Rural Call Completion

Comments on Rural Call Completion Report Due October 29

The Wireline Competition Bureau released a rural call completion report on September 14, 2020, and seeks comment on the conclusion that the rules adopted in the second rural call completion order have been effective in improving rural call completion. The bureau also seeks comment on the effectiveness of the intermediate provider service quality standards adopted in the fourth rural call completion order. Comments are due October 29, 2020.

High Cost USF Reform

Comments on Hawaiian Telecom Petition for Waiver of CAF II Broadband Deployment Rules Due September 28

The Wireline Competition Bureau issued a public notice on September 14, 2020, seeking comment on Hawaiian Telecom’s petition for waiver of sections 54.310 and 54.316 to enable it to comply with CAF Phase II buildout 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. **Comments are due September 28, 2020; replies are due October 5, 2020.**

**Cincinnati Bell Elects Seventh Year of CAF Phase II Support**

Cincinnati Bell, on behalf of its subsidiaries Cincinnati Bell Telephone and Hawaiian Telcom, filed a letter on September 14, 2020, pursuant to the July 29, 2020 public notice indicating it elects to receive a seventh year of CAF Phase II support for each of the states where it accepted CAF II support.

**RWA, NTCA, et al. Discuss Phase 0 Proposal for 5G Fund Support**

The Rural Wireless Association, NTCA, Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, et al. spoke with Chairman Pai’s wireline advisor on September 10, 2020, regarding RWA’s Phase 0 proposal for awarding 5G fund support. They asserted the Phase 0 proposal, which would be limited to legacy support carriers with 500,000 or fewer subscribers, would allow rural carriers currently receiving frozen legacy support to continue receiving legacy support at increased levels totaling $1.5 billion over 10 years in exchange for 5G deployment commitments in their legacy support areas within rural-urban commuting area codes 5 through 10.

**Broadband**

**Senators Urge FCC to Expedite Broadband Connectivity to Native Communities**

Sens. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), et al. sent a letter to Chairman Pai on September 11, 2020, calling on the FCC to expedite broadband connectivity to native communities to improve access to critical services during the pandemic including telemedicine, online education and teleworking opportunities. They asserted under Pai’s leadership the Commission has not done enough to bridge the digital divide on native lands, particularly during the ongoing pandemic. press release

**App Association Discusses Broadband Mapping, Connected Health Care**

ACT | The App Association spoke with Chairman Pai’s policy advisor on September 10, 2020, regarding broadband mapping. The App Association said more accurate and granular maps that can correctly identify unconnected or under-connected areas are essential for the Commission to appropriately target its USF support by deploying broadband infrastructure to the areas it is most needed. It also discussed broadband connectivity for health care and urged the FCC to finalize its proposed Connected Care pilot program as soon as possible. Additionally, it discussed robocalls and spectrum. It also spoke with Commissioners O’Rielly and Carr and their legal advisors, and with legal advisors to Commissioner Rosenworcel regarding the same issues.

**Other Universal Service**

**FCC Announces Fourth Quarter 2020 USF Contribution Factor**

The Office of Managing Director released a public notice on September 14, 2020, announcing the proposed universal service contribution factor for the fourth quarter of 2020 will be 27.1%, up from the previous quarter’s 26.5%.

**Comments Filed on National Lifeline Association Petition**

Comments were filed on September 14, 2020, on the National Lifeline Association’s petition requesting the FCC waive the Lifeline mobile broadband minimum service standard increase and voice support phasedown scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2020. The Oceti Sakowin Tribal Utility Authority urged the Commission to pause any
changes in the minimum standards while undertaking a more comprehensive review of the program. TAG Mobile expressed support for the petition. Replies due September 21, 2020. public notice

Supply Chain

Replies Filed on Supply Chain FNPRM

Reply comments were filed on September 14, 2020, on the FNPRM on how the FCC should integrate sections 2, 3, 5 and 7 of the Secure Networks Act into its supply chain proceeding. The RWA recommended the Commission: adopt broadband definitions to promote flexibility; provide public notice of any updates made to the covered list; and allow providers sufficient time to transition away from equipment and services added to the covered list in the future. FR

FCC Administrative Hearings

FCC Streamlines Administrative Hearings

The FCC issued a report and order on September 14, 2020, adopting changes to procedural rules governing administrative hearings. The FCC codified and expanded the use of a process that relies on written testimony and documentary evidence in lieu of live testimony and cross-examination, and authorized Commission staff to act as a case manager to supervise development of the written hearing record when the Commission designates itself as the presiding officer at a hearing. The FCC also dispensed with the preparation of an initial opinion whenever the record of a proceeding can be certified to the Commission for final decision.