



SCCTA

SOUTH CAROLINA CABLE TELEVISION ASSOCIATION



Lifeline Reform Status Report

The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) filed its *Lifeline Reform Status Report* (“Report”) with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina on June 18, 2013. ORS filed a petition with the Commission in December 2012 to adopt the Federal Communications Commission’s changes to the Lifeline and Link-Up Programs mandated by the FCC’s Lifeline Reform Order (FCC 12-11). The Commission instructed ORS to restructure its duties related to Lifeline administration to incorporate the FCC’s protections against fraud, waste and abuse in addition to increasing participation in the Lifeline program in its December 19th Order. The Report describes the changes ORS has implemented to comply with the Commission Order and the FCC requirements.

According to the Report by September 2012 more than 411,316 South Carolina households had become eligible for Lifeline based on their participation in nutritional assistance programs. Lifeline enrollment in South Carolina is over 250,000. In January 2013, South Carolina received over \$2.5 million for Lifeline from the Federal Universal Service Fund.¹

The Report also describes the tiered approach ORS is taking to prevent waste, fraud and abuse. First all eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) applications are reviewed and approved by the Commission. Once an ETC is designated, ORS arranges a conference call with the new ETC to discuss marketing strategy, intake process and safeguards. ORS Lifeline Staff has conducted 11 calls or visits with newly approved ETCs in the last 6 months. ORS also conducts site visits to outreach locations across South Carolina and performs formal compliance audits to evaluate all ETCs on a three year cycle. The Report contains sample compliance forms and the formal compliance audit information requests.² A copy of the report is available on the Commission’s website in Docket Number 2012-115-C at

<http://dms.psc.sc.gov/pdf/matters/79CA8907-155D-141F-1DFCAA7608F012F.pdf>

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¹ Lifeline Reform Status Report, p. 2-3.

² Lifeline Reform Status Report, p. 3-5 & attachments A and B.



From the Executive Director....The 120th General Assembly recently ended the 2013 legislative session. While ethics reform and creating a new Department of Administration were two top focuses this session, both remain unsettled in conference committees. However, election reform legislation was passed, which should help non-incumbents experience much simpler filing requirements. As usual, the state's annual appropriations bill took months to resolve forcing the General Assembly to return the week of June 17th to adopt conference committee proposals. The General Assembly returned one day to consider the Governor's vetoes in which 46 of 81 vetoes were overridden. A more comprehensive summary of this year's SC legislative session will be provided to SCCTA membership.

I thank each of you who were able to participate in this year's NCTA Key Contact conference, in which we visited each office of the SC congressional delegation. During these visits, one of our missions was to promote the Warner Amendment inclusion regarding RUS funding in the Farm Bill (HR 1947).

This amendment protects our industry in a number of ways. The Warner amendment **provides meaningful broadband access for unserved rural communities by** requiring that at least 25 percent of households in a proposed project area qualify as unserved or underserved. The Secretary of Agriculture will have discretion to reduce the percentage to not less than 18 percent for project areas covering 7,500 or fewer people, and 15 percent for areas covering 5,000 or fewer.

The Warner amendment also **improves government accountability** by enhancing reporting requirements in order to enable RUS and taxpayers to better assess the value of successful projects. It requires all funding recipients and RUS to report specific metrics about the number of residences and businesses receiving new service. These reports also will include information on average broadband speeds, as well as progress in extending broadband to specific educational, health care and public safety agencies and organizations.

Additionally, the Warner amendment **enhances broadband mapping**. The National Broadband Map, launched in 2010, is a necessary first step in assessing the availability of broadband services across the country. Unfortunately, the map is not specific enough. The amendment requires RUS loan and grant recipients to provide broadband build-out data for use in the National Broadband Map so that RUS can better utilize more specific data in future funding decisions.

We were all elated this important amendment we lobbied for passed the U.S. Senate. However, on June 20, the House voted down its version of the Farm Bill by a vote of 195-234. Democrats opposed the bill due to cuts in spending on food stamps while Republicans opposed it because they felt there were not enough spending cuts. We may have to deliver the same messages during 2014 Key Contact!

I have been named to represent the SC cable industry on the South Carolina Broadband Advisory Council. This council serves as a network of people working together to identify and remove barriers to broadband access and identify opportunities for increased broadband applications and adoption in unserved and underserved areas of South Carolina. The South Carolina Broadband Advisory Council also oversees all necessary duties and responsibilities to reach the goal to expand broadband technology including the application of federal funding/grants, grant compliance, mapping, and data management. I will keep you informed on the work of this new council.

