**DA 16-94**

**January 28, 2016**

**FCC AND DOL ANNOUNCE AGENDA FOR SECOND WORKSHOP ON**

**TOWER CLIMBER SAFETY AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

As part of the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) and Department of Labor’s (DOL) efforts to reduce communications tower-related fatalities and injuries, the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announce the agenda for their upcoming workshop on tower climber safety and Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP). As previously announced by Public Notice on December 15, 2015, the workshop will be held on February 11, 2016, in the Commission Meeting Room at FCC Headquarters in Washington, D.C., from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

This workshop will include panel discussions focusing on:

* Guidance on best practices for improving tower climber safety,[[1]](#footnote-2)
* The comments received in response to OSHA’s Request for Information on Communication Tower Safety (OSHA-2014-0018), and
* Implementation of the TIRAP program and telecommunications workforce development.

**Workshop Agenda**

**February 11, 2016**

**9:00 – 9:30 am Opening Remarks**

Roger Sherman, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC

Dean McKenzie, Acting Director, Directorate of Construction, DOL

Eric M. Seleznow, Deputy Assistant Secretary, ETA, DOL

Tom Wheeler, Chairman, FCC

**9:30 – 10:30 am First Panel Discussion   
FCC/DOL Guidance on Best Practices for Improving Safety**

Angela Jones, Union Wireless

Don Doty, National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE)

Jason Becker, National Radio Operations Branch, BLM

John Parham, Jacobs Engineering Group

Kevin Schmidt, National Wireless Safety Alliance (NWSA)

Wade Sarver, Wade4Wireless.com

*Moderators:*

*Claire Wack, Attorney Advisor, Competition and Infrastructure Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC*

*Jessica Douma, Regulatory Analyst, OSHA*

**10:30 – 11:30 am Second Panel Discussion**

**Comments Received in Response to OSHA’s Request for Information on Communication Tower Safety (OSHA-2014-0018)**

Bridgette Hester, Hubble Foundation

Craig Lekutis, WirelessEstimator.com

Nick Vespa, Southeastern Towers

Richard Cullum, Crown Castle

*Moderators:*

*Michael Janson, Associate Chief, Competition and Infrastructure Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC*

*Erin Patterson, Regulatory Analyst, OSHA*

**11:30 – 12:30 pm Third Panel Discussion   
Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP) and Telecommunications Workforce Development**

Chase Hammock, TIRAP Apprentice, MUTI/Sabre Industries

Dave Anthony, Shenandoah Tower

David Sams, SBA Communications

Jonathan Adelstein, PCIA – The Wireless Infrastructure Association

Laurie Gebhardt, Verizon Wireless

*Moderators:*

*Zachary Boren, Senior Advisor, Office of Apprenticeship, ETA*

*Matthew Warner, Attorney Advisor, Competition and Infrastructure Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC*

**12:30 pm Concluding Remarks**

**Attendance.** The workshop is free and open to the public. Attendees do not need to pre‑register. All attendees are requested to arrive promptly and with adequate time for building security. Attendees will be required to present photo identification to enter the building.

**Webcast.** The FCC will webcast the workshop on the FCC webpage. The webcast may be viewed at <http://www.fcc.gov/live>. Viewers may submit questions during the workshop via email at [livequestions@fcc.gov](mailto:livequestions@fcc.gov) and on Twitter using the “#FCClive” hashtag.

**Accessibility Information.** Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell us how to contact you if we need more information. Make your request as early as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be possible to fill. Send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

**Press Inquiries and Additional Information for Attendees.** For press inquiries or further information about attending the workshop, contact Cecilia Sulhoff, FCC, at (202) 418-0587, Cecilia.Sulhoff@fcc.gov; Brian Hawthorne, Special Assistant, DOL, at (202) 693-4681, Lawder.Jesse@dol.gov; Mandy McClure, Special Assistant, DOL, at (202) 693-4672, North.Lauren.A@dol.gov; and/or Zachary Boren, Senior Advisor, Office of Apprenticeship, Employment and Training Administration, DOL, at (202) 693-3793, Boren.Zachary@dol.gov.

**- FCC and DOL -**

1. A draft guidance document will be posted prior to the workshop at [http://www.osha.gov/doc/topics/communicationtower/index.html](http://www.osha.gov/doc/topics/communicationtower/index.html#_blank). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)