

Communications Daily

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Top News

No Order Circulating Yet

FCC May Move Soon on China Telecom Authorization

Almost a year after denying China Mobile’s application for certification under Section 214 of the Communications Act, the FCC appears poised to revoke authorization for at least China Telecom as well. Those certifications were left as unfinished business when commissioners denied 5-0 China Mobile’s application at their May meeting (see [1905090039](#)). Executive branch agencies, led by DOJ, recommended last week the FCC revoke China Telecom U.S. authorizations for international telecom services (see [2004090060](#)).

“The FCC has been looking at this issue,” a spokesperson emailed Friday. “We welcome the input of the Executive Branch agencies and will review it carefully.”

“I take the gravity of the situation seriously & look forward to making a quick & defensible decision,” Commissioner Mike O’Rielly [tweeted](#) Thursday.

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No order has circulated to the other commissioners, FCC officials said Friday. Officials said there are questions, especially after the administration's recent "Team Telecom" executive order (see [2004060071](#)). They expect an order from Chairman Ajit Pai on China Telecom and on China Unicom if the executive agencies make a recommendation there as well.

The FCC can cancel the authorizations but has limited ability to monitor what is coming over the cables from China Telecom and other providers, a former spectrum official said. The companies didn't comment.

The heat is growing on the FCC to act. "It's time to reconsider our relationship with companies owned or controlled by China's communist regime," Commissioner Brendan Carr [tweeted](#). Carr questioned how the Chinese government handled the COVID-19 pandemic and silenced critics (see [here](#) and [here](#)).

"I agree that nat'l security concerns must be a strong consideration," Commissioner Geoffrey Starks [tweeted](#) Friday. He noted the FCC's action last year against China Mobile because of "similar concerns. I will give this latest filing close review."

Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Tom Carper, D-Del., jointly supported the Team Telecom finding and urged action. "China regularly uses China Telecom Americas' authority to provide telecommunications services in the United States to further its intelligence collection and espionage efforts," Portman [said](#) Thursday: "This is unacceptable." China's government "moved aggressively in recent years to launch cyber-attacks against our businesses and government agencies and get ahead militarily and economically with stolen American research and intellectual property," Carper said: "These activities have left our nation no choice but to act." — *Howard Buskirk*

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48-Hour Turnaround

Kid TV Preemption Could Be Joined by Other Pandemic Waiver Bids

Following limited waiver of kids' TV programming preemption rescheduling, the FCC could get other requests for broadcast rules waivers or changes in the face of the pandemic, experts told us late last week. The agency got kudos from the children's programming advocacy universe and the White House for Thursday's waiver.

Aside from postponing paperwork deadlines, questions could arise about requiring emergency information be presented both visually and aurally on TV for the visually and hearing impaired, said Peter Tannenwald of Fletcher Heald. Pandemic news potentially could be urgent enough to invoke the emergency information requirement, he said, but it's unlikely the FCC would waive a requirement that would make information inaccessible for some. There could be issues of a TV station unable to activate crawl equipment or other display mechanisms because it's operated remotely. The regulator might require information be handwritten on paper and held up to the camera, he said.

The industry is in touch with the FCC about items that will need amending, such as the post-incentive auction repack, a broadcast executive said. The kidvid waiver gives leeway in bumping regularly scheduled programming to show live or same-day tape-delayed locally produced community events such as religious services. It's through April, [said](#) a Media Bureau public notice. The waiver is for programming moves where the preemption is intended to limit gatherings and promote social distancing. "Children's

programming is as important as ever during this period of mass isolation, but this limited waiver could help stations serve their communities in a way that may truly save lives,” Commissioner Mike O’Rielly [said](#). He said Gray Television suggested the waiver.

Gray Deputy General Counsel Robert Folliard said the idea started at the local station level in response to reports of Palm Sunday crowds at some churches and the notion stations could partner with congregations to broadcast services. FCC rules allow preemption for breaking news and community event live programming produced by the station, but it wasn’t clear if the producer would be the station or the house of worship when airing a religious service, he said. An email to the agency Tuesday resulted in the waiver order 48 hours later, he said. Folliard said Gray expected two dozen to three dozen of its stations to carry religious services Sunday.

