**DA 20-57**

**Released: January 13, 2020**

**WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES DEADLINE OF MARCH 1, 2021**

**FOR CERTAIN RATE-OF-RETURN CARRIERS RECEIVING CONNECT AMERICA FUND BROADBAND LOOP SUPPORT (CAF-BLS) TO REPORT BROADBAND LOCATION INFORMATION FOR PRE-EXISTING DEPLOYMENT**

**WC Docket No. 10-90**

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) provides guidance to certain rate-of-return Connect America Fund recipients regarding their obligation to report geo-located broadband information and make deployment certifications to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Specifically, those carriers receiving CAF-BLS that did not have High Cost Universal Service Broadband portal (HUBB) reporting obligations prior to the Commission’s *2018 Rate-of-Return Reform Order*[[1]](#footnote-3) will be required to submit geo-located broadband deployment information in the HUBB by March 1, 2021 for all locations to which broadband service of 25/3 Mbps or greater has been deployed since May 25, 2016.[[2]](#footnote-4)

In the 2016 *Rate-of-Return Reform Order*, the Commission directed rate-of-return carriers to file geo-located broadband information in the HUBB for locations to which broadband had been newly deployed.[[3]](#footnote-5) However, the Commission did not set mandatory deployment obligations for those carriers that had deployed broadband of 10/1 Mbps to 80% or more of their study areas, as determined by FCC Form 477. Thus, those carriers were not required to report geo-located information in the HUBB.[[4]](#footnote-6) In December 2018, the Commission determined that carriers receiving CAF-BLS should deploy broadband with a speed of at least 25/3 Mbps and that all CAF-BLS carriers should be subject to deployment and HUBB reporting obligations.[[5]](#footnote-7) Because carriers that had deployed broadband of 10/1 Mbps to 80% or more of their study areas had not previously had HUBB reporting obligations, the Commission stated that such carriers would be provided an opportunity to certify 25/3 Mbps or greater locations deployed since May 25, 2016.[[6]](#footnote-8) Allowing such carriers until March 1, 2021 to complete their HUBB submissions provides sufficient time to ensure that all pre-existing deployment since May 25, 2016 is properly geo-located.

For further information, please contact Suzanne Yelen (Suzanne.Yelen@fcc.gov) of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418-7400.

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1. *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90, et al., Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Order on Reconsideration, 33 FCC Rcd 11893 (2018) (*2018 Rate-of-Return Reform Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. The Commission has authority to collect this information pursuant to OMB Control No. 3060-1228. *See* 84 FR 61829 (Nov. 14, 2019). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. *See Connect America Fund et al*., Report and Order et al., 31 FCC Rcd 3087, 3163-3169, paras. 209-217 (2016) (*2016* *Rate-of-Return Reform Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. *Id.* at 3152, para. 173. Carriers that had deployed broadband of 10/1 Mbps to 80% or more of their study areas were required to report deployment in FCC Form 481. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
5. *2018 Rate-of-Return Reform Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 11927, para. 111. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
6. *Id*. Although the 25/3 Mbps deployment obligation five-year term runs from January 1, 2019 until December 31, 2023, the Commission determined that all new deployment since May 25, 2016, the effective date of the *2016 Rate-of-Return Reform Order*, should count toward each carrier’s deployment obligation. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)