I look forward in seeing each of you August 14 – 16 of this year at the Joint Summer Meeting (JSM) to be held at the Inn on Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. As you are aware, we will hold both a SCCTF (Foundation) Board Meeting and the SCCTA (Association) Board Meeting, along with our SCCTA Annual Meeting. If you recall, in 2014, we have planned an annual board retreat, which will replace the JSM. For those of you who are filling up those 2014 calendars, the board retreat is scheduled for July 23 – July 27, 2014 at Wild Dunes.

Bonnie Shealy and I are working on a final SCCTA legislative database, which will include recent action by the SC General Assembly since its regular sine die adjournment. The General Assembly met since sine die to finish its work on the appropriations bill and certain legislation being considered in conference committees. This bill tracker will also reflect the consideration and action regarding the governor's vetoes. The 2014 session is the second year of a two-year session, so the bills included in this listing will continue to be active.

It has been very rewarding to see the SCCTA recognized in the SC legislature as a most important industry group. We are in our fifth year of being located in Columbia and this has certainly made a difference in the successes of your association. I would be remiss by not mentioning our great team of board members, lobbyist and the work of our attorneys at Robinson, McFadden. I look forward in continued successes as we protect and promote the SC cable industry.

Ray Sharpe

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NEWS

PSC Elections

The General Assembly elected new Commissioners for Seats 1, 3, 5, and 7 of the Public Service Commission on May 1, 2013. The terms for these seats are from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2016. All of the following Commissioners are incumbents except Randy Randall for the 3rd District.

District 1

John "Butch" Howard

District 3

Comer H. "Randy" Randall

District 5

Swain Whitfield (incumbent)

District 7

Gordon O'Neal Hamilton (incumbent)

Mr. Randall has served as Mayor of Clinton, South Carolina since 2003. He has been the Chairman of the Piedmont Municipal Power Agency Board, Chair of Clinton Newberry Natural Gas Authority, and served on the American Public Power Association Policy Makers Council. Chairman David A. Wright resigned his position effective May 31, 2013, leaving the seat for District 2 vacant. Commissioner O'Neal Hamilton will serve as Chairman and Commissioner Nikki Hall will serve as Vice Chairman for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1st.

Regulatory Review Task Force

Governor Nikki Haley issued Executive Order 2013-2 which established the Governor's Regulatory Review Task Force which is part of a larger initiative to improve South Carolina's business climate by reducing government involvement in business and professional activities that stifle entrepreneurship, small business and economic growth. The order indicated that one way to reduce government involvement in business is to create a more simplified and market-friendly regulatory system that is regularly evaluated to determine the costs and benefits to the public and business. The Task Force's mission was to develop a report that evaluates South Carolina's current regulatory burdens on all sizes and types of businesses in South Carolina and proposes recommendations to relieve those burdens.

On May 1, 2013, the Task Force requested that the Public Service Commission submit a report regarding the Commission's statutes, rules, regulations, and

policies that effect on businesses and the South Carolina economy. The Commission solicited written comments from interested persons by May 23, 2013. SCE&G, the S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff, AT&T, and the S.C. Telephone Coalition filed letters indicating they did not have any specific comments or recommendations for the Commission at that time.

CenturyLink submitted comments on the benefits of the South Carolina Universal Service Fund and the Interim LEC Fund. CenturyLink's comments indicated that while CLECs and others have criticized these SC funds, they ignore that incumbent carriers alone bear the burden to serve high-cost regions in the State that competitors can choose not to serve.

The Coastal Conservation League also submitted comments contending there are a number of areas where economic development impacts are not thoroughly evaluated by the state's investor-owned utilities as they plan to meet future energy demand. The League also specifically outlined concerns about the following: (1) statutory laws that prohibit third party energy sales which stifles the residential solar market, (2) Commission's net metering and interconnection standards orders have prevented increased investment in commercial scale solar arrays, (3) under the utility resource planning statute there is currently no analysis being conducted to estimate the economic development impacts of the selected resource plans or to determine whether alternative resource investment decisions would result in a greater economic development impact for the state, and (4) utilities should include higher levels of energy efficiency in their preferred resource plans to offer customers lower costs, lower risks, and lower rates.