Folliard said the pandemic points to a need for the agency to change its duopoly rules because having multiple stations in a market means better sharing of resources to cover the associated flood of local and state news. However, he said with a laugh, “I don’t expect the FCC to waive the duopoly rules for us.”

The waiver got Trump administration kudos. “Just because we’re all apart during some of the holiest days of the year for so many religions, doesn’t mean we’re all alone,” [tweeted](#) Deputy Press Secretary Ken Farnaso.

Airing local religious programming during Easter and Passover when most people are under stay-at-home orders is “precisely the type of things broadcasters should be doing to serve the public interest,” Parents TV Council President Tim Winter told us. Far less laudable is that educational and informational programming has largely been pushed off main broadcast signals to digital channels, while infomercials take up main broadcast signal space and time, he said. “It obviates the whole ‘look how important broadcasters are’ argument,” he said. PTC [urged](#) broadcasters to restore a prime-time hour of family-friendly programming and to make available a block of educational and informational kids programming daily. — **Matt Daneman**

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Eshoo, Young Propose \$2B**Telehealth Industry Seeks More Than FCC Has Available for COVID-19**

The telehealth industry fears the \$200 million the FCC has available for emergency COVID-19 funding will quickly run out, before all forthcoming applications are considered. Stakeholders we spoke with this month are seeking additional funding, but called the funds included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act a good start. Reps. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., and Don Young, R-Ala., proposed an additional \$2 billion in such spending Friday via their Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act (HR-6474).

The Cares Act funding is “a down payment,” said American Medical Informatics Association Vice President-Public Policy Jeff Smith: “It will be helpful for sure, but time will tell to what degree it’s sufficient.”

The “\$200 million is not enough, but it’s definitely meaningful,” said Connected Health Institute Policy Counsel Brian Scarpelli. American Telemedicine Association Director-Public Policy Kevin Harper called the COVID-19 telehealth fund “a good first step.” Whether it’s enough is a question Congress is considering across programs, he said. Requests for additional funding could be part of future negotiations, he said: “They’re working as fast as possible.”

Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition Executive Director John Windhausen said he has never seen the FCC set up a funding program so quickly: It’s “a good start and certainly needed.” He said \$200 million “is not nearly enough to cover the need.” SHLB wants another \$2 billion for connectivity between healthcare providers and patients, and for healthcare providers to reach other providers.

HR-6474 would allocate \$2 billion in additional funding to the FCC’s existing \$605 million Healthcare Connect Fund program, increasing subsidies from 65% of broadband costs to 85%. It would expand the program to include rural, urban and suburban healthcare facilities and temporary units established in response to the epidemic, Eshoo’s office said. The measure would streamline some administrative requirements. “The coronavirus has only increased the need for high-quality and reliable internet connectivity as healthcare is increasingly delivered through telehealth and healthcare professionals depend on broadband,” Eshoo [said](#).

The bill’s proposed \$2 billion appropriation “accurately reflects the demand and the costs of the broadband connectivity needed to address” the epidemic, Windhausen [wrote](#) Capitol Hill leaders. SHLB and 47 other groups [urged](#) leaders to incorporate HR-6474’s language into the next COVID-19 stimulus bill “because it is critical for our nation’s health care providers.” [ACA Connects](#), the Fiber Broadband Association and [USTelecom](#) backed the bill.

The application window for the COVID-19 telehealth program opens Monday at noon EDT, the FCC [said](#) Friday. It lists contact information and a URL.

The FCC plans to evaluate applications on a rolling basis and grant awards until the funds run out or the COVID-19 emergency ends. Whether the funds outlast the public health emergency depends on how quickly the FCC can process applications, Windhausen said, and how quickly healthcare providers can spend the money. The FCC didn’t comment Friday.

Mintz's Angela Kung was surprised the FCC didn't seek comments on the program, though she understands "time is of the essence" in getting funds out. Parties would have wanted to comment on participation eligibility, Kung said. The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives would like the program to be expanded to for-profit healthcare providers, said Vice President-Public Policy Mari Savickis.

