

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**40 CFR Parts 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, and 1508****[CEQ-2025-0002]****RIN 0331-AA10****Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations***Correction*

In rule document 2025-03014, appearing on pages 10610 through 10616 in the issue of Tuesday, February 25, 2025, make the following correction:

On page 10611, in the first column, in the eleventh line from the bottom, “April 11, 2025” is corrected to read “March 27, 2025”.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**47 CFR Part 54**

[Connect America Fund et al.; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 18-143, 19-126; AU Docket No. 20-34; DA 25-32; FR ID 280111]

Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final action.

SUMMARY: The Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB or the Bureau) adopts the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric), the most up-to-date and comprehensive source for identifying broadband serviceable locations (BSLs), as the basis it will rely on for generally verifying compliance with high-cost program deployment obligations and for adjusting the location obligations for certain high-cost support mechanisms.

DATES: Effective April 4, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, please contact, Heidi Lankau, Attorney Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at Heidi.Lankau@fcc.gov or 202-418-7400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Bureau's Order (*Order*) in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 18-143, 19-126 and AU Docket No. 20-34; DA 25-32, adopted and released on January 10, 2025. The full text of this document is available at the following internet address: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/wcb-adopts-use-fabric-update-and-verify-high-cost-obligations>.

Synopsis

The Bureau adopts its proposal to use the Fabric as the data source to verify compliance with deployment obligations for high-cost support mechanisms when the Bureau conducts compliance reviews. The Bureau also adopts specific procedures related to location total adjustments for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) I, Revised A-CAM I, A-CAM II, the Bringing Puerto Rico Together (PR) Fund, and the Connect USVI Fund. The Bureau adopts processes and policies for implementing the RDOF location readjustment process prior to the six-year RDOF service milestone that will maximize the number of consumers served through RDOF support, and also leverage existing Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) processes to implement streamlined location adjustment procedures for the PR Fund, the Connect USVI Fund, A-CAM I, Revised A-CAM I, and A-CAM II carriers. The Bureau's decision to rely on the Fabric for these purposes is an important step towards improving accuracy, oversight, and accountability for the Bureau's high-cost support mechanisms.

Use of the Fabric. The Bureau adopts its proposal to use the Fabric to identify the actual number of residential and small business units in each relevant high-cost support recipient's service area, *i.e.*, the number of high cost-eligible locations. Many commenters supported using the Fabric to revise and verify deployment obligations. However, some commenters suggested that the accuracy of and process for challenging the Fabric should be improved before the Commission relies on the Fabric for verifying compliance with high-cost obligations. The Bureau disagrees. The Fabric is the most accurate and granular dataset of BSLs the Bureau has available to date. Moreover, as Congress intended in the Broadband DATA Act, the Fabric is an iterative dataset that will continue to improve through stakeholder participation in the challenge process, updates to the underlying sources of data, and improvements to the model used to generate the Fabric. No commenters suggested that any other dataset would be more comprehensive or up-to-date than the Fabric. Moreover, using a different data source could jeopardize the Bureau's efforts through interagency coordination to minimize duplicative Federal funding for broadband given that other agencies rely

on Fabric data to identify potential overlaps in funding.

The Commission continues its work to balance the stability of the Fabric with the need to make updates that account for new inputs and improvements in the quality of the data. First, the Fabric remains stable and has become increasingly more stable with each release. Overall, 108 million BSLs from the original (June 2022) Fabric—or over 95% of the original BSLs—remain in the June 2024 Fabric version. The Fabric remains the most accurate picture of BSLs the Bureau has available to date. Delaying the Bureau's alignment of high-cost funding support with Fabric locations is not in the public interest because it would risk delaying deployments, leaving locations unconnected, and increase the potential for duplicative funding.

The challenge process is a critical part of ensuring the Fabric provides an accurate dataset of BSLs. Since the first version of the Fabric, the Commission has received a number of high-quality challenges that have improved the accuracy of the Fabric. For example, the Bureau has received over 2 million challenges to add a new location that hits the footprint of a BSL that was already in the Fabric. These challenges might have been intended to change an address or make some other change to the data associated with a BSL, but the challenges filed indicated that the Bureau should add a new BSL. The Commission is committed to ensuring that providers and challengers understand the challenge process to continue the submission of high-quality challenges to ensure the accuracy of the Fabric.

Some commenters have provided anecdotal examples of unsuccessful challenges that they suggest show the challenge process needs improvement before the Commission can rely on the Fabric. For example, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) claims a member cooperative “submitted a location challenge specifying about 5,000 locations that should be BSLs . . . but CostQuest accepted only about 700 of the locations as valid BSLs.” Because NRECA's comments do not provide enough information to identify the provider that had problems with the Fabric challenge process, the Bureau is not able to specifically identify the reason for the provider's low success rate for its challenges. Nevertheless, the Bureau notes that NRECA acknowledges the