

Media Contact:

Will Wiquist
will.wiquist@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL ADVANCES SUPPLEMENTAL
COVERAGE FROM SPACE FRAMEWORK**

***New Rules to Be Voted at March Open Meeting Would Harness the Power of
Satellites to Enhance Mobile Phone Operations & Fill Wireless Coverage Gaps***

WASHINGTON, February 21, 2024—FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel today shared with her fellow Commissioners draft final rules to establish a new regulatory framework to facilitate innovative collaborations between satellite operators and wireless providers. These partnerships leverage the growth in space-based services to provide smartphone users ubiquitous connectivity, even in remote, unserved, and underserved areas.

The FCC seeks to establish clear and transparent processes to support supplemental coverage from space. Connecting consumers to essential wireless services where traditional terrestrial mobile service is not available can be life-saving in remote locations and can open up innovative opportunities for consumers and businesses.

“A single network future is possible,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “By taking advantage of satellite connectivity, we can enhance our smartphones and get rid of ‘dead zones.’ This groundbreaking framework will ensure continued U.S. leadership and establish a clear and predictable regulatory approach to these partnerships in support of innovation and competition.”

At its March 14 Open Meeting, the Commission will vote on the Chairwoman’s proposed Report and Order. If adopted, this framework allows satellite operators collaborating with terrestrial service providers to seek FCC authorization to operate space stations on certain licensed, flexible-use spectrum currently allocated to terrestrial services, provided they satisfy certain licensing prerequisites—including having a spectrum lease from a terrestrial licensee within a specified geographic area. Once authorized, a satellite operator could then serve a wireless provider’s customers should they need connectivity outside of coverage areas. For example supplemental coverage from space could enable service in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert, Lake Michigan, Hawaii’s Hana Highway, the 100-Mile Wilderness, or the Uinta Mountains.

The rules would also establish, on an interim basis, a requirement that terrestrial providers must route all SCS 911 calls to a Public Safety Answering Point using either location-based routing or an emergency call center. The proposed action will also include a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to seek further comment on this and other critical public safety issues to ensure these services adequately meet consumers’ needs and expectations for critical services. The Further Notice would also seek comment on issues associated with protection of radio astronomy services.

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Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

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).