Morgan Lewis has heard many questions on the program from telecom clients, said Tamar Finn, advising ISPs to contact healthcare customers to ensure they're aware of the new fund. Unlike the \$100 million Connected Care pilot to follow, this program doesn't require competitive bidding. — *Monica Hogan and Jimm Phillips*

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Tech Industry Targeted

Democrats Blast Reported White House COVID-19 Surveillance System

The Trump administration's reported plan to create a COVID-19 data surveillance program with healthcare and tech companies lacks transparency, Democratic lawmakers [wrote](#) the White House Friday. They noted the industry's "checkered history" protecting patient and user privacy. Some stakeholders also raised concerns.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act didn't account for the "recent boom in health technologies allowing medical data to be shared without patient or doctor consent," wrote Senate Intelligence Committee Vice Chairman Mark Warner, D-Va.; Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.; and Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif. Further empowering companies with unfettered access to "sensitive health information" during the pandemic could "fatally undermine health privacy," they said. Apple and Google announced a collaborative effort Friday to develop a COVID-19 contact-tracing system through interoperable, cross-platform smartphone apps (see [2004100037](#)).

Warner, Blumenthal and Eshoo said the White House's reported denial of the "existence of this effort, despite ample corroborating reporting, only compounds concerns we have with lack of transparency." The White House hasn't given any indication it's capable of maintaining a "massive health data network" without undermining personal privacy, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., wrote Wednesday (see [2004080037](#)).

Congress authorized the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through its relief package to develop a modern data surveillance and analytics system. The White House, the Computer & Communications Industry Association and Internet Association didn't comment now.

Legislators still are trying to amend post-Sept. 11, 2001, legislation, which stripped many civil liberties and freedoms, emailed TechFreedom Civil Liberties Director Ashkhen Kazaryan. She noted last week's DOJ inspector general report detailing extensive flaws in Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act applications (see [2003310068](#)). Now, the U.S. is at war with a virus, not a country, she said, meaning more transparency should be expected. To leverage data in the fight against COVID-19, she said there needs to be transparent, necessary and proportionate response; purpose limitation; data minimization and data retention requirements. Similar things are sought in Europe for such monitoring (see [200402000](#)).

A Freedom of Information Act request from Electronic Privacy Information Center details how three health technology companies allegedly contacted the Health and Human Services Department to discuss ways to

supply the government with healthcare data for the national COVID-19 surveillance system. EPIC [requested](#) a reported memo from Collective Medical, Juvare and PatientPing. The three companies didn't comment.

EPIC noted White House adviser Jared Kushner's task force and the proposed surveillance database that would give the government real-time access to patient healthcare data and hospital data. EPIC contended the database would draw "detailed information" from "multiple private-sector health databases to track where to allocate resources and to determine which areas need to maintain social-distancing rules." The public has a right to contents of the memo and to know if the proposed system is lawful, EPIC said. — *Karl Herchenroeder*

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Comm Daily® Notebook

Ligado Approval Expected to Circulate

An order approving Ligado's requested license modifications is about to go on circulation, potentially early this week, stakeholders and agency officials told us Friday. They said the order would include conditions such as Ligado-sought power and emissions levels and the company's government GPS replacement proposal, plus network monitoring and operational requirements. The FCC didn't comment. The agency's under pressure from legislators to approve the company's planned low-power terrestrial L-band broadband (see [2002250083](#)). NTIA didn't recommend approval, and DOD and other agencies opposed approval (see [1912090011](#)). —*MD*

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1-Ring Scam Crackdown NOI Circulating at FCC

The FCC seeks to prevent one-ring scams. A notice of inquiry appearing on Friday's circulation [list](#) responds to Traced Act requirements (see [1906250071](#)) and precedes a rulemaking, a spokesperson said. Callers from outside the U.S. dial a number, hang up after one ring, and hope confused recipients call back and incur phone charges. Some scams leave a voicemail with instructions to call an international number. The NOI seeks broad comment including feedback on cost-effectiveness of suggestions, the spokesperson said. In 2019, the FCC received about 2,600 consumer complaints about one-ring scams. The NOI follows Section 12, an official said. —*MH*

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Coronavirus News

CASF Changes Sought for COVID-19 Response

Pay for Wi-Fi hot spots and other devices for students through the California Advanced Services Fund, commented the state Education Department Thursday to the California Public Utilities Commission.