.843 Area Code Relief

Neustar in its role as NANPA filed a petition seeking relief on behalf of the SC telecom industry for the 843 area code which is forecast to be exhausted in the first quarter of 2016. Based on the Industry's consensus decision, Neustar recommends a new NPA code be assigned to the same area as the existing 843 NPA. Customers would retain their current telephone numbers and 10-digit dialing by all customers between and within area codes in the area would be required. The projected life of the NPA is 28 years. The SC Telephone Coalition has intervened in the docket.

Member News...



Comcast Digital Connectors



left to right: Digital Connectors instructor Rhiannon Rainsford, program graduates Jordan Sery, Sydney Memminger, Paris Hall, Deja Harper, KeAndre Brown and Jaxirit Tapia-Jimenez, and Comcast Senior Manager of Government & Regulatory Affairs Shannon Dulin

Comcast Digital Connectors was created to help low-income communities understand the benefits of using broadband and making it part of their lives. The program makes it possible for hundreds of young adults ages 14 to 21 to develop their skills in using computers, applications, and the Internet, and then take what they've learned out into their communities to make a difference. The third class of Comcast Digital Connectors graduated from the Carolina Youth Development Center on June 11, 2013, at the Cummins Turbo Technologies' facility in Charleston County. Ten teens became "technology ambassadors" for the community after spending 9 months learning valuable skills in leadership development, digital literacy, financial literacy and media literacy. Each youth received an EverFi certificate of completion of the program and a Netbook. This job training program is geared to making young people "job ready" for the 21st century.

Comcast supports the program which allows youths to participate at no charge. Participants commit to provide several hours a month volunteering at community-based organizations, senior centers, churches, local schools, and even reaching out to their own families and friends, to make everyone aware of how broadband can change their lives and helping them to get connected.

"You can land a good job using digital literacy skills," said KeAndre Brown, a senior at Greg Mathis Charter High School. "Success is just a matter of putting your mind to the task and completing it. This program has helped me with my career goals, because at first I was undecided, but now I'm thinking about pursuing a career as a computer technician."

"Our partnership with Comcast is critical to reaching these young people," said Carolina Youth Development Center's CEO, Barbara Kelley Duncan. "Not only do our young people have the opportunity to expand their knowledge of technology, but they also have the opportunity to give back to their communities. This year we worked with the food bank. Also, historically, Carolina Youth Development Center has been a residential program. Digital Connectors provided us with the opportunity to expand our audience with disconnected youth."

SAVE THE DATE
2013 JOINT SUMMER MEETING
August 14 – 16, 2013
Inn on Biltmore Estate
Asheville, North Carolina





100 COMCAST CARES DAY VOLUNTEERS TO LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

Annual Day of Service Will Surpass 2.6 Million Hours Volunteered Across the Country

As part of the 12th annual Comcast Cares Day, more than 100 Charleston Comcast employees and volunteers are anticipated to donate their time to three projects benefiting local community organizations. This year Comcast will partner with Lowcountry Food Bank as part of Comcast Cares Day. Volunteers will assist with food packing and processing, painting, and semi-truck washing efforts to help distribute healthy food and grocery products to nonprofit agencies serving the poor. Nationally, Comcast estimates 70,000 volunteers will participate in 600 Comcast Cares Day projects.

Since Comcast Cares Day began in 2001, Comcast volunteers have donated more than two million hours of service to their local communities. In just a decade, the initiative has grown to become one of the largest single-day corporate volunteer efforts in the country. 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.

COURT DECISIONS OF INTEREST



The South Carolina Supreme Court recently ruled in several cases dealing with arbitration issues. In the first, the Court upheld the lower court's decision denying a builder's motion to compel arbitration based on unconscionability. In *Smith v. D.R. Horton, Inc.* a homeowner filed a case against the builder alleging extensive defects in the home. The purchase agreement included a mandatory arbitration clause. The Supreme Court noted that the warranties and dispute resolution section referenced that certain disputes were to be resolved by mandatory binding arbitration along with an entire host of attempted waivers of important legal remedies. The court found the attempts to disclaim implied warranty claims were oppressive and unconscionable. The Court found the limitation of liability section particularly oppressive and one-sided. In this section the builder claimed it could not be liable for monetary damages of any kind.

