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SPECIAL BULLETIN

Federal ETC Reporting *FCC Eliminates Rules*

The FCC released a [Report and Order](#) late last week that ostensibly streamlines certain ETC reporting requirements. Specifically, the FCC eliminated the following annual ETC reporting rules:

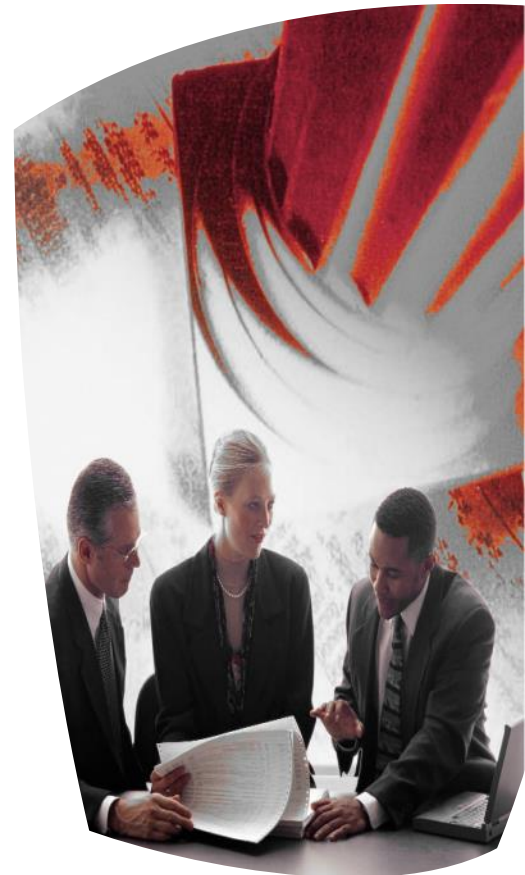
- ⇒ *Network Outage Reporting* (§54.313(a)(2), Form 481 section 200)
- ⇒ *Unfulfilled Service Requests* (§54.313(a)(3), Form 481 section 300)
- ⇒ *Complaint Reporting* (§54.313(a)(4), Form 481 section 400)
- ⇒ *Pricing Information* (§54.313(a)(7), Form 481 sections 700/710)
- ⇒ *Service Quality Certification* (§54.313(a)(5), Form 481 section 500)

These reporting requirements will be eliminated effective with the 2018 Form 481.

In addition, the FCC eliminated the requirement to file copies of Form 481 with the FCC and state/Tribal governments. However, the effective date for this change will be contingent upon USAC completing an online portal that would allow access to the public portions of carriers' Forms 481 and that would have appropriate protections for and access to confidential information for interested parties.

While a good step, the rules eliminated likely didn't take too much of reporting carrier's time. The duplicate reporting rule's elimination will cut down on some time and costs, but much will depend on when/how USAC rolls out the online portal. Finally, it is possible that some states, in the face of losing access to some of this information, will either resist or adopt new rules to collect the information previously included in Form 481. However, states have always had this authority under their §54.314 obligations, and as the FCC notes in the R&O, there are alternative sources for the eliminated information.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



Alexicon

Questions? Comments?

Contact Chris Barron

chris@alexicon.net