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FCC Extends High Cost Universal Broadband “HUBB” Portal Filing Deadlines for Connect America Recipients and Clarifies Pre-Existing Locations Filing Obligations for ACAM Recipients.

On February 24, 2017, the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”) released an Order extending the March 1, 2017 High Cost Universal Broadband (“HUBB”) Portal filing deadlines for Connect America Fund support recipients regarding their broadband deployment location reporting obligations. Further, the FCC clarified the filing obligations for Alternative Cost America Model (“A-CAM”) recipients regarding their pre-existing locations (during 2016 and earlier).

Reported location obligations and deadlines are dependent upon the type of support that each carrier receives as noted below.

CAF-BLS Support Recipients – The FCC waived the March 1, 2017 HUBB Filing deadline for CAF-BLS support recipients with set deployment obligations to March 1, 2018, or two weeks after the announcement in the Federal Register of PRA approval, whichever is later, for broadband deployment obligations between May 25, 2016 and December 31, 2016. CAF-BLS support recipients are also required to report newly deployed broadband locations for 2017 by March 1, 2018.

CAF A-CAM Support Recipients – The FCC clarified that the HUBB Filing requirement for A-CAM support recipients for pre-existing locations (locations deployed during 2016 and earlier) is March 1, 2019. A-CAM support recipients still must report all qualifying locations deployed during 2017 by March 1, 2018.

Phase II Model-Based Support Recipients – The FCC waived the March 1, 2017 HUBB Filing deadline for CAF Phase II support recipients (including Alaska Communications Systems) and extended the deadline for Carriers to report via HUBB all qualifying locations where broadband service was deployed in calendar year 2016 to July 1, 2017 or two weeks after the announcement in the Federal Register of PRA approval, whichever is later.

The FCC further stated that the HUBB portal will be launched and that USAC will notify carriers when it becomes available. The FCC continues to encourage Carriers to provide location information on a rolling basis within 30 days of service availability but no later than the annual reporting deadline.

Please contact your GPNW Consultant or Courtney Spears (830.895.7221, cspears@gpnw.com) or Judi Ushio (719.594.5814, jushio@gpnw.com) or Jim Rennard (503-612-4410, jrennard@gpnw.com) with any additional questions or concerns you may have about the new rules for the location reporting obligations.