In *C-Sculptures v Brown*, the Supreme Court overturned the arbitrator's decision finding he exceeded his powers and that his decision constituted a manifest disregard of the law. The contractor agreed to build an \$800,000 house for the Browns. A dispute arose and the contractor filed an action to enforce a mechanic's lien. The case was stayed pending arbitration. After the Browns learned the contractor's license was limited to

projects that did not exceed \$100,000, they filed a motion to dismiss contending that since the contractor did not have a valid license to build the project, he was prohibited by statute from bringing a case to enforce the contract. The arbitrator was apprised of the statute, but denied the motion to dismiss. The arbitrator ruled in favor of the contractor and the Supreme Court overturned the decision noting the governing law ignored by the arbitrator is well defined, explicit and clearly applicable.

In *Carlson v SC State Plastering, Del Webb Communities and Pulte Homes*, the defendants appealed a circuit court order denying their motion to compel arbitration based on its finding that the defendants waived any right to arbitration by engaging in litigation for more than two years before filing their motion to compel. The Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the circuit court and upheld the arbitration provision after considering that the defendants raised the arbitration issue at the beginning of the case; the Carlsons did not suffer any prejudice as a result of the delay; the defendants did not engage in any discovery before filing the motion to compel arbitration; and the defendants did not file the motion sooner because they were waiting on the resolution of a Right to Cure Act issue. The Carlsons' claims all arose from Del Webb and Pulte's allegedly defective construction of their home. The Court held that in addition to the Carlsons contract claims the tort claims also fell within the scope of the arbitration clause in this case.

Court Decisions *continued*.....

Central Telephone Co. of Virginia v Sprint Communications

Pursuant to the 1996 Telecommunications Act, Sprint entered into interconnection agreements with 19 incumbent local exchange carriers ("CenturyLink") providing for the mutual exchange of telecommunications traffic. When Sprint began to withhold payments, CenturyLink filed a breach of contract claim in federal district court in regard to their dispute over access charges involving VoIP traffic. The ICAs addressed the compensation for the termination of VoIP traffic providing that they were to be compensated in the same manner as voice traffic. Sprint paid CenturyLink access charges for VoIP traffic from 2004 until June 2009. At that point Sprint began filing written disputes with CenturyLink. Sprint's core contentions were (1) that the ICA did not apply to long distance VoIP traffic that traveled over Feature Group D trunks; and (2) that CenturyLink billed Sprint at an improperly high rate for VoIP traffic since May 1, 2007. Instead of following the ICAs' dispute resolution procedure, Sprint unilaterally reduced the rate for termination of VoIP-originated traffic. Sprint demanded that CenturyLink apply Sprint's recalculated rate going forward and remit portions of previous payments made by Sprint which Sprint deemed to be in excess of what it should have paid. Sprint withheld payments for both VoIP and non-VoIP traffic although there was no dispute concerning non-VoIP traffic.

CenturyLink filed a complaint in U.S. District Court in Virginia alleging breach of contract and Sprint moved to dismiss the complaint for lack of jurisdiction due to failure to exhaust administrative remedies or to stay the case under the doctrine of primary jurisdiction. Sprint also filed a counterclaim alleging that CenturyLink breached the North Carolina ICA by billing Sprint for local traffic not subject to access charges. The District Court concluded that it had federal question jurisdiction and decided that the 1996 Act imposed no requirement for CenturyLink to exhaust its administrative remedies before a State Commission. The District Court awarded CenturyLink \$23 million in damages. The FCC filed an amicus brief indicating that its position was that the state commissions were not the only entities who could interpret and enforce an ICA. The 4th Circuit rejected Sprint's claim that a State commission must interpret an ICA before a federal district court can do so.

Sprint's counterclaim alleged that CenturyLink had improperly charged it for local VoIP calls. The ICA's bill and keep provision did not provide for access charges for local traffic. The District Court rejected Sprint's argument that the ICA did not permit CenturyLink to use the Billing Telephone Number ("BTN") method for determining whether a call should be deemed local. Sprint contended that CenturyLink was required to use the calling party number ("CPN") method to determine whether the call was local or long distance. CenturyLink used the BTN method throughout the period in part because at the time the parties executed the ICA, CenturyLink did not have the software in place to use the CPN method. The District Court found that the NC ICA did not specify a method for identifying local calls, but instead incorporated by reference an industry publication that explicitly permitted use of the BTN method. Alternatively, the Court construed any ambiguity in the NC ICA against Sprint as the drafter. The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's decision.

