

SOUTH CAROLINA CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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SIGNIFICANT 2011 LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

The SCCTA has been actively following the AT&T-backed legislation that would amend the *Government-Owned Telecommunications Service Providers Act*. House Bill 3508 would impose the same requirements on government-owned broadband operations that are currently imposed on telecommunications operations. The amendments include an exception from the requirements for operations in an “unserved area.” The “unserved area” is defined as a 2000 Census block in which at least 90% of households have either no access to broadband or only have access from a satellite provider. The Bill gives the Public Service Commission jurisdiction to determine whether an area is unserved. The Bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. AT&T is meeting resistance from some counties and is working to negotiate a compromise. Both Orangeburg and Oconee counties received federal stimulus funds in 2010 to provide broadband service. A Senate subcommittee meeting was held on May 4, 2011, on the proposal.

Utility stakeholders including SCCTA representatives have also been working on the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act, Senate Bill 705. It would replace the current law that created the Palmetto Utility Protection Service (PUPS). The current law does not comply with the federal Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act passed in 2006. Bill 705 dramatically changes the entities involved from a group of utilities owning underground facilities to all stakeholders including entities that have interests opposed to those of the facility owners. The Bill passed the Senate and was referred to the House Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee.

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NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The first regular session of the 119th SC General Assembly comes to a close next month. When session begins, many times one never knows the issues that will dominate our time and efforts. H3508, the AT&T backed legislation, has certainly been our dominate piece of legislation in 2011. This bill, which imposes the same requirements on government-owned broadband operations that are currently imposed on telecommunications operations, is still in the compromise stages. Both Orangeburg and Oconee counties, who received federal stimulus funds last year, are the major players objecting to the bill. We are hoping for a hearing in the Senate to move this important bill forward. This association has consistently maintained that we do not oppose broadband deployment into rural areas, but we strongly object to government funded competition. Time Warner Cable's Dan Jones has worked tirelessly with AT&T to move this bill forward and we certainly commend and appreciate Dan's efforts.

Senate bill 705, which updates South Carolina's Damage Prevention Act, was just sent from the Senate to the House and referred to the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee. The utility and telecommunications industries met with Carolina's AGC well over a year to work on this compromise. As we have previously discussed, this bill is not perfect but we are not aware of any provision that harms the cable industry.

The 2011 Key Contact Conference is scheduled in Washington DC for May 23 – May 25 and the SC appointments with our congressional delegation have been confirmed. The following cable executives plan to participate in this year's Key Contact: Jack Stanley, Dan Jones, Sam McGill, Tim Gage, Chris McDonald, Bill Watson, Bill Ferry, Rich Strong and John Crowley. This conference is most important and is the annual venue to discuss federal issues affecting SC. Key Contact is also an opportunity to discuss our state's cable industry and its impact on the SC economy and the delegation's constituency.

The SCCTA continues to monitor dozens of bills that either directly or indirectly affect the cable industry. The May 1st cross-over date will likely prevent any movement on these bills until the second regular session commences in 2012.

I continue to appreciate each of your efforts as we continue to promote and protect South Carolina's cable industry!

Ray Sharpe

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Interim LEC Fund

On April 18, 2011, the SCCTA filed a petition with the Public Service Commission requesting that it be allowed to intervene in the 1996 docket that established the Interim Local Exchange Carrier (“LEC”) Fund. The Interim LEC Fund is an access charge replacement fund established in 1996 under the same legislation that established the S.C. Universal Service Fund (USF). It is collected from companies that have interexchange traffic in South Carolina and is billed on a minutes of use basis. It currently brings in about \$32 million per year. The statute that established the Fund provided for it to be transitioned into the USF.

The SCCTA petition also requested that the Commission address the requirement that the Interim LEC Fund be transitioned into the USF. During the Commission’s meeting on May 4, 2011, the Commission granted SCCTA’s request to intervene and directed the Staff to schedule oral arguments on consolidating the Interim LEC Fund into the S.C. USF.

Public Service Commission Announcements

Commissioner Randy Mitchell was appointed to fill the state commission seat on the Universal Service Administrative Company’s Board of Directors. The USAC is responsible for operating the federal Universal Service Fund. Commissioner Nikiya Hall was appointed to NARUC’s Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment and to the NARUC Subcommittee on Utility Market Access. Commissioner Swain Whitfield was appointed to the NARUC Committee on Gas and Committee on Critical Infrastructure.

