



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 11-1937
Released: November 22, 2011

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES CONVERSION TO 2010 CENSUS TRACTS FOR BROADBAND SUBSCRIBERSHIP REPORTING IN FUTURE FCC FORM 477 FILINGS

WC Docket No. 07-38

The Commission requires facilities-based wired, terrestrial fixed wireless, and satellite broadband service providers to report on FCC Form 477 the number of broadband subscribers they have in each census tract they serve.¹ The Census Bureau changed the boundaries of some census tracts as part of the 2010 Census. This public notice announces, in response to informal inquiries from broadband service providers, that broadband service providers must use the revised census tracts (i.e., the 2010 census tracts) to report broadband subscribership information in the FCC Form 477 filing that is due no later than March 1, 2012. That filing will collect information about the filers' operations as of December 31, 2011. Broadband service providers also will use the 2010 census tracts in subsequent FCC Form 477 reports pending further revisions in census tract boundaries by the Census Bureau.

This is a change from earlier Form 477 filings in which entities reported broadband subscribership information using the census tract boundaries that the Census Bureau employed in the 2000 Census.

FORM 477 FILING SYSTEM MODIFICATIONS

To facilitate the transition to reporting based on the 2010 census tracts, the Wireline Competition Bureau staff is modifying the Commission's Form 477 electronic filing system. These modifications will be largely transparent to filers.

- For submissions of information as of December 31, 2011 and subsequent data-collection dates, the system will recognize as valid only the census tract codes that were valid for the 2010 Census.
- For revisions of information as of June 30, 2011 and earlier data-collection dates, the system will continue to recognize as valid only the census tract codes that were valid for the 2000 Census.

¹ See *Development of Nationwide Broadband Data to Evaluate Reasonable and Timely Deployment of Advanced Services to All Americans, Improvement of Wireless Broadband Subscribership Data, and Development of Data on Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Subscribership*, WC Docket No. 07-38, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 23 FCC Rcd 9691, 9695-97, paras. 10-12 (2008) (*2008 Broadband Data Gathering Order*). Although facilities-based mobile broadband providers report subscribership by state, they are required to identify the census tracts that best represent their broadband service footprint for each of the speed tiers in which they offer service. *Id.* at 6998, para. 16.

WEBSITE INSTRUCTIONS

To provide additional guidance on use of 2010 census tracts, the staff is updating the explanatory materials on the “Form 477 Resources for Filers” webpage located at <http://transition.fcc.gov/form477/>.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The Bureau expects system modifications and website changes to be completed by early January 2012.

RESOURCES

- The “Census Tract Information” link, within the “Form 477 Resources for Filers” webpage located at <http://transition.fcc.gov/form477/>, will be updated to include the 2010 census tract codes that the online filing system will accept as valid for broadband information as of December 31, 2011 and later dates.
- 2010 Census Tract Reference Maps:
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/pl10_map_suite/tract.html.
- 2010 Census Tract Relationship Files:
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/2010census/tract_rel/tract_rel.html.

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (tty).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about the FCC Form 477 requirements is available at <http://transition.fcc.gov/form477/>. Specific questions about the requirements may be sent to 477info@fcc.gov, and the Form 477 staff may be contacted at Industry Analysis and Technology Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, (202) 418-0940, (202) 418-0484 (tty). For additional information about this public notice, please contact Ellen Burton at (202) 418-0958 or by email: ellen.burton@fcc.gov.