



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES OCTOBER 28, 2021 COMPLIANCE DATE FOR SUBMARINE CABLE OUTAGE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

### GN DOCKET NO. 15-206

On July 12, 2016, the Commission released a *Report and Order* in GN Docket No. 15-206 (*Order*) establishing rules requiring submarine cable licensees to report when submarine (or “undersea”) cable outages occur and when communications over those facilities are disrupted.<sup>1</sup> On December 20, 2019, the Commission adopted an *Order on Reconsideration (Recon Order)*, modifying certain aspects of the required reporting to conform with how the Commission plans to use the reported information.<sup>2</sup>

On March 25, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget approved the information collection associated with the *Order* and *Recon Order* (OMB Control # 3060-1283). Under this new information collection, licensees must report specific unplanned outages greater than 30 minutes on a portion of the cable system between submarine line terminal equipment (SLTE) or greater than four hours when it affects a fiber pair.<sup>3</sup> Today, the Commission published notice of this approval in the Federal Register, triggering the 6 month compliance with the rule provisions subject to OMB approval.<sup>4</sup> The compliance date of these rules is accordingly October 28, 2021. Licensees must submit this information using the FCC’s Network Outage Reporting System (NORS).<sup>5</sup>

For further information regarding this proceeding, contact Scott Cinnamon at (202) 418-2319 or [scott.cinnamon@fcc.gov](mailto:scott.cinnamon@fcc.gov) or Charlene C. Goldfield at (202) 418-1372 or [charlene.goldfield@fcc.gov](mailto:charlene.goldfield@fcc.gov), Attorney-Advisors of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Cybersecurity and Communications Reliability Division.

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<sup>1</sup> *Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data*, GN Docket No. 15-206, Report and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 7947 (2016).

<sup>2</sup> *Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data*, GN Docket No. 15-206, Order on Reconsideration, 34 FCC Rcd 13054 (2019) (*Recon Order*).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 13057-9, para. 11, 16-18.

<sup>4</sup> Federal Communications Commission, *Improving Outage Reporting for Submarine Cables and Enhanced Submarine Cable Outage Data*, 86 Fed Reg. 22360 (Apr. 28, 2021); *Recon Order*, 34 FCC Rcd at 13067, para. 42.

<sup>5</sup> *Network Outage Reporting System* (Feb. 3, 2021), <https://www.fcc.gov/network-outage-reporting-system-nors>.