



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
Internet: www.fcc.gov

DA-25-959

Released: November 19, 2025

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU EXTENDS COMMENT DEADLINES FOR ALASKA CONNECT FUND ELIGIBLE-AREAS MAP AND PERFORMANCE PLAN TEMPLATE

WC Docket No. 23-328

Revised Comment Date: December 4, 2025

Revised Reply Comment Date: December 19, 2025

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) extends the comment and reply deadlines previously established in its Public Notice, released on September 30, 2025, regarding the Alaska Connect Fund Eligible-Areas Map and Performance Plan Template.¹ The Public Notice established a comment due date of October 31, 2025, and a reply comment due date of November 14, 2025.² WTB now extends those dates as set forth in this Public Notice.

The day after WTB and OEA released the Public Notice and the Eligible Areas Map, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) was partially shut down due to a lapse of appropriations. This led to a suspension of most of the Commission's operations effective 12:00:01 a.m. EDT on October 1, 2025.³ During the lapse in funding, Commission staff were unable to respond to Alaska Connect Fund questions and issues that arose from stakeholders.

On October 24, 2025, the Alaska Telecom Association (ATA) requested a "30-day extension of the comment deadline and a 45-day extension of the reply comment deadline, either from the original due dates, or the date the Commission returns to normal operations following the lapse in appropriations, whichever is later."⁴ ATA argues that the extension is warranted because it "cause[s] no harm to any party in the proceeding, and cause[s] no significant delay," and that the Commission "has granted extensions in the past when a government shutdown hampered discussions between affected parties and Commission staff."⁵ The Alaska Remote Carrier Coalition (ARCC) supports ATA's motion.⁶

¹ *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Seeks Comment on the Initial Eligible-Areas Map and Performance Plan Template for the Alaska Connect Fund*, WC Docket No. 23-328, Public Notice, DA 25-916 (rel. Sept. 30, 2025).

² *Id.*

³ *Impact of Potential Lapse in Funding on Commission Operations*, Public Notice, DA 25-922 (rel. Sept. 30, 2025), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-922A1.pdf>.

⁴ ATA, Motion for Extension of Time to File Comments and Replies, WC Docket No. 23-328 (filed Oct. 24, 2025).

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

While it is the general policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted,⁷ under the circumstances presented, we conclude that a limited extension of the comment and reply comment deadlines is warranted in order to develop the record to the fullest extent possible in this proceeding. Interested parties can use this time to develop complete, fully supported comments and reply comments. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,⁸ and Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules,⁹ we extend the deadline for filing comments until December 4, 2025, and for reply comments until December 19, 2025.

For further information, contact ACF@fcc.gov.

-FCC-

(Continued from previous page) _____

⁶ ARCC, Comments of Alaska Remote Carrier Coalition Supporting the ATA Request for Extension of Time Regarding Initial Eligible-Areas Map and Performance Plan Template (filed Oct. 24, 2025).

⁷ 47 CFR § 1.46(a).

⁸ 47 U.S.C. § 154(i).

⁹ 47 CFR § 1.46.