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**For Immediate Release**

**FCC IMPROVES AND PROPOSES UPDATES TO ITS COMMUNICATIONS  
NETWORK OUTAGE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**  
*Action Will Promote Network Reliability*

WASHINGTON, May 25, 2016 – The Federal Communications Commission today took action to improve and update its communications network outage reporting requirements so that the agency can maintain awareness of network disruptions and promote reliable communications for consumers and businesses.

For over a decade, communications providers have kept the Commission apprised of major disruptions in their networks in accordance with the agency’s network outage reporting requirements. Data from these reports have enabled the Commission to detect adverse outage trends, monitor and assist restoration efforts in times of crisis, and coordinate with public safety officials and other affected third parties. Post-restoration, this information has enabled the Commission to facilitate industry-wide network improvements (for example, by encouraging the development of industry best practices) and standards-setting.

In a Report and Order adopted today, the Commission made targeted refinements to its current reporting requirements to enhance the information it receives on outages related to legacy networks and reduce burdens on industry.

In addition, in an accompanying Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission proposed updating its reporting requirements to keep pace with technological change. The Commission noted that communications providers are transitioning from legacy to IP-based networks, and the nation’s 911 services are already increasingly reliant on broadband technology. However the current outage reporting requirements are largely centered on legacy networks and services. The Commission is therefore seeking comment on a proposal to update its reporting requirements to address broadband disruptions. The Commission also proposed updates to its current reporting requirements for interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers to ensure greater usefulness and consistency of information, as well as proposed changes to better reflect wireless outages in rural areas.

Action by the Commission May 25, 2016 by Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Order on Reconsideration (FCC 16-63). Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel approving. Commissioners Pai and O’Rielly concurring in part and dissenting in part. Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai and O’Rielly issuing separate statements.

PS Docket No. 15-80; ET Docket No. 04-35; PS Docket No. 11-82

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).*