What is the proper role of the PSC?

The S.C. Supreme Court issued a decision on March 28, 2011, in which it discussed several questions about the proper role of the Public Service Commission following the 2004 statutory amendments that altered the structure and responsibilities of the Commission and created the Office of Regulatory Staff. *United Services of South Carolina, Inc. v. S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff*, Supreme Court Opinion No. 26952. The utility sought a rate increase that was challenged by numerous customers during public hearings. The PSC had questions regarding whether capital improvements had been made and the reasonableness of payments made to the Utility’s affiliate, Bio-Tech. ORS Staff testified that they verified that the company had made some of the capital improvements. The Commission denied the application for a rate increase finding that customer complaints raised questions as to where the capital improvements and on-going operations programs were implemented and whether they were effective. The company and ORS appealed asking the fundamental question as to whether the Commission can determine that a regulated utility has failed to meet its burden to prove expenditures when ORS has not challenged the expenditures.

When ORS was created, the General Assembly eliminated the Commission from the roles of investigator and auditor and reassigned these roles to ORS. The Supreme Court held that the Commission is the ultimate fact-finder in a ratemaking application. It has the power to independently determine whether an applicant has met its burden of proof. The Commission is not bound by ORS’s determination that an expenditure was reasonable and proper for inclusion. The Commission may determine— independent of any party—that an expenditure is suspect and requires further scrutiny.

MEMBER NEWS



Charleston VP/GM named Trident United Way's 2010 Community Builder of the Year

Charleston, SC --- Bill Watson, vice president and general manager in Charleston, was named the 2010 Community Builder of the Year by Trident United Way (TUW) after he helped restructure TUW's finances and guide TUW's strategic planning efforts for the next decade.

“It would not be an exaggeration to say that the groundbreaking innovations now in development by Trident United Way would not have been possible without Bill,” said Lonnie Carter, President and CEO of Santee Cooper and chair of the Trident United Way board of directors.

Bill Watson is a longtime supporter and volunteer with TUW. As a leadership donor and board member, he helps TUW raise money and identifies initiatives that measurably strengthen the community. On the evening of Feb. 24th, he was honored by TUW for his work developing the organization's strategic plan and improving its financial stability. The plan contained a series of interrelated steps, like establishing basic needs and skills; increasing income, savings and other assets; and sustaining assets. More than 400 people attended the dinner and meeting held at Trident Technical College. Those in attendance were told that the organization met and exceeded its fundraising goal for 2010, raising more than \$10.5 million and that more than 7,000 volunteers participated in 400 projects in the group's annual Day of Caring.



JACOBS ELECTED TO SOUTHEASTERN INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

Mary Anne Jacobs, Senior Director Government Relations for Time Warner Cable was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics. The Southeastern Institute for Women in Politics is a non-profit organization and is the only 501(c)(3) in the Southeast that is certified by the Internal Revenue Service to encourage and train women to run for office and become more deeply involved in politics. The [Institute](#) is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization training women to win in South Carolina. Jacobs is the Lobbyist Principal for the South Carolina Cable Television Association and is a

member of the Foundation board of directors.

Charleston Comcast Cares Day 2011....We DO Power Dreams!!!



CHARLESTON, SC – April 30, 2011 – On Saturday, April 30, more than 200 local Comcast employees and their families and friends volunteered to improve the Jenkins Institute for Children as part of Comcast’s “Comcast Cares Day.”

At the same time across the country, more than 62,000 Comcast volunteers participated in this annual day of service, which is one of the largest single days of corporate volunteer efforts in the country. South Carolina State Representative Wendell Gilliard was on hand to commemorate the day and rally the volunteers in his district at the Jenkins Institute.

“Comcast is a great corporate citizen, and their team in Charleston has always demonstrated a strong commitment to community service,” said State Representative Wendell Gilliard. “It’s fitting that Comcast would return to the Jenkins Institute to commemorate a decade of Comcast Cares Days in Charleston. We thank them.” This is Comcast’s 10th Comcast Cares Day. The Jenkins Institute was home to Charleston’s first Comcast Cares Day 10 years ago, when Comcast employees and their families and friends together built a softball field for the children of the institute. This year, volunteers were engaged in a campus beautification project of the 93-acre facility, which includes tree trimming; planting shrubs, flowers and other plants; restoring the picnic area, basketball court, volleyball court, softball field and softball dugouts; repairing damaged picnic tables; replacing campus signage; and organizing donated items.