U.S. E-rate doesn't cover that, Ed said. The department would apply and disseminate devices to students through county education offices, it [said](#) in docket R.12-10-012. Others supported rolling application deadlines. CalTel and other small rural LECs [urged](#) the same for infrastructure. "This will allow providers to assess areas of need in light of evolving information and react to changing broadband usage patterns brought on by the statewide 'shelter-in-place' order," the small telcos said. The California Cable & Telecommunications Association isn't against rolling deadlines if limited to addressing COVID-19 and [opposes](#) "wholesale changes to the CASF program made under pressure during a [COVID-19] crisis." Streamline procedures for awarding and administering CASF infrastructure grants, [commented](#) AT&T. GeoLinks [sought](#) increased upfront costs to expedite projects. Fund public housing deployment, [said](#) San Francisco. The Electronic Frontier Foundation [urged](#) sought network performance and outage data to analyze "why ISPs have seemingly yielded wildly different results across the state when it comes to delivering broadband access during the pandemic." Fiber seems to best absorb increased demand, EFF said. Consumer and rural advocates seek changes (see [2004090056](#)). —*AB*

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Apple, Google Collaborate on COVID-19 Contact-Tracing Apps

Rivals Apple and Google are cooperating to develop COVID-19 contact-tracing through smartphone apps that will be interoperable between their two operating systems, they [said](#) Friday. It's to help governments and health agencies "reduce the spread of the virus, with user privacy and security central to the design," they said. Both companies will launch application programming interfaces next month that using apps from public health authorities, available for free downloads at the App Store and Google Play. They will work in coming months "to enable a broader Bluetooth-based contact tracing platform by building this functionality into the underlying platforms," they said. "This is a more robust solution than an API and would allow more individuals to participate." An Oxford University study last month advocates apps linked to a central server as a speedier way to do contact tracing than manual tracing (see [2003310016](#)). Apple and Google said the service would incorporate several privacy safeguards, including requiring user opt-in. But no contact-tracing apps can be effective "if people don't trust them," said Jennifer Granick, ACLU surveillance and cybersecurity counsel. "People will only trust these systems if they protect privacy, remain voluntary, and store data on an individual's device, not a centralized repository." Though the Apple and Google approach "appears to mitigate the worst privacy and centralization risks," privacy advocates will "remain vigilant" to be sure any contact-tracing app "remains voluntary and decentralized," said Granick. The Trump administration's reported plan to create a COVID-19 data surveillance program with healthcare and tech companies lacks transparency, Democratic lawmakers wrote the White House Friday (see [2004100061](#)).

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FDNY Gets FCC OK to Use T Band for Virus Response

The FCC Public Safety Bureau gave New York City special temporary authority to use T-band spectrum to expand the fire department's radio capacity and coverage. It helps the communications system "not become overwhelmed and ... work smoothly," Chairman Ajit Pai [said](#) Friday.

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FCC Expedites Tower Approval to Serve COVID-19 Hospital, FirstNet

The FCC Wireless Bureau gave AT&T permission to [deploy](#) two towers on an emergency basis at a temporary COVID-19 hospital the Army Corps of Engineers is building in Milwaukee at the Wisconsin State Fair Park. Friday's OK expedites environmental review for the towers that also are for use by FirstNet.

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FCC Provides Guidance on Public Safety on STAs, Waivers Tied to COVID-19

Special temporary authority and emergency waiver requests due to COVID-19 not filed “in the first instance” in the universal licensing system “may include a requirement that the applicant file a subsequent request in ULS within 10 days, or file a request for waiver in ULS,” said a Friday FCC Public Safety Bureau [public notice](#).

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WWE Annual Meeting Will Be Extremely Brief Due to COVID-19

World Wrestling Entertainment's annual meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday will consist of starting the meeting and then immediately ending it, the cable programmer [said](#). It cited “rapidly evolving public health concerns relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and governmental actions.”

