

Coming Changes to FCC's Form 477 Data Collection: An Overview for Filers

Beginning in 2014, the Federal Communications Commission ([FCC](#)) will assume responsibility for the collection of data on broadband *deployment*, an effort currently overseen by the National Telecommunications & Information Administration ([NTIA](#)) in coordination with the States. The first filings at the [FCC](#) will be due on [October 1, 2014](#), representing data as of June 30, 2014, while [NTIA](#)'s final collection also will be for data as of June 30, 2014.

What are the changes?

[NTIA](#) has collected deployment data through the State Broadband Initiative ([SBI](#)); the [FCC](#) has collected subscription data through its semi-annual [Form 477](#) collection. In the future, those efforts will be consolidated into the [Form 477](#) data collection.

Below is a summary of these changes. For more details, see the FCC's June 2013 *Form 477 Modernization Order* ([Order](#)).

| | | Current | New |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Deployment | | Data submitted voluntarily to SBI state entities, which then submit data to NTIA. | Mandatory filing with the FCC. |
| | <i>Fixed Broadband:</i> | Report speed tier of maximum advertised upload/download speed by census block (with reporting by road segment for blocks greater than 2 square miles). No distinction of speeds for residential and non-residential services. | Report maximum advertised upload/download speeds (not in tiers) offered in each census block (no sub-block reporting). Distinguish speeds offered for residential and non-residential services where appropriate. |
| | <i>Mobile Broadband:</i> | Coverage areas by speed tier based on maximum advertised upload/download speed, with spectrum indicated. List of census tracts where service is advertised and available to actual and potential subscribers, by speed tier. | Coverage areas by technology, minimum advertised upload/download speed, and spectrum band. List of census tracts where service is advertised and available to actual and potential subscribers. |
| | <i>Mobile Voice:</i> | No data collected. | Coverage areas by technology and spectrum band. |
| Subscription | <i>Fixed & Mobile Broadband:</i> | Number of connections by speed tier, based on maximum advertised upload/download speed. | Number of connections by advertised upload/download speeds (not tier) associated with each product subscribed to in an area, census tracts for fixed and states for mobile. |
| | <i>Fixed Voice & Interconnected VoIP:</i> | Number of subscriptions by state and list of ZIP codes where service provided to end-user customers. | Number of subscriptions by census tract. |
| Both | | Separate filings by state | Single, nationwide filing |
| | | | Provide Emergency Contact information, Form 499 Filer ID, and Study Area Code(s) served. |

The deployment data, with the exception of certain spectrum and speed information associated with the mobile coverage areas, will be made public while the provider-specific subscription data will remain confidential.

When will the changes take effect?

The changes adopted in the [Order](#) will be implemented with the collection of Form 477 data as of June 30, 2014, which is due on October 1, 2014. The FCC's [Wireline Competition Bureau](#) announced the dates for the filing window in a [June 11, 2014 Public Notice](#) and will continue to provide information on the procedures and instructions for submitting [Form 477](#) under the revised rules.

Form 477 filers that also submit data to [NTIA](#) via the [SBI](#) should submit deployment data as of June 30, 2014 to *both* collections under their respective requirements and guidelines.

How will data be submitted?

Form 477 data are filed directly with the [FCC](#) via its [online electronic filing system](#). The [FCC](#) is currently upgrading the Form 477 filing system to streamline the data submission process. In a [March 27, 2014 Public Notice](#), the Bureau provided guidance on how filers will submit data using the new interface, and will release additional information on how to use the interface in advance of its expected launch on July 30, 2014.

The [Form 477 Data Specification](#), released August 26, 2013, provides direction to filers on the data they will be required to submit in accordance with the changes adopted in the [Order](#). It provides an overview of each section of the data collection and lists each field that filers will need to fill out. It also includes information on the required format of the data and a sample entry for each record.

Through the end of the June 2014 submission cycle, broadband providers can get support and assistance from [SBI](#) state entities to determine the provider's broadband deployment footprint. We encourage providers take advantage of this resource.

Where can I get more information?

Additional information on Form 477 is available at <http://transition.fcc.gov/form477/>.

The Form 477 Modernization Order, press release, and statements are available at <http://www.fcc.gov/document/modernizing-fcc-form-477-data-program>.

The Form 477 Data Specification and accompanying Public Notice are available at <http://www.fcc.gov/document/data-specification-form-477-data-collection>.

The Form 477 Public Notices are available at:

<http://www.fcc.gov/document/information-new-form-477-filing-interface> (Data Submission Methods)

<http://www.fcc.gov/document/form-477-filing-window-announced-june-30-2014-data> (Filing Window)

Information on the National Broadband Map is available at <http://www.broadbandmap.gov> and <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/national-broadband-map>.

Specific questions about Form 477 can be directed to the following staff in the Industry Analysis and Technology Division (IATD) of the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau:

IATD Main: (202) 418-0940, (202) 418-0484 (tty) or 477info@fcc.gov

Suzanne Mendez: (202) 418-0941 or Suzanne.Mendez@fcc.gov

Chelsea Fallon: (202) 418-7991 or Chelsea.Fallon@fcc.gov

Kenneth Lynch: (202) 418-7356 or Kenneth.Lynch@fcc.gov