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SPECIAL BULLETIN

CAF BLS/AK Plan Competitive Overlap *WCB Releases Data*

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) issued a [Public Notice](#) releasing the data to be used for the (long awaited) CAF BLS and Alaska Plan competitive overlap process. The [data](#) to be used—from June 30, 2016 Form 477 data released on June 6, 2017—is now available for all carriers to review, and is accompanied by a [list](#), by study area, of the competitors reporting broadband service in any census block. It is important to note that this Public Notice *does not* begin the process for determining competitively overlapped areas, but merely adopts the data set that will eventually be used in this process.

Recall that in the *RoR USF Reform Order*, the FCC decided that CAF BLS (and now Alaska Plan support) will not be provided in areas that are served by a qualifying unsubsidized competitor. The standard is the competitor must serve at least 85% of the residential locations in a given census block in order for CAF BLS or AK Plan support to be eliminated for that block. Importantly, this does not affect HCLS, which is under a different overlap standard.

The next step in the process, date TBD, will be for competitors to certify that they are offering service to at least 85% of the residential locations in the census blocks listed in the data released. Then, support recipients and others will be allowed to contest the competitors' certifications.

We will be in touch regarding next steps in this process. Even though the process has yet to officially start (i.e., competitor certification of 85% coverage), the new data provides the best look yet at what might be coming. Thus, a good first step would be to examine the study area level data linked to above and see if your company may be affected (not all companies receiving this Special Bulletin are affected). Then, the likely competitors and challenge data can be readied for eventual use when the process does start.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



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Questions? Comments?

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