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Capitol Hill

Tech Industry Opposes Potential Expanded Export Restrictions

Technology and semiconductor trade groups objected last week to increased export restrictions under consideration by the Trump administration, saying the controls could lead to uncertainty. BSA|The Software Alliance, CompTIA, the Information Technology Industry Council, Semiconductor Industry Association, Software & Information Industry Association, U.S. Council for International Business and others [wrote](#) Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, asking the administration to seek input before finalizing the rule. If approved by President Donald

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Trump, the measures could block Huawei and other Chinese companies from buying U.S. semiconductors. “Initially, there was some talk about a generic change in de minimis” threshold, said Richard Sawaya, vice president of the National Foreign Trade Council, one of nine groups that signed the letter to Ross. “I think the effort within the interagency process is to narrow that and tailor it as much as possible so that it is Huawei-specific,” Sawaya said in an interview. The Commerce Department didn’t comment Friday. —*IC*

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Wireline

CenturyLink Urges Phase-In of 988 Hotline Implementation

Work required to implement a 988 national suicide prevention hotline necessitates a phased timeline rather than a fixed, 18-month one, CenturyLink officials told FCC Wireline Bureau staff, recounted a docket 18-336 [posting](#) Friday. The company said the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and industry have an established process to transition areas doing seven-digit dialing to 10-digit, as would be required in some areas for 988 implementation, and that takes 13 months, with mandatory 10-digit dialing usually starting 12 months after that. CenturyLink urged phase-in with quick deployment on VoIP and wireless platforms and longer transition times for areas needing 10-digit dialing. Conversely, 211 could be implemented within six months, it said.

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Wireless

6 GHz Order Opposed by APCO, NAB; Intel CEO Urges Pai to Move Forward

APCO asked the FCC to delay allowing unlicensed devices to share 6 GHz, set for a commissioner vote April 23 (see [2004020066](#)). “The Order fails to address several fundamental issues, including basic measures to prevent and promptly eliminate harmful interference,” APCO [said](#): “This likely stems from a pattern of the proponents of expanding unlicensed use ... blindly pushing for more spectrum while ignoring the real-world consequences to public safety agencies.” NAB also objected, in calls with aides to the commissioners other than Chairman Ajit Pai, and with Office of Engineering and Technology staff. “In the face of a public health emergency and an evolving economic crisis, it has rarely been more critical to ensure that the nation’s broadcasters have [news] tools they need,” NAB [said](#): “One of the most important of those tools is spectrum necessary to cover news events, including 6 GHz.” Southern Co. said uncontrolled low-power devices would “result in harmful interference to incumbent 6 GHz operations.” The FCC should approve the order as written, Intel CEO Bob Swan [said](#) in a call with Pai. Swan said the December C-band auction “will be an important enabler for new 5G deployments.” Filings were posted Friday in docket 18-295. —*HB*

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Polaris CEO Says Carriers Can Meet Vertical Accuracy -- If Deadline Remains

Polaris Wireless CEO Manlio Allegra spoke with Public Safety Bureau staff on the FCC’s November vertical accuracy order for wireless calls to 911 (see [1911220034](#)). The meeting was at the request of

the bureau on the company's software for 3-meter z-axis accuracy, said a [filing](#) posted Friday in docket 07-114. "That outcome is conditioned on the premise that the Commission makes clear that the April 2021 deadline is ... firm."

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Internet

Antitrust Authorities Clear Fox's Buy of Streaming Platform Tubi

Antitrust authorities cleared the way for Fox to buy streaming platform Tubi for [about](#) \$440 million. An FTC early termination [notice](#) dated Thursday and released Friday ended the transaction's Hart-Scott-Rodino waiting period.

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State Telecom

Some T-Mobile/Sprint Foes Demanding CPUC Fines for Transaction's Closure

T-Mobile/Sprint critics seek fines after the carriers closed the deal without California Public Utilities Commission approval. Fine applicants for violating Section 854 of PUC code, which gives the commission authority over transfers, [said](#) The Utility Reform Network and Greenlining Institute. Don't let closing early "stand without consequence," and don't remove proposed conditions, they said. Intervenors' efforts to add 40 conditions ignore CPUC "jurisdictional limitations over wireless transfers," the companies [replied](#): They're "generally infeasible, unsupported by the record, anti-competitive, unfair, unduly onerous, and inappropriate to the extent they go beyond the voluntary commitments." The California commission isn't preempted by the FCC to review the wireless deal, [said](#) the CPUC Public Advocates Office. The CPUC has "full discretion and authority to approve or deny a wireless merger," and lawfully may impose jobs conditions, Communications Workers of America [replied](#). CWA protested Sprint's advice letter relinquishing its wireline certificate, saying it should file a formal application. PAO earlier sought the same (see [2004080029](#)). Parties held phone calls with CPUC President Marybel Batjer's office before the commissioners' vote scheduled this Thursday, disclosed [CWA](#), [Greenlining](#), [PAO](#) and others. Commissioner Liane Randolph's office called the combining companies April 2, her office [said](#). —AB

