

Media Contact:

Mark Wigfield, (202) 418-0253
mark.wigfield@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**FCC PROPOSES IMPROVEMENTS TO BROADBAND & VOICE
SERVICES DATA COLLECTION**

Also Considers Eliminating Unnecessary and Burdensome Collection Requirements

WASHINGTON, August 3, 2017 – The Federal Communications Commission is exploring ways to improve the quality, accuracy, and usefulness of the data it collects on fixed and mobile voice and broadband service.

At the same time, the Commission is examining how it can reduce burdens on industry by eliminating unnecessary or onerous data filing requirements. A Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted by the FCC today seeks comment on proposals to accomplish both these goals as part of the Commission’s ongoing efforts to improve the value of the data it collects.

Accurate and reliable data on fixed and mobile service are critical to sound decision-making and a vital tool in developing policies to close the digital divide, promote competition, and more. The FCC established its deployment data collection program in 2000, and requires providers to file the information on FCC Form 477 twice a year. The FCC from the outset of the collection has worked with industry, researchers and advocates to identify revisions that would improve quality and ease burdens.

The initial comment period ends 30 days after publication of the Further Notice in the Federal Register, and the reply period ends 45 days after publication. For more information about the FCC’s Form 477 data program, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/general/broadband-deployment-data-fcc-form-477>.

Action by the Commission August 3, 2017 by Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 17-103). Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn and O’Rielly approving and issuing separate statements.

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Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500
ASL Videophone: 1-844-432-2275
TTY: (888) 835-5322
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