



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

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

DA 26-813

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NATIVE NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE NOTICE REGARDING THE *EX PARTE* STATUS OF PRESENTATIONS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) recently announced additional appointments to the Native Nations Communications Task Force (Task Force) and date of first meeting.¹

The Task Force, composed exclusively of Tribal officials and senior FCC staff, is not subject to the procedures set forth in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)² because of an exemption provided under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).³ The UMRA exemption is intended to promote the free exchange of ideas between officials of the federal government and state, local and tribal governments (or their designated employees) on matters of common interest while meeting in closed sessions.⁴ Accordingly, meetings of the Task Force are not open to the public.

Because the UMRA exemption provides for conversations among the Task Force members and Commission staff or Commissioners, pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §1.1200(a), presentations to the Task Force, including to any subcommittees and working groups and at any roundtable discussions sponsored by the Task Force, and presentations between Task Force members and FCC staff or Commissioners, will be treated as exempt presentations for *ex parte* purposes. This treatment is appropriate since such presentations, like comments on a Notice of Inquiry, will not directly result in the promulgation of new rules.⁵

¹ *FCC Chairman Brendan Carr announced additional appointments to the FCC's Native Nations Communications Task Force and date of first meeting*, Public Notice, DA 26-737 (July 16, 2026).

² *See* 5 U.S.C. App.2.

³ *See* 2 U.S.C. §1534(b).

⁴ UMRA permits federal officials or their designated employees to speak with their state, local, and tribal counterparts without implicating the FACA as long as a two-part test set forth in 2 U.S.C. §1534(b) is satisfied: "(1) meetings are held exclusively between federal officials and elected officers of state, local, and tribal governments (or their designated employees with authority to act on their behalf) acting in their official capacities"; and (2) "such meetings are solely for the purpose of exchanging views, information, or advice relating to the management or implementation of federal programs established pursuant to statute, that explicitly or inherently share intergovernmental responsibilities or administration."

⁵ *See* 47 CFR § 1.1204(b)(1) (exempt treatment of presentations regarding a Notice of Inquiry).

We recognize, however, that in the course of its work the Task Force may address issues that are subject to pending rulemaking proceedings. The Commission will not rely in these proceedings on any information submitted to the Task Force, or to any of its subcommittees, working groups, or sponsored roundtables, or information conveyed by Task Force members to FCC staff or Commissioners, unless that information is first placed in the record of the relevant proceeding.

ACCESSIBLE FORMATS

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 and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Office of Native Affairs and Policy at Native@fcc.gov.

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