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Telecom Notes

Consumer Groups Support Banking Association TCPA Petition -- With Limits

Advocates partly supported the American Bankers Association and other financial groups seeking clarity that banks, credit unions and financial service providers can use automatic telephone dialing systems,

prerecorded messages and artificial voice for COVID-19 calls (see [2004060009](#)). It must be “clearly limited in time and scope,” said a [filing](#) posted Friday in docket 02-278 by the National Consumer Law Center, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Reports, National Association of Consumer Advocates and others.

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Verizon Seeks Expedited Waiver of 180-Day Maximum for Some Business Numbers

Verizon wants the FCC to quickly grant limited waiver of the maximum 180 days for businesses to keep wireless phone numbers in reserve, it [said](#) Friday in docket 99-200. It seeks extension to 360 days, citing COVID-19.

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Wireline Bureau Grants Limited Waiver on CAF-II Performance Test Requirements

The FCC Wireline Bureau granted limited waiver on broadband performance test report Connect America Fund Phase II requirements, said an [order](#) Friday. “Reasonable assumptions” on speed and latency information required by Universal Service Administrative Co. are OK, it said.

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Consumer Electronics

Roku Devices Allegedly Infringe 5 Universal Electronics Patents

Roku streaming players, remotes and TVs infringe five Universal Electronics remote-control patents, [complained](#) (in Pacer) Universal Thursday in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana, California. One [patent](#) dates to 2011, [another](#) was granted March 24. The 2011 patent (7,969,514) describes methods for setting up a universal remote “using interactive instructions,” said the complaint. Roku TVs have an embedded receiver for wirelessly accepting “communications from a remotely located controlling device” allegedly in violation of the newest patent (10,600,317). Roku streaming players have a transmitter for beaming “communications to a display device coupled to the controlled device,” also in violation of the patent, it contended. Universal put Roku “on notice” of its infringing practices before filing suit, the remote-control maker alleged: Roku patents cite Universal’s intellectual property 290 times. The defendant didn’t comment Friday. —*PG*

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Intellectual Property

DC Circuit to Hear Oral Argument April 22 in CRB Royalties Challenge

Oral argument is April 22 in Independent Producers Group appeals of Copyright Royalty Board distribution of 2004-2009 cable and 1999-2009 satellite royalties, [ordered](#) the U.S. Court of Appeals for

the D.C. Circuit Thursday (docket 18-1337, in Pacer). Judges are Thomas Griffith, Cornelia Pillard and Laurence Silberman.

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Broadcast

Disney Concerned About Channel 6 Waivers in LPFM Draft Order

The waiver process for Channel 6 TV stations proposed in the draft low-power FM order set for the April 23 commissioners' meeting (see [2004020062](#)) needs notice and comment provisions, [said](#) Disney and subsidiary ABC in a letter posted Thursday in docket 19-193. The draft order would allow LPFM stations to seek waivers of requirements that they protect LPTV stations broadcasting on Channel 6. The proposed waiver process proposed doesn't adequately ensure affected TV stations can evaluate interference ramifications of such waivers, the full-power broadcaster said: Without requirements affected TV stations get the opportunity to comment, Channel 6 TV stations would have to "affirmatively monitor FCC filings."

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Cable

Retrans Buying Group Draft Order on Circulation

The FCC circulated a draft order clarifying aspects of the TV Viewer Protection Act based on the NPRM released in January on retransmission consent talks between MVPD buying groups and large station groups (see [2001310047](#)), the agency told us. It went on circulation last week (see [here](#)).

