



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU RELEASES DATA FOR CAF BLS AND ALASKA PLAN COMPETITIVE OVERLAP CHALLENGE PROCESSES

WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 16-271

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) hereby announces that the updated June 30, 2016 Form 477 data, released June 6, 2017,<sup>1</sup> will be used for the competitive overlap challenge processes for Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS) and the Alaska Plan.<sup>2</sup> The Bureau also makes available a list by study area of the competitors that report broadband service in each census block pursuant to that data set.<sup>3</sup> As requested by the industry, the Bureau provides this information to assist CAF BLS and Alaska Plan recipients plan their broadband network buildouts.<sup>4</sup>

Today's announcement of the data set that will be used for the competitive overlap challenge processes does *not* initiate a challenge process for either CAF BLS or the Alaska Plan. Therefore, at this time, no action is required by either competitors or eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs). The Bureau will provide additional information at a later date about those challenge processes, and will not make changes to the data or consider information parties submit regarding the CAF BLS and the Alaska Plan competitive overlap challenge processes prior to initiation of those challenge processes.

As a reminder, when the Bureau formally initiates the challenge processes, competitors that seek to participate in either challenge process will be required to certify and provide supporting documentation demonstrating that they offer voice and broadband services meeting the requisite requirements to at least 85 percent of the locations in the overlapped census blocks.<sup>5</sup> ETCs and other interested parties will then

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<sup>1</sup> *FCC Releases Updated Form 477 Data on Fixed Broadband Deployment as of June 30, 2016*, WC Docket No. 11-10, Public Notice, DA 17-552 (WCB Jun. 6, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> See *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., Report and Order, Order and Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 3087, 3131-42, paras. 116-145 (2016) (*Rate-of-Return Reform Order*); *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 10139, 10151-53, paras. 36-40 (2016) (*Alaska Plan Order*).

<sup>3</sup> See [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-345712A1.xlsx](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-345712A1.xlsx). For convenience, the Bureau also provides a list of competitors aggregated to the study area level. See [https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-345711A1.xlsx](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-345711A1.xlsx).

<sup>4</sup> See Letter from Michael R. Romano, Senior Vice President – Industry Affairs & Business Development, NTCA, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 10-90, at 2 (filed May 9, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> See *Rate-of-Return Reform Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 3133, para. 121, and *Alaska Plan Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 10152, para. 38; see also 47 CFR 54.308(a)(2), 54.319(d).

have an opportunity to respond.<sup>6</sup> After the conclusion of the comment cycle, the Bureau will make final determinations as to which census blocks are competitively served, weighing all of the evidence in the record.<sup>7</sup>

For further information, please contact Suzanne Yelen, Industry Analysis & Technology Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at 202-418-0626 or [Suzanne.Yelen@fcc.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Yelen@fcc.gov).

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<sup>6</sup> *Rate-of-Return Reform Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 3138, para. 132; *Alaska Plan Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 10152, para. 39.

<sup>7</sup> *Rate-of-Return Reform Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 3138, para. 133; *Alaska Plan Order*, 31 FCC Rcd at 10152, para. 39