



# FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy

Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

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# The FCC and ONAP

- Independent regulatory agency
- Chairperson is one of five FCC Commissioners
- The FCC has economic regulatory Bureaus and Offices
- ONAP was created in 2010, works across the entire FCC
- ONAP, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
- FCC's major functions:
  - Licenses – TV, Radio, Satellite, fixed and mobile wireless services, experimental licenses
  - Subsidizes – Universal Service Fund – 4 programs totaling \$8 billion in 2014
  - Rulemakings – unlike any other place on the Earth (...no really...unlike any place else...)

# E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries

- High speed broadband connections for digital learning in schools and libraries
- Universal Service Fund program (1 of 4)
- Now \$3.9 million a year in E-rate
- **Monthly charges, Wi-Fi, and last mile FIBER**
- New Tribal outreach, training, and consultation program
- USAC Tribal Liaison – [M.Howard@USAC.org](mailto:M.Howard@USAC.org)

# Tribal Lifeline and Link Up Program

- Monthly discounts on telephone bills for low income households
- Additional \$25/month on Tribal Lands (up to \$34.25 total)
- Program under great scrutiny and criticism
- The FCC is expected to take up another Lifeline Reform Order in June
- **GET INVOLVED** in consultation and coordination with the FCC

# Tribal Priority for Radio Licensing

- Get a radio station NOW if you want one.
- FCC streamlined full power commercial FM radio licensing in 2011 – processing now
- Tribal Priority available in all radio licensing rules
- Threshold Qualifications licensing process tied to Tribal Lands rather than highest-bidder wins auctions
- File for a FM construction permit at ANY TIME

# Spectrum over Tribal Lands proposed rulemaking

- In 2011, FCC proposed rules that
- ...would directly license to Tribal Nations commercial mobile radio spectrum for BROADBAND
- ...would ensure responsive negotiations with current licensees for sublease of spectrum
- Big linchpin to wireless divide on Tribal lands
- Get involved in consultation with the FCC to help us determine actions to take on these rules

# Status of Tribal Nations in FCC Auctions and Licensing

- Tribal Nations and ANC's have competitive bidding advantages and exemptions for licensing and subsidy auctions
- **Immediate issue:** controversy and criticism based on Auction 97 Advanced Wireless Services 3 auction wherein an ANC and a Wireless company partnered to win spectrum licenses with a bidding credit
- FCC released PN asking “whether our rules concerning Indian Tribes or ANCs remain consistent with other Federal policies and practices...”
- **GET INVOLVED** in consultation with the FCC

# Positive Train Control and the \$10 million Cultural Resource Fund

- PTC mandated by Congressional deadline of 12/31/15
- The 7 major freight Railroads, Amtrak and commuters. 60,000 miles of track. Approx 20,000 wayside poles.
- 11,000 poles prior constructed from 2008 to 2013 without environmental or historic preservation reviews
- PTC Program Comment with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 2014
- \$10 million Cultural Resource Fund for THPO's and Tribes not included in prior constructions. Administered by MICA group. [www.micagroup.org](http://www.micagroup.org)
- TRIBAL SECTION 106 SUMMIT
  - FCC and NATHPO, Laguna Pueblo, NM, Sept. 2015.



# Telecom Meeting Save the Dates

- ATNI and Energy & Technology Summit
  - FCC ONAP co-hosting the event
  - August 11-13, 2015 – Portland, OR
  - McMenamins Kennedy School
- 101 E-rate Training for Tribal Schools and Libraries (free of charge)
  - co-hosted by FCC and ATNI
  - Date TBD this summer in Seattle or Spokane, WA



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