

# Cablefax Daily™

WHAT THE INDUSTRY READS FIRST

## Stamp of Approval: ACAC, USTelecom Want Options In Data Certification

Industry associations are asking the **FCC** to ease the burden seemingly imposed by an engineering requirement codified as part of the agency's data collection for its upcoming, improved broadband maps.

The Broadband Data Collection program hopes to give the FCC as well as state, local and Tribal entities the information needed to improve the accuracy of existing broadband availability maps. The Commission incorporated into its rules the requirement that a professional engineer review and certify the accuracy of the broadband availability data being submitted by mobile and fixed providers. The **Competitive Carriers Association** has requested that the FCC clarify that those findings can be certified by an otherwise-qualified engineer that is not a licensed professional engineer.

In comments submitted Thursday, **ACA Connects** asked the FCC to consider creating an exception for providers with fewer than 100,000 active broadband connections where at least 90% of those deployments are coax, fiber or HFC. If those smaller providers have an employee serving in a role where they are responsible for network design and/or performance, ACAC believes that employee should be able to sign the engineering certification if that employee has at least 10 years of experience in network design and/or performance and at least three years of experience at their current company.

The association interviewed a number of its member companies to inform its thoughts on the practical problems smaller providers are facing with the PE requirements. "One company's General Manager recounted how in his 15 years in the position, he had met all of two network engineers who he was aware to be PEs. The same General Manager added that it is rare for small providers even to have personnel with undergraduate engineering degrees on their staffs," ACAC said.

**USTelecom** added in its comments that there needs to be some type of acknowledgment that designated professional engineers are not necessarily the best equipped people to perform the certifications of this data. Professional engineers can have various specialties including bridges, tunnels, buildings, plants and factories.

"While CCA's petition focuses on how most RF engineers do not typically have a PE designation, the same is true in the context of network engineers working in the fixed broadband space. Both RF and fixed network engineers have specific training and experience that provides them with skills necessary to design and manage networks," USTelecom said. "This very specific skillset is precisely the type of training and experience the Commission acknowledges it is seeking in the context of the preparation and submission of BDC filings."

ACA Connects supported USTelecom's argument, noting that even among the professional engineers that are



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**Final Deadline, June 10**  
[www.CablefaxDiversity.com](http://www.CablefaxDiversity.com)

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employees of its members, many of them are not jumping at the opportunity to certify the data collection from their respective companies.

“The CTO of a municipality Member reported that all four PEs on the municipality’s staff are reluctant to sign the certification because their expertise is in other areas (e.g., water),” ACAC said. “It could take weeks, perhaps months, for a waterworks PE to be educated sufficiently on network engineering in general, and on the provider’s ‘ordinary course of network design and engineering’ in particular, during which time the PE’s waterworks oversight would be compromised, if not altogether infeasible to perform.”

The **Association of Communications Engineers** fought back against those arguments in its own filing, citing previous examples where NTIA and USDA have required licensed professional engineers for other critical communications infrastructure projects. It also said implying that a professional engineer’s certification isn’t necessary because there aren’t enough of them across the country is not a valid argument.

“If a waiver is granted on such a basis, it certainly might set a precedent that a PE’s skills are not necessary now or thus in the future,” the association said. “ACE cannot accept a determination that a ‘professional engineer’ does not have to have a license or that an ‘engineer’ does not have to have a degree in engineering.”

**FUBOTV, UNIVISION AT IMPASSE**

As the expiration of **FuboTV** and **Univision’s** carriage agreement looms, both companies released statements regarding

the status of a new content agreement. Fubo confirmed negotiations are ongoing, but couldn’t comment on the contract expiration date, which is rumored to be June 30. Univision parent company **TelevisaUnivision** declined to comment on the topic. As usual, the disagreement centers around cost. “I am astonished @Univision would present Fubo with a new contract that would double rates,” Fubo CEO and co-founder *David Gandler* [tweeted](#) Friday. “In an already challenging economy, this would put added unneeded burden on our Latino customers. We just want a fair and equitable deal for all. cc: @DOJ #pricegauging.” Gandler also tweeted he was disappointed that negotiations were made public. TelevisaUnivision released a [statement](#) early Friday, saying “We are committed to working toward a fair deal for our valuable programming.” If the two sides fail to reach a deal, Fubo would lose Univision, **UniMas**, **TUDN** and **Galavision**.

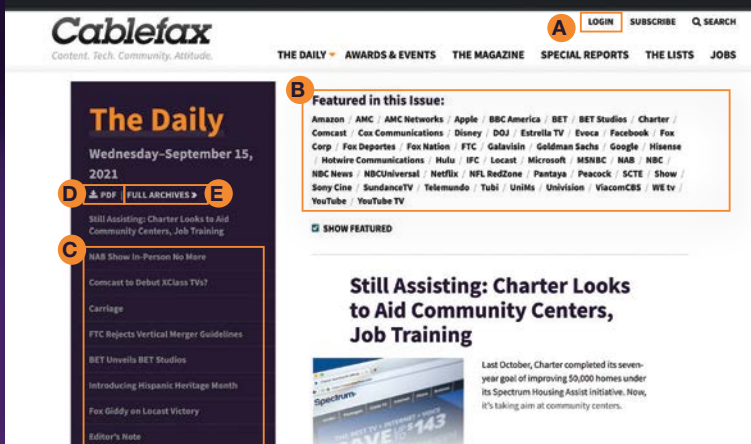
**FIBER FRENZY**

**Hargray Fiber** is expanding its network to residential neighborhoods in Rincon, Georgia. The company’s long-term goal is to bring service to over 500,000 homes and businesses in the U.S. by 2027.

