



# ADVISORY

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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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. Circ 1974).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 9, 2011

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## **PUBLIC FORUM, PANELISTS SLATED FOR MAY 18 OMAHA FIELD WORKSHOP ON MODERNIZING UNIVERSAL SERVICE FOR BROADBAND**

A forum providing Nebraska residents and businesses an opportunity to comment on the need for broadband in their communities will be featured in the FCC's final workshop on reforming the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation (ICC) system. The workshop will be a key input into the Commission's deliberations on critical reforms to modernize a program that helped achieve universal phone service in the last century to support 21<sup>st</sup> Century broadband.

The public forum will be the final session of a field workshop at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The remainder of the day will focus on how states and the federal government can work together on reforms to increase broadband availability and encourage deployment of advanced Internet Protocol networks.

Universal service has been central to the Federal Communications Commission's mission since the Communications Act of 1934 created the agency and committed our nation to making vital communications services accessible to all Americans. The FCC's Universal Service Fund has helped connect virtually every American to telephone service. The FCC is now focused on modernizing the program into a Connect America Fund capable of efficiently connecting every American to broadband. The agency is also reforming the related Intercarrier Compensation regimen, a relic of the voice communications era, to increase investment in advanced networks.

**WHAT:** Workshop on Defining the Federal/State Partnership in a Broadband World

**WHERE:** Thompson Center, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 6705 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68186

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 18, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CDT

**WHO:** FCC Chairman, Commissioners, and staff; state public utility commissioners and staff; outside panelists

**LIVESTREAM:** <http://www.fcc.gov/live>

**EMAIL ADDRESS FOR QUESTIONS TO THE WORKSHOP MODERATOR:**  
[USFICCRReform@fcc.gov](mailto:USFICCRReform@fcc.gov)

**TWITTER QUESTIONS:** tweet @fcc or use #FCCLive; email to [livequestions@fcc.gov](mailto:livequestions@fcc.gov)

## AGENDA

*Note: this preliminary agenda is subject to change*

### **10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

#### **Welcome Remarks:**

- Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission (Chair, Universal Service Federal/State Joint Board)
- Michael Capps, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
- Anne Boyle, Commissioner, Nebraska Public Service Commission
- Larry Landis, Commissioner, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (State Chair, Federal/State Joint Conference on Advanced Services)
- John Burke, Board Member, Vermont Public Service Board

### **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

#### **Panel: The Evolution of the State/Federal Partnership in a Broadband World**

##### **Participants:**

- Moderator: Alex Minard, Attorney Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau
- Peter Bluhm, Principal, National Regulatory Research Institute (author of NRRI's "Carriers of Last Resort: Updating a Traditional Doctrine")
- Lisa Scalpone, General Counsel, ViaSat/WildBlue
- Doug Garrett, Regional Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, West Region, Cox Communications, Inc.
- Tom Conry, General Manager, Farmers Mutual Cooperative Telephone Company
- Teri Ohta, Senior Corporate Counsel, T-Mobile
- Edward Krachmer, Director & Regulatory Counsel, Windstream

### **12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

#### **Lunch**

### **1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

#### **Panel: State and Federal Roles in ICC Reform**

- Co-moderators: Anne Boyle, Commissioner, Nebraska PUC; Sharon Gillett, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC
- Hank Hultquist, Vice President, Federal Regulatory, AT&T
- Ken Pfister, Vice President Strategic Policy, Great Plains Communications
- Kathleen Abernathy, Chief Legal Officer and Executive Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs and Public Affairs, Frontier Communications, Inc.
- Rich Morris, Senior Counsel, Federal and State Government Affairs, Sprint

### **2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

#### **Break**

### **3:00 – 4:30**

#### **Panel: Targeting Support & Transitioning to the Long Term Connect America Fund**

##### **Participants:**

- Moderator: Carol Matthey, Deputy Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
- Jeff Lanning, Director Federal Regulatory, CenturyLink
- Kevin Hess, Senior Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs, TDS Telecommunications Corp.
- Wendy Fast, Owner, Consolidated Telephone Company

- Jim Kohler, Deputy Director, Enterprise Technology Services, State of Alaska

**4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Consumer Discussion and Public Forum**

**Participants: Federal and state commissioners, the public.**

**Moderator: Sharon Gillett and Roger Goldblatt, Associate Bureau Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, FCC**

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. The request should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed and contact information. We ask that requests for accommodations be made as soon as possible in order to allow the agency to satisfy such requests whenever possible. Send an email to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

For further information, contact Patrick Halley of the Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-1500, or via e-mail at [patrick.halley@fcc.gov](mailto:patrick.halley@fcc.gov).

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