**Contents**

**Broadband**
USDA Announces Rural Broadband Investment in North Carolina
Senators Ask ISPs to Help Students Stay Connected During Pandemic

**High Cost USF Reform**
OMB Approves RDOF Information Collection Rule
Hawaiian Telecom Seeks Waiver of CAF Phase II Broadband Deployment Rules
Panhandle Supports Phase 0 Proposal for 5G Fund Support

**Robocalls**
Call Blocking Order Effective October 14

**ICC**
Northern Valley Discusses Refund, Payment Plan

**Other Universal Service**
3 Rivers, Siyeh Discuss Study Area Waiver Request

**Transfer of Control**
Wireline Bureau Grants Pattersonville Transfer of Control

---

**Broadband**

**USDA Announces Rural Broadband Investment in North Carolina**

The USDA [announced](#) on September 11, 2020, it is investing over $21 million to provide broadband service in unserved and underserved rural areas in North Carolina. Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation will use the funding to deploy an FTTP network. This investment is part of the $550 million Congress allocated to the [second round of the ReConnect program](#).

**Senators Ask ISPs to Help Students Stay Connected During Pandemic**

Sens. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), et al. sent a [letter](#) to the CEOs of AT&T, CenturyLink, Charter Communications, Comcast, Cox Communications, T-Mobile and Verizon on September 11, 2020, calling on them to suspend limits and fees associated with increased broadband use, which they say are needed for students to participate in online courses or remote work. They also called for the companies to expand coverage areas, claiming the pandemic has highlighted the impact of the nation’s broadband gaps. [press release](#)
High Cost USF Reform

OMB Approves RDOF Information Collection Rule
An FCC notice was published in the Federal Register on September 14, 2020, announcing the Office of Management and Budget approved, for a period of three years, an information collection associated with section 54.804 (b) and (c)(application process for CAF Phase II and Rural Digital Opportunity Fund) revised in the RDOF report and order. The amendments to section 54.804(b) and (c) are effective September 14, 2020.

Hawaiian Telecom Seeks Waiver of CAF Phase II Broadband Deployment Rules
Hawaiian Telecom filed a petition on September 10, 2020, seeking a waiver of sections 54.310 (CAF for price cap territories – Phase II) and 54.316 (broadband deployment reporting and certification requirements for high-cost recipients) to enable it to comply with CAF Phase II build-out obligations for the year ending December 31, 2019, and subsequent years for 523 locations destroyed or isolated by the Kilauea volcano eruptions that began in May 2018.

Panhandle Supports Phase 0 Proposal for 5G Fund Support
Panhandle Telecommunication Systems filed a letter on September 11, 2020, in support of RWA’s Phase 0 proposal for awarding 5G fund support. Panhandle asserted adoption of the Phase 0 proposal would increase its legacy support to 90% under the former identical support rule and would enable it not only to continue to operate its networks at current levels but to begin build-out and deployment of a 5G network. It claimed without the support afforded to rural carriers like PTCI under the Phase 0 proposal, there would be years of delay before 5G service reaches the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Robocalls

Call Blocking Order Effective October 14
The report and order on combating unwanted and illegal calls was published in the Federal Register on September 14, 2020. The order adopted rules that further encourage call blocking by establishing a safe harbor from liability under the Communications Act and the rules for the unintended or inadvertent blocking of wanted calls, so long as such action is based upon reasonable analytics indicating such calls were unwanted and therefore should be blocked. The order is effective October 14, 2020.

ICC

Northern Valley Discusses Refund, Payment Plan
Northern Valley Communications filed a letter on September 10, 2020, at the request of AT&T, regarding communications NVC had with Commission staff to ensure its refund and payment plan complies with the Commission’s procedural requirements. NVC provided an email chain discussing the draft plan calculations and narrative. NVC also said it spoke with Wireline Competition Bureau staff on September 2, 2020, regarding corrections to the draft plan the Commission staff considered appropriate to comply with the procedural requirements and the order.

Other Universal Service

3 Rivers, Siyeh Discuss Study Area Waiver Request
3 Rivers Telephone, Siyeh Communications and Moss Adams spoke with Wireline Competition Bureau staff on September 9, 2020, regarding Siyeh and 3 Rivers’ petition seeking a study area waiver on the transfer of the Browning, Montana exchange from 3 Rivers to SiyCom. They discussed conditions petitioners would be willing to accept that would allow the FCC to grant the requested study area to complete the sale on or before September 30, 2020.

**Transfer of Control**

**Wireline Bureau Grants Pattersonville Transfer of Control**

The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on September 11, 2020, granting a section 214 application filed by Patterson Telephone Company, Pattersonville Telephone Company d/b/a/ PTC Connect, Wayne S. Thomas, Linda B. Thomas and Tammy T. Krisher requesting approval to transfer control of Pattersonville and PTC Connect from Thomas and Thomas to. Krisher.