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For Immediate Release

FCC TAKES ANOTHER STEP TO PROMOTE DEPLOYMENT OF WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE

WASHINGTON, December 14, 2017—The FCC today voted to seek public comment on a plan to exclude from routine historic preservation review the collocation of wireless communications equipment on certain towers known as Twilight Towers. The proposed plan would make existing infrastructure available for additional wireless deployments.

Twilight Towers, which were constructed between March 16, 2001 and March 7, 2005, either were built without undergoing the historic preservation review required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, or lack documentation that such review was conducted. As a result, these towers are not eligible for collocations in the same way as towers that have documented Section 106 review and clearance or towers that were exempted under the pre-2001 standard.

The Public Notice requests input on whether to formally request that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation adopt a document called a Program Comment that would allow collocations on Twilight Towers without historic preservation review so long as certain conditions are met.

The FCC's proposal to facilitate collocations on Twilight Towers recognizes that collocations on existing towers have less potential to affect the environment and historic and cultural sites than constructing new towers. In addition, making these towers readily available for collocation will facilitate next-generation wireless services.

Action by the Commission December 14, 2017 by Public Notice (FCC 17-165). Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, and Carr approving. Commissioner Rosenworcel concurring. Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel issuing separate statements.

WT Docket No. 17-79

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