

## **FCC Chair Rosenworcel shares draft rules with commissioners on Resilient Networks**

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel [announced](#) that she shared a draft of new rules with the other three commissioners to improve the reliability and resiliency of wireless networks during emergencies. Last year's disasters prompted the FCC to open a docket on resilient networks which included a field hearing in Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. UTC [filed comments](#) in that proceeding noting that power companies and communications service providers are effectively coordinating with each other in response to emergencies and disasters. UTC also pointed to utilities' communications resilience strategies for power outages, including coordination with power companies in the aftermath of hurricanes and other disasters, and backup power or alternative measures to help promote the continuity of service during or after disasters.

Chairwoman Rosenworcel proposes in her draft rules that the current voluntary industry agreement on resilient networks be made permanent and expanded. Specifically, the new rules would require facilities-based wireless providers to enter into mutual aid arrangements that enable them to request, or receive a request, for assistance during emergencies. The rules would also require that facilities-based wireless providers enter into bilateral roaming agreements in advance of disasters to help the public communicate. In addition, the rules would expand the triggers for activation of these provisions, and provide for critical testing and reporting on wireless roaming implementation during disasters.

Commissioner Brendan Carr [expressed his support](#) for the draft rules and emphasized their support by the public safety community. Reportedly, the draft rules do not create new requirements or obligations for electric utilities.