

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 15-M-0742 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to
Review the State Universal Service Fund.

RULING ESTABLISHING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AND RESOLVING OTHER
PROCEDURAL ISSUES

(Issued December 29, 2025)

LEAH SOULE AMYOT and DAKIN D. LECAKES,
Administrative Law Judges:

This Ruling establishes a procedural schedule for this phase of this case, and resolves other procedural matters raised by the parties.

On December 15, 2022, the Commission extended the State Universal Service Fund (SUSF), a mechanism instituted to promote and preserve universal basic local exchange telephone service.¹ Pursuant to the 2022 Order, the SUSF was extended to December 31, 2026. The 2022 Order permitted any qualifying New York Smaller Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) to file a petition to the Commission to extend the term of the SUSF beyond December 31, 2026, and required the ILECs to propose at least one alternative targeted to protect basic service consumers. The 2022 Order also required the ILECs receiving or seeking SUSF funding beyond 2026 to file location-specific data by December 31, 2025, and financial data by March 31, 2026.

On August 29, 2025, six ILECs (petitioners) filed petitions requesting that the Commission extend the SUSF mechanism beyond December 31, 2026. A procedural conference was held on December 17, 2025 to address a variety of matters, including the proposed schedules for these proceedings submitted

¹ Opinion and Order (issued Dec. 15, 2022) (2022 Order).

by petitioners, Verizon New York, Inc. (Verizon) and Charter Communications, Inc. (Charter). After hearing from the parties on the proposed schedules at the procedural conference and in light of the December 31, 2025 and March 31, 2026 deadlines for the filing of location-specific and financial data, we believe that the proposed schedule is in the best interest of all parties:

May 1, 2026	Filing of Position Statements
May 15, 2026	Filing of Replies to Position Statements
June 1, 2026	Procedural Conference ²
July 20, 2026	Filing of Direct Testimony and Exhibits
August 3, 2026	Filing of Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits
August 18, 2026	Commencement of Evidentiary Hearing ³

We will establish deadlines for any further pre-hearing or post-hearing submissions in a separate ruling closer to the hearing date. Because Verizon, Charter and four of the six petitioners have expressed an interest in engaging in settlement negotiations, we urge the filing a notice of impending settlement negotiations pursuant to 16 NYCRR §3.9 and that the parties proceed expeditiously with settlement discussions. As indicated at the procedural conference, parties seeking to participate in settlement discussions or to access protected information in these proceedings must execute the

² The procedural conference will be separately noticed.

³ The evidentiary hearing will be separately noticed.

protective order acknowledgement, file it with the secretary,
and serve it on all parties and the judges.

(SIGNED)

LEAH SOULE AMYOT

(SIGNED)

DAKIN D. LECAKES