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Media Notes

Montezuma County, Colo., Seeks Market Modification Because of COVID-19

Modify KUSA Denver's market to include Colorado's Montezuma County because its residents can't receive in-state COVID-19 information, the county Board of Commissioners petitioned the FCC for special relief last week. Montezuma is an "orphan county" assigned by Nielsen to the Albuquerque designated market area, so Dish Network doesn't allow county residents to receive Colorado TV stations, the municipality told the FCC. County consumers haven't been able to receive "direct information" from Gov. Jared Polis (D) "regarding statewide and citizen directives during the COVID-19 pandemic," the petition said. The request fulfills the requirements for market modification from the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act Reauthorization, and Dish certified the request is technically feasible, the petition said. The [request](#) is in docket 12-1. Dish didn't comment Friday. KUSA owner Tegna has "no position on the petition," a spokesperson emailed us.

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Market Report Comment Deadline Extended 2 Weeks to April 27

Comments and reply deadlines for the FCC communications market competitiveness report to Congress were extended about two weeks each to April 27 and May 28 because of the pandemic, the Office of Economics and Analytics [said](#) Friday. There was some but not all the time music groups requested (see [2004060067](#)).

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Satellite

Amateur Satellite Interests Urge Later Date for Maneuverability Requirement

FCC-proposed orbital debris rules on April 23's agenda (see [2004010063](#)) would require amateur satellite operators to personally indemnify the federal government for the satellite's operators, and satellite owners should be the ones indemnifying, Radio Amateur Satellite representatives told International Bureau staff, per a docket 18-313 [posting](#) Friday. It said finding an individual amateur radio licensee willing to bear that risk personally "would be difficult to impossible." It urged implementation later than April 2022 of the requirement satellites in orbit above 400 kilometers be designed with collision avoidance maneuvering capabilities, since amateur satellite designs are done often by volunteers and can take years. The firm proposed April 2025.

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DHS to Host Critical Infrastructure GPS Testing Event

April 24 is the deadline for makers of commercial GPS equipment used in critical infrastructure and by critical infrastructure owners and operators to apply to participate in a Department of Homeland Security GPS equipment testing event this summer, [said](#) a request for information for participation.

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Communications Personals

Covington & Burling hires **Stacey Grigsby**, ex-DOJ, as partner-commercial litigation ... In [restructuring](#) (see this section, April 10), Corning names senior vice presidents-general managers including **John Bayne** for mobile consumer electronics; **Michael Bell**, optical communication; **Hal Nelson**, automotive; and **John Zhang**, display.

Nexstar promotes **John Lewis** to vice president-general manager, Raleigh ... Zebra Technologies appoints **Holly Tyson**, from Dick's Sporting Goods, chief human resources officer, effective April 20, succeeding **Mike Terzich**, becoming HydraForce CEO-president, effective July 1 ... MoonPay adds **Nils Puhmann**, ex-Twilio, as security adviser.

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Communications Daily Calendar

- Apr 14 Politico online interview with FTC Commissioner Noah Phillips on coronavirus-related scams, 4 p.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 14 Delaware, Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey Regional Planning Committees meet, 10 a.m., Delaware River and Bay Authority, 2162 New Castle Ave., New Castle, Delaware, also teleconference, 712-770-5505, code: 296101 — [see here](#)
- Apr 15 Western Governors' Association webinar on anchor institution connectivity, 11 a.m. MDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 15 NTIA meets virtually on software component transparency, 10 a.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 15 Information Technology and Innovation Foundation webinar on building e-government services for next national emergency, noon EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 16 FCBA Young Lawyers Committee virtual brown bag lunch on teleworking, 12:15 p.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 16 Aspen Institute webinar on COVID-19 and cybercrime, noon EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 16 FutureTense webinar on privacy during COVID-19, 4 p.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 16 POSTPONED: NEDAS Boston Symposium, Convene Boston, 12:30 p.m., 201 Washington St., now 1 p.m. July 14 — [see here](#)
- Apr 18–22 CANCELED: NAB Show, Las Vegas Convention Center — [see here](#)
- Apr 19 CANCELED: American Bar Association and FCBA daylong broadcasters conference, Encore at Wynn Las Vegas — [see here](#)
- Apr 20 Women of National Association of Tower Erectors summit, Gleacher Center, 450 Cityfront Plaza Drive, Chicago — [see here](#)
- Apr 21 CANCELED: Cooley breakfast discussion with FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr and former Commissioner Robert McDowell, 7 a.m., Wynn Las Vegas, Alsace, 3131 S. Las Vegas Blvd. — [see here](#)
- Apr 21 FCBA virtual CLE on robocalls and Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 3 p.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 21 CANCELED: FCC Library open house, 9:30 a.m., library and adjoining Technology Experience Center — [see here](#)

