use may not be reallocated to regulated use," consistent with the waiver process contemplated at that time. Replies due January 3, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 19 - Replies due on the voluntary remand by the [D.C. Circuit Court](#) of the FCC's Tariff Investigation [Order](#) that found certain provisions in tariffed pricing plans for business data services offered by AT&T, CenturyLink, Frontier, and Verizon were unlawful. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 19 - Comments due on Venture Communications' Petition for Waiver of sections 51.909(a), 51.917(b)(1), and 51.917(b)(7) to implement its planned January 1, 2018 merger of two commonly-owned and merged study areas in the same state. Replies due January 3, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 26 - PRA comments due on the information collection requirements to implement sections 201 and 251, to provide for physical collocation on rates, terms, and conditions that are just, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory, and to promote deployment of advanced telecommunications services without significantly degrading the performance of other services. [Notice](#)
- Dec. 26 - PRA comments due on a revision of a currently approved information collection associated with Lifeline/Linkup FCC Forms 555, 481,497, 5629, 5630, and 5631. [Notice](#)
- Dec. 27 - Comments due on RCLEC's application for authorization to obtain North American Numbering Plan telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service.. [Public Notice](#)
- Dec. 27 - PRA comments due on an extension of a currently approved information collection associated with the FCC's consumer broadband services testing and measurement program. [Notice](#)

- Dec. 27 - Comments due on the [NPRM and NOI](#) on the regulatory and technological changes that would be required to implement complete nationwide number portability between all service providers. Replies are due January 26, 2018. [Federal Register](#)
- Dec. 30 – Comments due on One Ring Networks application for authorization to obtain NANP telephone numbers directly from the Numbering Administrators for its iVoIP service. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 3 - Replies due on Champaign Telephone Company's [Petition for Waiver](#) of the requirement that "investments once allocated to nonregulated use may not be reallocated to regulated use," consistent with the waiver process contemplated at that time. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 3 - Replies due on Venture Communications' Petition for Waiver of sections 51.909(a), 51.917(b)(1), and 51.917(b)(7) to implement its planned January 1, 2018 merger of two commonly-owned and merged study areas in the same state. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 4 - Due date for the filing of 4G LTE coverage data pursuant to the Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Order. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 8 - Comments due on Sprint's [Petition](#) for Reconsideration of a provision included in the [Order](#) that granted the California PUC's request for additional time to implement the federal streamlined Lifeline eligibility programs. Replies due January 23, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 8 - Comments due on the California PUC's [Petition](#) seeking a temporary waiver of Lifeline re-certification and non-usage rules for customers affected by the recent California wildfires. Replies are due January 23, 2018. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 10 - Replies due on Verizon's [Petition for Waiver](#) of rule 61.74(a) when one of Verizon's FCC tariffs references another. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 11 - PRA comments due on a new information collection pursuant to the requirement that certain carriers with USF high cost reporting obligations must file geo-coded location information demonstrating they meet their broadband deployment obligations via an electronic portal established by USAC. [Notice](#)
- Jan. 11 - PRA comments due on a new information collection related to the Mobility Fund II challenge process.
- Jan. 17 - Comments due on the [FNPRM](#) on further changes to the pole attachment rules, network change disclosure processes, and section 214(a) discontinuance processes. Replies due February 16, 2018.
- Jan. 23 - Replies due on the California PUC's [Petition](#) seeking a temporary waiver of Lifeline re-certification and non-usage rules for customers affected by the recent California wildfires. [Public Notice](#)
- Jan. 23 - Comments due on potential mechanisms to ensure that erroneously blocked calls can be unblocked quickly and without harm to callers and consumers, and ways to measure the effectiveness of robocalling efforts. Replies are due February 22, 2018. [FNPRM](#)
- Jan. 23 - Comments due on the [Report and Order, FNPRM, Order on Reconsideration, and MO&O](#) on spectrum bands above 24 GHz. Replies are due February 22, 2018.
- Jan. 23 - Replies due on Sprint's [Petition](#) for Reconsideration of a provision included in the [Order](#) that granted the California PUC's request for additional time to implement the federal streamlined Lifeline eligibility programs. [Public Notice](#)

- Jan. 24 - Comments due on the NPRM and NOI portion of the Lifeline [Fourth Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Memorandum Opinion and Order, NPRM and NOI](#). Replies are due February 23, 2018.
- Jan. 26 - Replies due on the [NPRM and NOI](#) on the regulatory and technological changes that would be required to implement complete nationwide number portability between all service providers. [Federal Register](#)
- Feb. 16 - Replies due on the [FNPRM](#) on further changes to the pole attachment rules, network change disclosure processes, and section 214(a) discontinuance processes.
- Feb. 22 - Replies due on potential mechanisms to ensure that erroneously blocked calls can be unblocked quickly and without harm to callers and consumers, and ways to measure the effectiveness of robocalling efforts. [FNPRM](#)
- Feb. 22 - Replies due on the [Report and Order, FNPRM, Order on Reconsideration, and MO&O](#) on spectrum bands above 24 GHz.
- Feb. 23 - Replies due on the NPRM and NOI portion of the Lifeline [Fourth Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Memorandum Opinion and Order, NPRM and NOI](#).

[Back to Highlights](#)

Editor: [Teresa Evert](#) | Assistant Editor: [Shawn O'Brien](#)