“We could not support the social and economic well being of children and family members in the Charleston community without great corporate citizens like Comcast,” said Johanna Martin-Carrington, Executive Director of the Jenkins Institute for Children. “Through Comcast’s help, we will enable children and families to become productive and self sufficient.”

“We’re so honored to partner with the Jenkins Institute for Children to improve our community during our 10th Comcast Cares Day,” added Bill Watson, vice president and general manager for Comcast’s Charleston market. “I’m grateful to the more than 200 local volunteers who will be donating their time to help make such a big difference in the lives of others.”

For the second year, Comcast employees in Charleston were joined by local affiliates of the National Urban League as a national partner of Comcast Cares Day. Since its inception in 2001, Comcast employees, their families and friends have dedicated over 2 million hours of service. The Company has also committed more than \$10 million in grants to organizations nationwide.

(continued on page 6...)

Comcast Cares (continued from page 5)

Comcast Cares Day is one way that Comcast helps to power dreams and demonstrate a year-round commitment to making a difference in the communities it serves. The Comcast Foundation provided grants to local community partner organizations across the country on behalf of each employee and family member who volunteers on Comcast Cares Day. The grants help Comcast's community partners continue their mission of serving the community throughout the year.



The Jenkins Institute has a long and rich history which dates back to its founding in 1891. Today, its mission is to promote and support the social and economic well being of children, families, and individuals to enable them to become productive and self sufficient persons in their communities.

At the same time across the country, more than 62,000 Comcast volunteers will participate in this annual day of service, which is one of the largest single days of corporate volunteer efforts in the country. Since its inception in 2001, nearly 300,000 Comcast employees, their families and friends have dedicated over 2 million hours of service. The Company has also committed more than \$10 million in grants to organizations nationwide. Comcast Cares Day is one way that Comcast helps to power dreams and demonstrate a year-round commitment to making a difference in the communities it serves.

ATLANTIC BROADBAND CUSTOMERS GET FREE PHONE CALLS TO JAPAN IN THE WAKE OF EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

AIKEN, SC, March 21, 2011 — All Atlantic Broadband phone customers in South Carolina – both residential and business – will get free phone calling to Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami, the company announced today. “Offering free phone calls is the least we can do to support customers whose family, friends or business colleagues in Japan may have been affected by this tragedy,” said Sam McGill, Atlantic Broadband Vice President and General Manager. “Not knowing how those we care about are faring in the wake of such a massive crisis can be very frightening. We hope Atlantic Broadband phone service can help serve as a lifeline to those in need.”

The free phone call policy will be in effect at least through the end of this month, and will be retroactive to March 11, the day of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Atlantic Broadband customers need do nothing to take advantage of the free calling to Japan. Charges for calls will be waived automatically on their bills. Operator-assisted or directory assistance calls to Japan will be charged at the normal rate. Atlantic Broadband serves 21,000 South Carolina customers in Aiken, Barnwell, Bamberg and Allendale counties. A privately held company ranked as one of the 20 largest cable operators in the United States, Atlantic Broadband is headquartered in Quincy, Massachusetts. It has over 700 employees and 286,000 customers located in four operating regions: central Pennsylvania, Miami Beach, Maryland/Delaware and South Carolina. Additional information is available at www.atlanticbb.com.

STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

On November 4, 2011, AT&T filed an application to amend its state-issued certificate of franchise authority to include the following areas: Belton, Cheraw, Edisto Beach, Isle of Palms, Seabrook Island, Six Mile, Sullivan's Island, West Pelzer, Chesterfield County, Colleton County, and Fairfield County. As of April 29, 2011, the South Carolina Secretary of State has issued the following certificates of franchise authority. Changes from the last newsletter are highlighted in red:

ATLANTIC BROADBAND.....	Aiken, Aiken County, Allendale, Bamberg, Bamberg County, Barnwell, Burnetown, Denmark, Fairfax, Jackson, New Ellenton, Snelling, Williston
BALDWIN COUNTY INTERNET/ DSSI SERVICE, LLC.....	Beaufort County, Charleston County, Greenville, Greenville County
BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ... INC. d/b/a AT&T SOUTH CAROLINA	Anderson, Anderson County, Arcadia Lakes, Bamberg County , Berkeley County, Blythewood, Calhoun County, Camden, Cayce, Central, Chapin , Charleston, Charleston County, Cherokee County, Clemson, Clover , Columbia, Cordova, Dorchester County, Duncan, Easley, Elgin, Folly Beach, Forest Acres, Fountain Inn, Gaffney, Gaston, Goose Creek, Greenville, Greenville County, Greer, Hanahan, Hollywood, Irmo, James Island, Kiawah Island, Kershaw County, Laurens, Lexington County, Liberty, Lincolville, Little Mountain, Lyman, Mauldin, McConnells, Mount Pleasant, Newberry, North Charleston, Oconee County, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pickens, Pickens County, Pine Ridge, Ravenel, Reidville , Richland County, Seneca, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Springdale, Summerville, Travelers Rest, Walhalla, West Columbia, Williamston, York, York County
BERKELEY CABLE TV, INC.....	Berkeley County, Charleston , Goose Creek , Harleyville, Jamestown, Moncks Corner, North Charleston , St. Stephens
BROADBAND EXPERIENCE..... d/b/a FAMILY VIEW CABLEVISION	Central, Clemson, Pickens County
CAROLINA TELECOM SERVICES.....	Hickory Grove, Sharon
CATAWBA, INC.....	Rock Hill
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Abbeville, Anderson County , Chesnee, Clinton, Duncan , Easley, Greer, Greenville, Greenville County, Honea Path, Laurens, Mauldin, Newberry County, Oconee County, Pelzer, Pickens County, Reidville , Salem, Six Mile, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Starr, Travelers Rest, Union, West Pelzer, Whitmire, Woodruff
CHESNEE COMMUNICATIONS.....	Cherokee County, Chesnee, Spartanburg County
CHESTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC DBA TRUVISTA.....	Chester
COMCAST OF CAROLINA.....	Berkeley County , Charleston , Dorchester County , Edisto Beach, Goose Creek, Hampton County, Hanahan, Isle of Palms, James Island, Mount Pleasant , Sullivan's Island, Summerville
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC II.....	Beaufort County, Charleston, Edisto Beach, Hampton County, Hollywood, Meggett, Mount Pleasant , Town of Seabrook Island
COMCAST OF GEORGIA/SC INC.....	Aiken County, Burnetown, Hampton County, North Augusta
COMCAST OF THE SOUTH.....	Calhoun Falls, Prosperity
ELK COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Gaston, Lexington County, Swansea
FALCON VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS.....	Beaufort, Beaufort County, Port Royal