**RATINGS**

Over 4.4 million total viewers watched the season premiere of “Battle on the Beach” on **HGTV**, earning a .59 live plus three-day rating among P25-54 and .75 live plus three-day rating in W25-54. Ratings jumped 48% for M25-54 over the prior six weeks, and the show checked in as a top-three cable premiere in P25-54 and W25-54.

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**COMCAST'S BLACK MUSIC MONTH**

June is Black Music Month, and **Comcast** is making curated content available on X1, Stream and Flex. The "Best of the Best" collection can be found on the Black Experience on Xfinity Channel and features top-charting albums, viral videos, documentaries and five artists from each decade starting with the 1960s.

**AWARDS**

**Cox Enterprises** unveiled the winners of this year's Chairman's Challenge, where employees were asked to calculate their carbon footprint and find ways to reduce it. In total, the 1,500 employees completed 10,000 actions, removed 3,700 lbs. of litter and recycled 10,000 lbs. of material in April. Six employees across **Cox Communications**, Cox Automotive and Cox Enterprises who completed the most activities worked with the James M. Cox Foundation to award \$50,000 in grants to environmental nonprofit organizations.

**DOING GOOD**

**Service Electric Cable TV & Communications** is teaming up with St. Luke's University Health Network to give 30 students the chance to attend the 42nd U.S. Senior Open at Saucon Valley Country Club. The provider will also be onsite to support the event's nearly 2,000 volunteers, providing a 3,200 square-foot air conditioned tent that will serve as the center of their operations. Service Electric will also supply food, offer activities and outfit the tent with TVs so volunteers can view the action of the tournament while taking a break.

**PROGRAMMING**

**ESPN's** "The Captain," a seven-part documentary series highlighting the life and career of former New York Yankees shortstop *Derek Jeter*, will premiere July 18 at 10pm on ESPN and **ESPN+**. The debut will follow the 2022 MLB All Star Home Run Derby, and the remaining episodes will be released on Thursdays. -- **Amazon Prime Video** renewed "The Boys" for a fourth season.

**CABLEFAX DASHBOARD**

**Twitter Hits**

**Nate Hurst** @nathanhurst  
 A little behind-the-scenes feel good moment from the @cspan control room: my summer intern William getting to push some buttons for tonight's hearing ... his first time working on LIVE television. Not bad for his third day on the job!



**Robert M. McDowell** @McDowellTweet  
 News flash! Announcement by @JRosenworcelFCC at today's @fcc open meeting that "8th Floor" is now officially called "10th Floor." But was there a PN seeking comment on this mega development? Does @FCBAlaw have an opinion? #APA issues? Can old dogs learn this new trick? ;)

**Shirley Bloomfield** @sbloomfield15  
 The "Art of the Possible" that #broadband provides for rural communities were the perfect stories to end the first day of #SRCLive on. @BLConnect @ConnectCTC & GRM/MI-Fiber share the power of stories of service, innovation, customer service & community love!



**Research**

(Source: [Dell'Oro Group](#))

- > Total global revenue for the Broadband Access equipment market increased to \$4.4 billion in 1Q22, up 14% YOY.
- > Growth was largely tied to PON equipment and fixed wireless CPE.
- > Total cable access concentrator revenue rose 5% YOY to just over \$257 million. Growth in that sector came from Distributed Access Architecture deployments helped offset declines in traditional CCAP licenses.
- > Fixed Wireless CPE unit shipments reached 3.8 million units in the quarter, with 5G Sub-6GHz units growing at the fastest rate.

**Up Ahead**

- JUNE 12:** Cablefax's Fiber Panels for Cable Operators, [Fiber Connect Pre-Conference](#); Nashville
- JUNE 27-30:** CTA's [CEO Summit](#), Santa Barbara
- JUNE 29:** Cablefax's [FAXIES Virtual Celebration](#)
- JULY 24-27:** [NCTC and ACA Connects' Independent Show](#); Orlando

**Quotable**

*"I think the belief that there was unlimited growth in these spaces was just unrealistic. These are businesses, they're like other subscriber and membership businesses in a lot of ways... it's amazing how fast everyone has run away from Netflix. It's still the most amazing story in the history of the business... We have been very aggressive with our story that we don't spend crazy amounts of money on content. And particularly operating in the targeted space, there's even more opportunity for us to create content at a reasonable price that's going to be very attractive to our super fanbases. That hasn't changed. What we're really doing now is staying the course while the rest of the world is a bit off-course."*  
 - **AMC Networks interim CEO Matt Blank** on CNBC's "Squawk Box" [talking about the shifting in streaming strategies across the media landscape](#)