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following bills were enacted since the last quarterly newsletter.

ACT 15 / House Bill 3248 – Identity Theft

Revises financial transaction card crime provisions in regard to financial identify fraud and theft. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3248.htm

ACT 26 / Senate Bill 163 – Motion Picture Tax Rebate

Increase the motion picture tax rebate and rebate of expenditures if there is a \$1 million minimum expenditure. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/163.htm



SC LEGISLATION *continued*.....**ACT 46 / Senate Bill 438 – Government Contracts & Unions**

State or local entities may not require or prohibit a contractor or subcontractor from entering into or adhering to a labor union agreement for a project. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/438.htm

ACT 53 / House Bill 3751 – – Unemployment Benefits

Conforms SC unemployment benefits to federal law. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3751.htm

ACT 57 / House Bill 3093 – SC Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act

Taxpayers who make investments of a certain size to rehabilitate an abandoned building based on the population where the building is located may receive specified income tax credits or credits against the property tax liability.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3093.htm

ACT 61 / Senate Bill 2 – Equal Access to The Ballot Act

Prohibits a person defeated in a party primary from having his name placed on the ballot with certain exceptions. Also streamlines procedures for filing statements of intention of candidacy. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/2.htm

ACT 80 / House Bill 3505 – High Growth Small Business Access To Capital Act of 2013

Provides nonrefundable income tax credits for qualified investments to businesses meeting certain criteria and primarily engage in manufacturing, software development, information technology, among other industries. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3505.htm

The following bills were introduced since the last quarterly newsletter.

Senate Bill 683 – Ballot

Provides that a candidate's name may appear on the ballot only once for a specific office. Senate Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/683.htm

Senate Bill 738 – Candidate's Legal Residence

Provides the method to determine the legal residence of a candidate for a nonjudicial office filled by a vote of the General Assembly. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/738.htm

Senate Bill 744 – Concurrent Resolution General Assembly Sine Die Adjournment

Extends the Sine Die adjournment date for the General Assembly so it can continue in session from June 18th through June 20th. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/744.htm

Senate Bill 755 – Use of Personal Information

A person or private entity cannot use any personal information obtained from a state agency for commercial solicitation directed to any person in the State. This bill amends the prohibition to include local agencies. Senate Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/755.htm

House Bill 763 – SC Pay for Success Performance Accountability Act

Establishes the Trust Fund for Performance Accountability to fund pay for success contracts whereby state contracts with a private-sector organization to achieve specifically defined measureable outcomes in which the state pays only to the extent the desired outcomes are achieved. Senate Finance. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/763.htm

House Bill 788 – Damages

Limits personal injury and punitive damages and provides process to plead damages claims. Senate Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/788.htm

SC LEGISLATION *continued*.....**House Bill 3906 – Rural Infrastructure Fund Grants**

Amends the program so that Rural Infrastructure Fund Grants may be awarded to counties and municipalities located within counties with a population less than 40,000. House Ways & Means.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3906.htm

House Bill 3921 – Wireless Device

Persons who drive a vehicle while using a wireless communications device are guilty of reckless driving. Also allows law enforcement to subpoena the data usage record for use in prosecuting the violation. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3921.htm

House Bill 3922 – Community Land Bank Act

The Community Land Bank would allow nonprofit corporations to be formed to acquire, manage and provide a new purpose and use for vacant, foreclosed or abandoned properties. House, Labor, Commerce & Industry.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3922.htm

House Bill 3945 / House Bill 3772 – Commission on Ethics Enforcement & Disclosure

Abolishes the State Ethics Commission and creates the Commission on Ethics Enforcement and Disclosure. The Commission would initiate and receive complaints alleging any ethics violations by candidates, public office holders, lobbyists, and persons holding elected or appointed positions. Disclosure statements and other forms would be filed with the Commission that would maintain a searchable database. House favorable Judiciary report with amendment.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3945.htm

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3772.htm

House Bill 4018 – Income Tax Credits

Allows a \$5000 income tax credit to any taxpayer that employs a formerly incarcerated individual as a full time employee for one year. House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4018.htm

House Bill 4025 – Employment Discrimination

Prohibits discrimination of employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4025.htm

