



## NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### **FCC Clearing the Way for Faster Network Upgrades**

#### *Proposes and Seeks Comment on Deregulatory Options for Retirement of Antiquated Copper Networks*

WASHINGTON, July 24, 2025—The Federal Communications Commission today launched a rulemaking to accelerate the transition from aging copper line networks to the modern, high-speed ones that Americans want and deserve. This proceeding aims to free up billions of dollars for new networks, instead of forcing providers to keep investing in old ones.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted today looks to encourage the swift transition to IP-based networks and advanced communications services for consumers. It proposes and seeks comment on revisions to the Commission's network change disclosure rules and section 214(a) discontinuance processes to eliminate regulatory barriers and costs.

The Commission will consider deregulatory options through this proceeding in order to encourage providers to build, maintain, and upgrade their networks so all consumers and businesses can benefit from technological strides in the communications marketplace. The Commission supports the transition to modern, all-IP networks which can deliver a plethora of advanced communications services to consumers. This proceeding will also diligently safeguard consumers' access to critical emergency services and protect public safety.

This item builds on recent actions taken by the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau to help accelerate the transition from aging copper lines to modern network infrastructure in communities all across the country. For example, the agency enabled providers to use streamlined procedures more often when they apply to discontinue outdated services over copper lines, offered greater flexibility in determining appropriate replacement services, waived unnecessary "grandfathering" requirements when a provider stopped offering it to new customers, and waived costly and excessive notice requirements which have not received any opposition comments in years.

Action by the Commission July 24, 2025 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 25-37). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving. Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty issuing separate statements.

WC Docket No. 25-208

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