



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC Takes Additional Action to Expedite IP Transition

Commission to Examine Longstanding Interconnection Obligations Under Section 251(c)

WASHINGTON, October 28, 2025—The Federal Communications Commission today voted on next steps to help accelerate the transition from aging copper lines to modern network infrastructure. Through this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission will examine the interconnection requirements imposed on legacy networks and seek comment on ways the Commission can facilitate a successful transition to all-IP interconnection for voice services while enhancing public safety, consumer protection, and competition.

The Commission has acted quickly this year to hasten the transition to next generation communications networks by cutting red tape and easing unnecessary regulatory burdens through its Build America agenda. These actions have worked to ensure that providers roll out upgraded, high-speed networks to more Americans on a faster timeline—rather than requiring providers to keep pouring resources into maintaining decades-old and increasingly expensive copper line networks.

Although only a small fraction of consumers today subscribe to legacy stand-alone copper-based voice service, the Commission's interconnection requirements force incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs) to maintain costly, outdated infrastructure. Despite increasingly widespread adoption of IP technology by consumers and businesses, the current interconnection regulatory framework for local voice service has delayed the promise of ubiquitous next-generation networks.

Today's action builds on previous Commission efforts to expedite this transition by proposing to eliminate burdensome legacy interconnection regulations that have flowed from Section 251 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. In addition, the Commission seeks comment on whether eliminating the incumbent LEC-specific interconnection regulatory framework may affect other statutory frameworks or Commission rules, and whether the Commission should revisit any other provisions or rules that are rendered redundant by the elimination of the incumbent LEC-specific interconnection obligations in Section 251.

Action by the Commission October 28, 2025 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 25-73). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving and issuing separate statements.

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