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For Immediate Release**FCC STREAMLINES RULES TO SPEED TRANSITION TO
MODERN BROADBAND NETWORKS**

WASHINGTON, November 16, 2017—The Federal Communications Commission today enacted reforms that will better enable providers to invest in next-generation networks. The FCC is also seeking comment on additional reforms, including how the FCC can expedite rebuilding and repairing broadband infrastructure after natural disasters. With broadband an essential component of modern life, the FCC is working to ensure its rules allow carriers to invest in modern networks rather than devote scarce resources to outmoded legacy services.

One set of changes approved govern access to utility poles and conduits, which can be a costly and time-consuming barrier to broadband deployment. Changes include rules that:

- Reduce costs faced by broadband providers by barring pole owners from charging for certain costs they have already recovered from others (called make-ready fees).
- Speed resolution of pole attachment disputes by the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau through use of a 180-day “shot clock.”
- Allow local providers equal access to each other’s poles.

Another set of reforms revise rules that needlessly delay or even stop companies from replacing copper with fiber and that delay discontinuance of technologies from the 1970s in favor of services using Internet Protocol (IP) technologies. The reforms will:

- Allow providers to notify customers, including federal agencies, earlier of upcoming network changes and copper retirements.
- Reduce consumer confusion and carrier burden caused by duplicative Commission-mandated copper retirement notices.
- Speed the timeframe for upgrading copper to fiber.
- Expedite applications filed by carriers seeking to: (1) stop taking new customers for low-speed voice and data services; (2) discontinue previously “grandfathered” low-speed data services; and (3) discontinue low-speed services for which there are no customers.
- Eliminate section 214(a) discontinuance requirements for solely wholesale services.
- Reverse a 2014 interpretation that diverted investment from next-generation networks by requiring carriers to receive FCC approval before upgrading legacy services.

Today’s actions do not affect providers’ obligations to comply with 911 service requirements regardless of the technology a provider uses. In addition, all voice services remain subject to requirements that they support access by people with disabilities, regardless of technology.

Action by the Commission November 16, 2017 by Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (FCC 17-154). Chairman Pai, Commissioners O’Rielly and Carr approving. Commissioner Clyburn dissenting. Commissioner Rosenworcel

approving in part and dissenting in part. Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O’Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel issuing separate statements.

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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. Cir. 1974).