House Bill 4039 / Senate Bill 535 – Clemson University Enterprise Act

Creates a new Enterprise Division within the University that allows the Board of Trustees fiscal and directional control of its auxiliary and economic development programs (including CU-ICAR, housing and athletics). House Ways & Means. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4039.htm

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/535.htm

House Bill 4068 / House Bill 3849 – Prohibition on General Assembly Appointments

Prohibits a member of the General Assembly or an immediate family member from being elected or appointed by the General Assembly to judicial post or the governing board of a public college or university while the member serves in the General Assembly and for one year after the member stops serving. House Judiciary.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4068.htm

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/3849.htm

House Bill 4095 – Truth in Health Financing and Responsible Consumer Health Care Act

Establishes the Responsible Consumer Health Care Program within the Department of health & Human Services to provide health care to low-income, uninsured South Carolinians. House Ways & Means.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4095.htm

SC LEGISLATION *continued*.....**House Bill 4135 – Distracted Driving Violation**

Makes it unlawful to drive while distracted. House Education & Public Works.

http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4135.htm

House Bill 4275 - State Election Commission

Provides that all county Boards of Elections and Voter Registration are under the direct supervision and control of the State Election Commission. House Judiciary. http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess120_2013-2014/bills/4275.htm

FCC BRIEFS

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

On June 25, 2013, the FCC issued an Order and Enforcement Advisory to remind Lifeline providers they are responsible for their marketing agents. The FCC also emphasized that providers must verify the eligibility of a new subscriber prior to initiating service.

On June 25, 2013, the Media Bureau issued a notice seeking comment on the video description of programming delivered on both television and the Internet.

On June 13, 2013, the Wireline Competition issued its Local Competition Report as of June 30, 2012. In June 2012, there were 102 million end user switched access lines, 39 million interconnected VoIP subscriptions and 303 million mobile subscriptions in the U.S.

On June 7, 2013, the FCC released its annual Report on Cable Industry Prices for 2011. The average monthly price of expanded basic service for all communities increased by 4.8% to \$61.63 from the prior year. This average price was higher than the comparable service package offered by DirecTV (\$60.99) and Dish network (\$49.99). DirecTV offered 182 channels, Dish offered 150 channels, and cable offered 150.

The FCC issued a Report and Order on May 22, 2013, providing for a second round of Connect America Phase I incremental funding of \$300 million in 2013. If demand exceeds \$300 million, an additional \$185 million in funding is authorized. FCC 13-73.

The *Internet Access Services: Status as of June 30, 2012*, report was issued on May 21, 2013. The number of Internet connections over 200 kbps in at least one direction increased by 18% year-to-year to 243 million.

Growth is particularly high in mobile subscriptions but fixed location connections also continue to increase.

On May 17, 2013, the FCC agreed to lift over 120 regulatory requirements on phone companies that are unnecessary or outdated including keeping paper records made redundant by digital databases, detailed filings of property records no longer used by the FCC, and calling card records reporting that consumed 15,000 hours of compliance work annually.

The FCC adopted rules on May 17th requiring wireless carriers to send an automatic bound-back text message to consumers who try to text 911 where text-to-911 service is not available.

On May 9, 2013, the FCC issued its quarterly report of Consumer Inquiries and Informal Complaints for the 4th Quarter, 2012. Cable & satellite services complaints increased by more than 67% primarily due to an increase in programming issue complaints. Bundled and VoIP service related complaints decreased by more than 9%.

On May 7, 2013, AT&T agreed to pay \$18.25 million to settle an FCC investigation into whether AT&T improperly billed the Telecommunications Relay Service Fund for certain Internet-based TRS calls.

On April 18, 2013, the FCC proposed to streamline access to telephone numbers for interconnect VoIP services and seeks comments on the proposal.

On April 15, 2013, the FCC issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order, granting limited forbearance from the FCC's rules that the service area of an ETC conform to the service area of any rural telephone company serving the same area. FCC 13-44.

STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY

As of June 12, 2013 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, Allendale County, Bamberg, Bamberg County, Barnwell, Barnwell County, Blackville, Burnetown, Denmark, Elko, 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, Belton, Berkeley County, Blythewood, Calhoun County, Camden, Cayce, Central, Chapin, Charleston, Charleston County, Cheraw, Cherokee County, Chesterfield County, Clemson, Clover, Colleton County, Columbia, Cordova, Dorchester County, Duncan, Easley, Edisto Beach, Elgin, Fairfield County, Folly Beach, Forest Acres, Fountain Inn, Gaffney, Gaston, Goose Creek, Greenville, Greenville County, Greer, Hanahan, Hollywood, Irmo, Isle of Palms, James Island, Kiawah Island, Kershaw County, Laurens County, Lexington County, Liberty, Lincolnville, Little Mountain, Lyman, Mauldin, McConnells, Mount Pleasant, Newberry County, North Charleston, Oconee County, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pickens, Pickens County, Pine Ridge, Ravenel, Reidville, Richland County, Seabrook Island, Seneca, Six Mile, South Congaree, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Springdale, Sullivan's Island, Summerville, Travelers Rest, Walhalla, West Columbia, West Pelzer, Williamston, York, York County
BERKELEY CABLE TV, INC.....	Berkeley County, Bonneau, Charleston, Goose Creek, Harleyville, Jamestown, Moncks Corner, North Charleston, St. Stephens, Summerville
BROADBAND EXPERIENCE d/b/a FAMILY VIEW CABLEVISION	Central, Clemson, Pickens County
CAROLINA TELECOM SERVICES.....	Hickory Grove, Sharon
CATAWBA SERVICES, LLC	Rock Hill
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.....	Abbeville, Anderson County, Campobello, Chesnee, Clinton, Cowpens, Duncan, Easley, Greer, Greenville, Greenville County, Honea Path, Inman, Iva, Jonesville, Landrum, Laurens, Mauldin, Newberry County, Oconee County, Pelzer, Pickens County, Reidville, Salem, Six Mile, Spartanburg, Spartanburg County, Starr, Travelers Rest, Union, Wellford, West Pelzer, Whitmire, Woodruff
CHESNEE COMMUNICATIONS.....	Cherokee County, Chesnee, Spartanburg County
CHESTER COMMUNICATIONS, LLC d/b/a 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
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

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

FTC DIVERSIFIED SERVICES, LLC.....	Bishopville, Clarendon County, Florence County, Georgetown County, Hemingway, 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, Ridgeland
HARGRAY, INC.....	Beaufort, Beaufort County, Port Royal
HORRY TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE...	Conway, Horry County, Georgetown County, Surfside Beach
HPI ACQUISITION CO., LLC.....	Anderson, Anderson County, Due West
KNOLOGY OF CHARLESTON, INC.....	City of Charleston, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Hanahan, James Island, Mount Pleasant, 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.....	Abbeville County, Clemson, Laurens County, Oconee County, Pendleton, Pickens County, Saluda, Saluda County, Seneca, Six Mile, Walhalla, West Union, Westminster
PALMETTO CABLE TV, LLC.....	Fort Mill, Lancaster County, Tega Cay
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, Ridge Springs, Saluda County, Summit, Wagener
RST COMMUNICATIONS, INC.....	Gaffney
SANDHILL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE..	Pageland, Chesterfield County, Mount Croghan
TECHCORE CONSULTANTS II.....	Bowman, Dorchester County, Earhardt, Eutawville, Holly Hill, Orangeburg County
TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT LLC, DBA NEWWAVE COMMUNICATIONS...	Chesterfield County, Pageland (certificate transferred to Sandhill Telephone Cooperative)
TIME WARNER CABLE, SOUTHEAST, LLC	Andrews, Batesburg-Leesville, Beaufort County, Bishopville, Bluffton, Calhoun County, Cayce, Charleston County, Cheraw Clover, Chesterfield County, Columbia, Conway, Cordova, Darlington County, Dillon, Dillon County, Florence, Florence County, Forest Acres, Fort Mill, Georgetown, Georgetown County, Goose Creek, Hardeeville, Hemingway, Hilton Head, Horry County, Irmo, Jasper County, Lakeview, Lane, Latta, Lee County, Lexington, Lexington County, Manning, Marion County, McBee, Moncks Corner, Myrtle Beach, Nichols, Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, Pamplico, Pine Ridge, Quinby, Richland County, Saluda County, South Congaree, Springdale, St. Matthews, Surfside Beach, Summerville, Sumter, Sumter County, West Columbia, Williamsburg County, York County
VIDEO VISION, INC.....	Fort Lawn, Heath Springs, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lancaster County
YRT2, INC.....	Berkeley County, Columbia, Dorchester County, Greenville, Greenville County, Horry County, Myrtle Beach, Summerville