State-Issued Certificates of Franchise Authority *continued...*

FARMERS TELEPHONE..... COOPERATIVE	Andrews, Clarendon County, Coward, Florence County, Georgetown County, Greeleyville, Lane, Lee County, Lynchburg, Mayesville, Paxville, Pinewood, Scranton, Sumter, Sumter County, Turbeville, Williamsburg County
FTC DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, INC.....	Bishopville, Clarendon County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Kingstree, Lake City, Lee County, Manning, Olanta, Summerton, Sumter, Sumter County, Williamsburg County
GREAT FALLS CABLEVISION, INC..... d/b/a TRUVISTA	Town of Great Falls
HARGRAY CATV CO., INC.....	Bluffton, Estill, Hampton, Hardeeville, Hilton Head Island, Jasper County
HOME TELECOM..... Transferred its certificate to Berkeley Cable TV, Inc. on January 24, 2011	Charleston, Goose Creek, North Charleston
HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE.....	Conway, Surfside Beach
HPI ACQUISITION CO., LLC.....	Anderson, Anderson County, Due West
KNOLOGY OF CHARLESTON, INC.....	City of Charleston, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Hanahan, North Charleston, Summerville
MANAGED SERVICES INC.....	Berkeley County, Horry County, Jasper County, Richland County
METROCAST COMMUNICATIONS..... OF MISSISSIPPI, LLC	Marlboro County, McColl
NORTHLAND CABLE TELEVISION.....	Laurens County, Pendleton, Pickens County, Seneca, West Union
PALMETTO CABLE TV, LLC.....	Fort Mill, Lancaster County
PALMETTO RURAL TELEPHONE..... COOPERATIVE, INC.	Bamberg County, Colleton County, Cottageville, Lodge, Smoaks, Walterboro, Williams
PASSPORT COMMUNICATIONS.....	Fort Mill
PINE TREE CABLEVISION.....	Aiken County, Bamberg County, Barnwell County, Bethune, Cottageville, Gaston, Jefferson, Kershaw County, Lamar, McBee, Orangeburg County, Perry, Salley, Wagener
PBT COMMUNICATIONS.....	Gilbert, Lexington, Lexington County, Monetta , Pelion, Summit, Wagener
RST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.....	Gaffney
TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II.....	Bowman, Dorchester County, Earhardt, Eutawville, Holly Hill, Orangeburg County
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT LLC, DBA NEWWAVE COMMUNICATIONS	Pageland
TIME WARNER CABLE, LLC.....	Andrews, Charleston County, Georgetown County, Summerville
TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT..... ADVANCE/NEWHOUSE PRTSHP	Calhoun County, Cayce, Columbia, Conway, Florence County, Forest Acres, Georgetown County, Hemingway, Irmo, Lane, Lee County, Lexington, Lexington County, Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pamplico, Pine Ridge , Quinby, Richland County, South Congaree , Springdale, Surfside Beach, Sumter, Sumter County, West Columbia

State-Issued Certificates of Franchise Authority *continued...*

TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT ADVANCE/NEWHOUSE PTRSHP.....	Clover, Fort Mill, York County -CHARLOTTE DIVISION
TIME WARNER NY CABLE, LLC.....	Bishopville , Bluffton, Darlington County, Dillon County, , Georgetown County, Goose Creek, Hardeeville, Hilton Head, Jasper County, Lakeview, Marion County, McBee, Moncks Corner, Nichols
VIDEO VISION, INC.....	Fort Lawn, Heath Springs, Kershaw, Lancaster County
YRT2, INC.....	Berkeley County, Columbia, Dorchester County, Greenville, Greenville County, Horry County, Myrtle Beach, Summerville

**SOUTH CAROLINA
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**



The first session of the General Assembly convened on January 11, 2011. Following is a list of bills of interest that have been introduced since the last newsletter:

Senate Bill 460 / House Bills 3044, 3270– Angel Investment Act of 2011

This Act is intended to encourage individual investors to invest in early stage, high-growth, job-creating businesses; enlarge the number of high quality, high paying jobs within the State; expand the economy; and support businesses seeking to commercialize technology invented in SC’s institutions of higher learning. An angel investor is entitled to a nonrefundable state income tax credit. Senate Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 478 – Unemployment Trust Fund

This bill modified the method of computing contributions to the unemployment trust fund. Senate Favorable Report from Commerce & Industry Committee.

Senate Bill 483 / House Bill 3508 – Government Owned Communications Service Providers

See article on first page.

Senate Bill 532 / House Bill 4043 – Drug Test

Suspends the unemployment benefits of a person who fails a drug test for prospective employment. House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 561 / House Bill 3595 – Statement of Economic Interest

This bill increases the disclosures required to be made on statements of economic interest. Senate Judiciary Committee.

Legislative Update (continued)

Senate Bill 591 / House Bill 3540 – Tax Credit for Employers

Allows a tax credit for employers hiring an unemployed individual receiving unemployment compensation benefits. House Ways & Means Committee.

Senate Bill 669 / House Bill 3573 – Lobbyists

Increases filing fee for registration of lobbyists & lobbyists' principals. House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 670 / House Bill 3183 – Lobbyists Registration

Lobbyists or lobbyists' principles cannot continue to be registered until they comply with reporting requirements and pay any late filing fees. Senate Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 690 – Income and Corporate License Fees

This bill extends the repeal date for the exemption from levying of income taxes on certain distribution facilities meeting certain criteria until January 1, 2016. Senate Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 694 / House Bill 4127– Employee Discrimination

This bill amends the remedies for employees charging discrimination to provide for referral to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. House Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 715, 716, 783, & 784 – Exemptions Repeal Committee

Creates the Exemptions Repeal Committee and requires the Office of Economic Research to divide the sales tax exemptions into 5 groups and randomly select an order for the repeal of one group per year until all groups are repealed. It would also reduce the state sales tax rate each year for five years.

