This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be regulated by this direct final rule. To determine whether your facility would be regulated by this action, you should examine the applicability criteria in 40 CFR 60.100a. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, contact the person listed in the preceding FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Public Hearing. Persons interested in presenting oral testimony or inquiring as to whether a hearing is to be held should contact Ms. Virginia Hunt, U.S. EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Sector Policies and Programs Division, Refining and Chemicals Group (E143–01), Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone number: (919) 541–0832, email address: hunt.virginia@epa.gov, at least 2 days in advance of the potential date of the public hearing. If a public hearing is held, it will be held at 10 a.m. at EPA’s Campus located at 109 T.W. Alexander Drive in Research Triangle Park, NC, or an alternate site nearby. If no one contacts EPA requesting to speak at a public hearing concerning this rule by December 24, 2013 this hearing will be cancelled without further notice.

III. Statutory and Executive Orders

For a complete discussion of all of the administrative requirements applicable to this action, see the direct final rule in the “Rules and Regulations” section of this Federal Register.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 60

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: December 4, 2013.

Gina McCarthy,
Administrator.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54
[WC Docket No. 10–90; DA 13–2317]

Additional Connect America Fund Phase II issues

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks to further develop the record on several implementation issues regarding the transition from Connect America Phase I to Phase II.

DATES: Comments are due on or before January 7, 2014.

DAMAGE: All pleadings are to reference WC Docket No. 10–90. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies, by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
- People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice), (202) 418–0432 (tty).

For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Burmeister, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418–7389 or TTY (202) 418–0484.


1. In this document, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks to further develop the record on several implementation issues regarding the transition from Connect America Phase I to Phase II.

2. Timing of Phase II Support Disbursements. In the USF/ICC Transformation Order, 76 FR 73830, November 29, 2011, the Commission specified that price cap carriers electing to make a state-level commitment would receive five years of model-based support, and it established a process for transitioning support from Connect America Fund Phase I to Phase II in states where model-based support is greater than frozen support.

Specifically, for a carrier accepting the state-wide commitment pursuant to Connect America Fund Phase II, “in the first year, the carrier will receive one-half the full amount the carrier will receive under CAF Phase II and one-half the amount the carrier received under CAF Phase I for the previous year (which would be the frozen amount if the carrier declines Phase I or the frozen amount plus the incremental amount if the carrier accepts Phase I); in the second year, each carrier accepting the state-wide commitment will receive the full CAF Phase II amount.”

3. Several price cap carriers have raised questions regarding how to calculate the five-year funding period in light of the language in paragraph 180 of the USF/ICC Transformation Order. We now seek to more fully develop the record on this issue. The Bureau seeks comment on several alternatives. First, the price cap carrier could receive the remaining half of one year of annual support as a lump sum on the date that is five years after the date of the initial election. Second, the remaining half could be distributed pro-rata on a monthly basis over the third through fifth years. Third, the remaining half year could be provided as a lump sum.
as soon as the carrier certifies that it has fully met its deployment obligations, which potentially could occur separately from the §54.313(e)(2) annual report certification that the company is providing the required service to 100 percent of its locations. Fourth, the remaining half year of annual support could be provided as a lump sum after the carrier files its annual report pursuant to §54.313(e)(2) regarding completion of its deployment obligations for Phase II-funded locations. The Bureau seeks comment on the relative advantages and disadvantages of each alternative. Are there any other alternatives?

4. Phase-Down in States With Support Reductions. In the USF/ICC Transformation Order, the Commission concluded that it would be “premature to specify the length of the transition” for carriers that would receive less money from Connect America Phase II than frozen high-cost support, but “there will be an appropriate multi-year transition to the lower amount” which would be addressed in conjunction with the finalization of the cost model.

5. The Bureau now seeks to further develop the record regarding the length of the “appropriate multi-year transition.” Consistent with the approach adopted by the Commission for the phase down in support for competitive eligible telecommunications carriers, should the transition for carriers in states where they will receive less funding under Phase II than frozen support occur over a five-year period, with the carrier receiving a 20 percent reduction in frozen support the first year, a 40 percent reduction in the second year, a 60 percent reduction in the third year, an 80 percent reduction in the fourth year, and the full reduction in the fifth year? Alternatively, should the transition period be shorter, such as two or three years? The funding necessary to cover this transition could be drawn from the Connect America broadband reserve, which is designed to ensure that average annual expenditures remain within the $4.5 billion budget over time. The Bureau seeks comment on these proposals. To the extent commenters suggest alternative approaches, they should provide a detailed description of their proposal.

