

VPS Memo

Update on Digital Opportunity Data Collection

INCLUDING DATE FOR INAUGURAL BROADBAND DATA COLLECTION FILING

On February 22, 2022, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) released a Public Notice announcing the inaugural Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Filing dates for the long-awaited Digital Opportunity Data Collection that the FCC will use to establish a nationwide broadband map.

Date Set for Broadband Data Collection Filing

All fixed and mobile broadband providers of internet access service must submit broadband availability data as of June 30, 2022, by September 1, 2022, pursuant to Section 1.7004 of the FCC’s rules. Other federal agencies as well as state, local, and tribal entities, along with third parties wishing to submit verified availability data must also do so as of the same date (June 30, 2022) and by September 1, 2022. Section 1.7004 sets forth the types of data that providers will need to be submitting including, in part, the following:

- Polygon Shapefiles
- Addresses and geocoded locations where providers can provide service
- Propagation Maps and Model detail showing the speed and latency of the service
- Whether the location is a residential or business location

Detailed Data Specification and Filing Instructions Pending

The FCC will be releasing detailed data specifications that will instruct filers on how they must prepare and format their BDC availability data. The specifications will address the types of data providers must submit, how the system will access the data, how the files must be formatted for upload, and the values the system will accept and validate against other sources.

FCC Urging Providers to Submit Filings Early

The FCC is urging covered providers to upload their broadband availability data into the system well in advance of the end of the filing window (i.e., before September 1, 2022). The reason for this is the BDC system will include automatic checks and validations that will prevent filers from submitting faulty data. Filers must then correct any errors identified by the system prior to submitting and certifying a BDC filing, which they must do before the filing deadline. Furthermore, the FCC has noted that waivers from submitting this inaugural BDC filing will face a high hurdle for approval and that failing to file the BDC availability data timely may lead to an enforcement action and/or penalties for late or non-filing providers.

Preparing for the BDC Availability Data Filing

While the FCC will be releasing detailed information and instruction for the BDC filing, it is important that carriers begin to accumulate the data so they can start to prepare the maps that will be necessary for the submission by September 1, 2022. Thus, it is important that covered providers identify all the locations within their service area, the locations they are serving, whether they are residential or business locations, and the speeds and latency the carriers are providing to these locations so the carriers can prepare polygon and propagation maps detailing the required information that they will need to submit.

Why the BDC Availability Data Filing Matters

The inaugural BDC availability data filing will be used to create the FCC's National Broadband Map. Legislation related to the federal funding for broadband makes it clear that the determination of eligible locations for the federal funding will rely upon the FCC's National Broadband Map. Thus, it is critical for the FCC's National Broadband Map to be completed as soon as possible, otherwise a delay in the map's completion will also delay federal funding for broadband deployment throughout the United States like the \$42.5 Billion in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program that will be administered by states.

Additional Information

For additional information or guidance with the BDC availability data, preparing the mapping, and with the filing process, please contact these members of the Vantage Point Solutions BDC Filing team:

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