Senate Bill 756 – Business License Fees

Requires local governing bodies to assess and collect business license fees annually on a calendar year basis. Senate Finance Committee.

Senate Bill 778 – PSC Regulation – Prepaid Local Exchange Service

Modifies Reg. 103-607 to require telephone utilities providing residential service to file a bond if the utility has not invested at least \$5 million in facilities. House Labor, Commerce, & Industry Committee.

Senate Bill 786 – Taxation Realignment Commission

The Commission would be comprised of the same members as the original TRAC group and would issue a report no later than March 15, 2012, considering sales and use tax exemptions or limitations to be retained. Senate Finance Committee.

Legislative Update (continued)

Senate Bill 830 – Employer Verification ID

A worker is not eligible to receive a driver's license or identification card if the worker's only proof of identification is a matricula consular card or similar document. Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

House Bill 3489 – Lobbyists Principals

Lobbyists' principals are prohibited from making a campaign contribution to a member of the General Assembly or a statewide constitutional officer from December 31st through June 1st of the calendar year immediately following. House Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 3542 – Cell Phones

Illegal to use a cell phone while operating motor vehicle. House Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 3658 – Employer Free Speech Act

Employer is not required to post notices informing employees of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act. House debate.

House Bill 3686 – Caller Identification & Social Media Fraud

Creates offense of unlawfully altering the identification of a caller's number or social media identity. House Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 3720 – Job Tax Credits Definitions

Revises requirements of a qualifying service-related facility and technology intensive facility and provides exemptions from state corporate income tax when a corporation establishes or expands a national corporate headquarters under certain circumstances. Senate Finance Committee.

House Bill 3779 – Bill Wylie Entrepreneurship Act

Would create the Angel Investment Act of 2011 granting a nonrefundable state income tax credit for a qualified investment in a business start-up company. Senate Finance Committee.

FCC BRIEFS

The following documents can be downloaded from the FCC's website at <http://www.fcc.gov>

On February 8, 2011, the FCC issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to formalize reforms of its universal service and intercarrier compensation policies based on proposals made in the National Broadband Plan. The FCC proposes phasing out intercarrier compensation and transitioning today's voice-focused USF to broadband. FCC 11-13.

On February 14, 2011, the FCC issued its Report on Cable Industry Prices. The average monthly price of expanded basic service increased by 5.9% for 2009. DA 11-284.

On March 3, 2011, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to consider possible amendments to rules concerning retransmission consent negotiations. FCC 11-31

On March 3, 2011, the FCC proposed comprehensive reforms to modernize and drive tougher accountability measures into the Lifeline/Link Up program. FCC 11-32.

On March 3, 2011, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to adopt rules to implement the 21st Century Communication and Video Accessibility Act of 2010's requirement that each interconnected and each non-interconnected VoIP service provider participate in and contribute to the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund. FCC 11-38.

On March 3, 2011, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to help promote persons with disabilities access to advanced communications services through manufacturing requirements, enhanced enforcement efforts, and expanded access to mobile broadband services. FCC 11-36.

On March 9, 2011, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on proposed rules to implement the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009. FCC 11-41.

On March 21, 2011, the FCC released new data on Internet Access Services and Local Telephone Competition. 60% of Internet connections were slower than the benchmark 4 Mbps. Interconnected VoIP grew 21% between 2009 June 2010. The reports can be downloaded at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

On March 22, 2011, the FCC released an Enforcement Advisory to alert commercial television and radio broadcasters to a new requirement to certify that their advertising sales contracts contain nondiscrimination clauses and do not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity.

On April 6, 2011, the FCC adopted rules designed to eliminate the waste, fraud and abuse that has plagued the video relay service program. FCC 11-54.

On April 7, 2011, the FCC adopted a Notice of Inquiry seeking public comment on ways to further strengthen the reliability and resiliency of America's communications networks. FCC 11-55.

On April 11, 2011, the FCC issued a Public Notice asking for comments on the kinds of "need for speed" information that will be most useful to consumers in choosing their Internet service.