- Apr 22 Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition program on national broadband plan, 5:30 p.m., The Hamilton, 600 14th St. NW — [see here](#)
- Apr 22 NITA Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee meets via teleconference, 1 p.m. EDT, 866-652-3435, code: 28570198 — [see here](#)
- Apr 22 Puerto Rico Public Safety 700 MHz and 800 MHz Regional Planning committees meet, 9 a.m., Tren Urbano Warehouse, Martinez Nadal Station Road, Guaynabo, rescheduled from March 18 — [see here](#)
- Apr 23 FCC commissioners' meeting, 10:30 a.m., Commission Meeting Room — [see here](#)
- Apr 23 FCBA virtual CLE on citizens broadband radio service and 5G, 2 p.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 23–24 POSTPONED: George Mason University Scalia Law School's Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property conference on music ecosystem, 3301 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia — [see here](#)
- Apr 27 FCBA virtual CLE on 911 reliability and outage reporting, 12:15 p.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 27 Media Institute Communications Forum with FCC Commissioner Mike O'Rielly, lunch, noon, Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, rescheduled from March 25 — [see here](#)
- Apr 27 FCC Consumer Advisory Committee meets online, 10:30 a.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 28 Software and Information Industry Association summit on artificial intelligence, Convene, 575 7th St. NW — [see here](#)
- Apr 28 FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment meets via conference call and online, www.fcc.gov/live, 10 a.m. EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 30 Copyright Office modernization webinar, noon EDT — [see here](#)
- Apr 30 POSTPONED: Cable Hall of Fame, 5:30 p.m., Ziegfeld Ballroom, 141 W. 54th St., New York; fall date TBD — [see here](#)
- May 1–3 CANCELED: FCBA annual seminar, Boar's Head Resort, 200 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville, Virginia — [see here](#)
- May 4–8 RESCHEDULED: ITU summit on artificial intelligence, Geneva, Sept. 21-25 — [see here](#)

- May 5 FCC North American Numbering Council meets, 9:30 a.m. EDT, via conference call; for public, via livestream — [see here](#)
- May 5 FCBA virtual CLE on small cells, noon EDT — [see here](#)
- May 11–14 Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions and National Institutes of Standards and Technology workshop on synchronization and timing systems, Westin Bellevue, 600 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, Washington — [see here](#)
- May 13 FTC workshop on agency’s proposed amendments to Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act’s safeguards rule, 9 a.m., Constitution Center, Auditorium, 400 7th St. SW, also webcast — [see here](#)
- May 13 POSTPONED: FCBA Pacific Northwest Chapter lunch panel on 5G preparation, 11:45 a.m., Davis Wright, first floor, 929 108th Ave., Bellevue, Washington — [see here](#)
- May 13 FCC commissioners’ meeting, 10:30 a.m., Commission Meeting Room — [see here](#)
- May 13–15 CyberSatCom, Hyatt Regency LAX, 6225 W. Century Blvd. — [see here](#)
- May 14 New York Metropolitan and Northern New Jersey Regional Planning committees meet, 10 a.m., Paramus Life Safety Complex, Jockish Square, Paramus, New Jersey — [see here](#)
- May 19 Wireless Infrastructure Association holds virtual annual conference, instead of what was scheduled for May 18-21 in Miami Beach — [see here](#)
- May 19–21 Consortium for School Networking conference, virtual — [see here](#)
- Jun 1–3 RESCHEDULED: Fiber Broadband Association conference, Gaylord Opryland Resort, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, now Dec. 14-16 — [see here](#)
- Jun 9 FCC commissioners’ meeting, 10:30 a.m., Commission Meeting Room — [see here](#)
- Jun 13–16 ICANN74, World Forum, The Hague — [see here](#)
- Jun 16–18 FAA UAS Symposium, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 W. Pratt St. — [see here](#)
- Jun 22–25 ICANN68 policy forum, now remote — [see here](#)
- Jun 23–24 SIP Forum summit on secure handling of asserted information using tokens and secure telephone identity revisited call authentication, Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, Virginia — [see here](#)