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FCC WEBSITE TO BE REDESIGNED EXPECTED LAUNCH OF NEW SITE ON DECEMBER 10, 2015

Washington, DC — The Federal Communications Commission is performing a large-scale redesign of its website (FCC.gov) to improve usability. The switch to the new site is scheduled to begin on December 9, 2015 at 8:00 PM EDT and be completed by 12:00 AM December 10, 2015. While the transition to the revamped site is expected to be completed almost instantaneously, there will be an ongoing process following this transition that will continue to involve user feedback, fixes by the FCC's Information Technology team, and content updates by policy bureaus and offices.

The new website is designed to provide better functionality, an improved design, and better searchability and navigability. Extensive user research revealed how the FCC could improve the website's information architecture to make content easier to find. The new website is responsively designed and improves interoperability with tablet and mobile device browsers, with the display optimizing based upon the device being used to view the site. The site utilizes a "toggle" navigation that allows visitors to browse either by "Category" or "Bureau and Office."

As part of this transition, the current website will no longer be available. Webpages and files that are on transition.fcc.gov that have not already been migrated to the new site will remain available. Existing bookmarks will be redirected to the appropriate content on the new site. The Commission has worked to ensure that all web addresses that users might have bookmarked or otherwise utilize on an ongoing basis will remain connected to the relevant content. In addition, while the Commission has already upgraded some of its interactive systems (including the Consumer Help Center) and is working toward improvements on other such interactive systems (including the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)), these systems will not be directly impacted by the migration on December 10.

This migration will impact the look and functionality of webpages that are coded in html and managed through a content management system, such as the homepage and individual bureau pages. The move is in part necessitated by the Commission's need to begin using a more modern, open-source content management system both to directly upgrade the website's look and architecture, and to begin using a system that is compatible with the latest website innovations.

Currently, the text on most Commission webpages is being updated, reformatted, and migrated to the new site. This content migration project is expected to be completed by the time the Commission switches to the new site. While our expectation is to switch to the new website on December 10, there may be some specific pages – generally deep within the site's map – that will need format, content, or functional improvements after the change-over date. We encourage users to send feedback and to alert us to any content that needs to be updated, or other "bugs" through this interface: https://prototype.fcc.gov/eform/submit/feedback

This transition follows a robust outreach process during which user research gathered information from regular FCC practitioners, the general public, and other users. The Commission's CIO has written blog posts about this process in order to inform the public and regular users, and the prototype of the site has been publically available and soliciting feedback since April 2015 at <u>https://prototype.fcc.gov</u>.

In addition, there will be two public outreach sessions before the December 10th change-over which will enable interested stakeholders to learn more about the new site and its functionalities.

Feedback on the new site, viewable on https://prototype.fcc.gov, should be sent through:

https://prototype.fcc.gov/eform/submit/feedback

For media inquiries, contact Office of Media Relations:

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The following individuals also are available to the public to answer questions about the website upgrade:

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