



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20554**

**News Media Information 202 / 418-0500**  
**Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>**  
**TTY: 1-888-835-5322**

**DA 15-435**

**Released: April 8, 2015**

## **WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU AND OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & POLICY ANALYSIS ANNOUNCE PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON E-RATE FUNDED FIBER BUILD PROJECTS**

The Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis announce that a public workshop will be held to provide schools, libraries, providers, and state and local policy makers with information and tools for planning fiber build projects under the new E-rate rules. The workshop will be held on May 20, 2015 starting at 1 p.m., at FCC headquarters in Washington, DC.

The December 2014 *Second E-rate Modernization Order* provided schools and libraries, particularly those in rural areas, with additional flexibility and options for purchasing affordable high-speed broadband connectivity.<sup>1</sup> The *Order* took several actions to close the rural connectivity gap, including suspending USAC's multi-year amortization policy for non-recurring construction costs,<sup>2</sup> allowing applicants to pay the non-discounted portion of non-recurring construction costs over multiple years,<sup>3</sup> encouraging state matching funds for special construction,<sup>4</sup> equalizing the E-rate program's treatment of lit and dark fiber,<sup>5</sup> and permitting self-construction of high-speed broadband networks when that is the most cost-effective option.<sup>6</sup> As a result of these efforts, we expect there to be an increasing number of E-rate applicants seeking E-rate funding to build fiber to schools and libraries beginning in Funding Year 2016.

The workshop will provide an overview of the new E-rate rules governing installment payments, state matching for fiber builds, leasing and management of dark fiber, and self-construction. It will explore best practices for fiber builds and practical challenges to aligning fiber builds with the E-rate application process and other E-rate rules, and will focus particular attention on the issues applicants need to consider in order to choose the most cost-effective option for deploying fiber. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from a number of school districts, library systems, and providers about fiber build projects that have been completed, that are in progress, or that are being contemplated. The fiber project

---

<sup>1</sup> See generally *Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries; Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 13-184 and 10-90, Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 29 FCC Rcd 15538 (2014) (*Second E-rate Modernization Order* or *Order*).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 15545-47, paras. 17-21.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 15547-49, paras. 22-28.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 15559-62, paras. 55-59.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 15549-55, paras. 30-42.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 15555-59, paras. 43-54.

discussions will include lessons learned from past projects, and questions and issues anticipated for future projects.

**What:** Workshop on Fiber Build Projects

**Date:** May 20, 2015

**Start Time:** 1 p.m.

**Location:** Commission Meeting Room, FCC Headquarters, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

Members of the public are invited to attend. The Commission will also provide audio and video coverage of the discussion on the FCC's Web page at [www.fcc.gov/live](http://www.fcc.gov/live).

Open captioning will be provided for this event. Other reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation needed. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information should FCC staff need to contact them for more information. Requests should be made as early as possible; last-minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fulfill. Please send an email to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY), or 844-432-2275 (ASL videophone).

For more information, please contact Charles Eberle at 202-418-2248 or [Charles.Eberle@fcc.gov](mailto:Charles.Eberle@fcc.gov), or Sibö McNally at 202-418-1372 or [Sibo.McNally@fcc.gov](mailto:Sibo.McNally@fcc.gov).

-FCC-