I. Procedural Matters

A. Initial Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

6. The USF/ICC Transformation Order and FNPRM, 76 FR 73830, November 29, 2011 and 76 FR 78384, December 16, 2011, included an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 603, exploring the potential impact on small entities of the Commission’s proposals. We invite parties to file comments on the IRFA in light of this additional notice.

B. Initial Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Analysis

7. This document seeks comment on a potential new or revised information collection requirement. If the Commission adopts any new or revised information collection requirement, the Commission will publish a separate notice in the Federal Register inviting the public to comment on the requirement, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520). In addition, pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107–198, 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4), the Commission seeks specific comment on how it might “further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.”

C. Filing Requirements

8. Interested parties may file comments on or before the date indicated on the first page of this document. Comments are to reference WC Docket No. 10–90 and may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Filing System (ECFS), or by filing paper copies.

Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/.

Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St. SW., Room TW–A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes and boxes must be disposed of before entering the building.

Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 100 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.

U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street SW., Washington, DC 20554.

9. In addition, we request that one copy of each pleading be sent to each of the following:

(1) Ted Burmeister,
Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street SW., Room 5–A445, Washington, DC 20554; email: Ted.Burmeister@fcc.gov;

(2) Charles Tyler,
Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, 445 12th Street SW., Room 5–A452, Washington, DC 20554; email: Charles.Tyler@fcc.gov.

10. People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202–418–0530 (voice), 202–418–0432 (tty).

11. The proceeding this Notice initiates shall be treated as a “permit-but-disclose” proceeding in accordance with the Commission’s ex parte rules. Persons making ex parte presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral ex parte presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the ex parte presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter’s written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during ex parte meetings are deemed to be written ex parte presentations and must be filed consistent with rule §1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule §1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written ex parte presentations and memoranda
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 54

[WC Docket No. 10–90; DA 13–2304]

Availability of Version 4.0 of the Connect America Fund Phase II Cost Model; Adopting Current Default Inputs in Final Version of Model

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireline Competition Bureau announces that version four of the Connect America Cost Model (CAM v4.0) will be available shortly. The Bureau seeks comment on whether the Bureau should adopt this version of CAM and the default inputs for purposes of calculating cost in price cap areas, for implementing Connect America Phase II.

DATES: Comments are due on or before January 7, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may file comments on or before January 7, 2014. All pleadings are to reference WC Docket No. 10–90. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies, by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing.
- People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418–0530 (voice), (202) 418–0432 (tty).

For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katie King, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418–7491 or TTY (202) 418–0484.


1. The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces that version four of the Connect America Cost Model (CAM v4.0), which incorporates a number of modifications, including additional adjustments to address the unique circumstances and operating conditions in the non-contiguous areas of the United States, will be available shortly. The Bureau seeks comment on whether they should adopt this version of CAM and the default inputs for purposes of calculating costs in price cap areas for implementing Connect America Phase II.

2. Overview of Changes in CAM v4.0. As described in more detail below, CAM v4.0 includes a number of modifications to address the unique circumstances and operating conditions in the non-contiguous areas of the United States. In particular, CAM v4.0 calculates the cost of submarine cables used for middle-mile connections along roads, consistent with the treatment of last mile plant in prior versions. CAM v4.0 also modifies inputs for submarine cable and other costs specific to non-contiguous areas, and it also adjusts the default input for the cost of money to 8.5 percent. CAM v4.0 also incorporates adjustments to address the unique circumstances of the non-contiguous areas.

3. Middle Mile Submarine Routes in Non-Contiguous Areas. CAM v4.0 includes inputs for submarine cable used for middle mile connections in non-contiguous areas.

4. The table below shows middle mile route distances for terrestrial and submarine routes in non-contiguous areas.