



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 15-689
June 11, 2015

NOTICE CONCERNING *EX PARTE* STATUS OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO OR BY THE DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) recently announced the second meeting of its Disability Advisory Committee (Committee or DAC), to be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015.¹ The DAC is a federal advisory committee, established in December 2014 that provides recommendations to the Commission on a wide array of disability matters and facilitates the participation of people with disabilities in proceedings before the Commission. The DAC is organized under and operated in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).² The DAC held its first meeting on March 17, 2015.

Under the FACA, the Commission is responsible for oversight of the DAC, including its subcommittees and working groups.³ As a result, FCC staff may participate in meetings or other activities held by both the DAC and its subcommittees and working groups. In light of this, we are announcing that, pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules,⁴ presentations to the DAC, including to its subcommittees and working groups, and presentations between DAC members and FCC staff, will be treated as exempt presentations for *ex parte* purposes. This includes presentations to events hosted or coordinated by the DAC in which DAC members participate, such as forums and roundtable discussions on topics under consideration by the DAC. This treatment is appropriate because presentations to the Committee will not directly result in the promulgation of new rules.⁵

We recognize, however, that issues that may be addressed by the DAC are the subject of a number of pending FCC proceedings. The Commission will not rely in these proceedings on any information submitted to the DAC, or to any of its subcommittees, working groups, or sponsored roundtables, or information conveyed by DAC members to FCC staff unless that information is first placed in the record of the relevant proceeding.

¹ *Disability Advisory Committee Announcement of Date, Time and Agenda of Next Meeting*, Public Notice, DA 15-649 (rel. May 29, 2015).

² 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

³ *See* 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200(a).

⁵ *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.1204(b)(1) (exempt treatment of presentations regarding a Notice of Inquiry).

Additional information regarding the DAC can be found at: <https://www.fcc.gov/disability-advisory-committee>. For more information, contact Elaine Gardner, Designated Federal Official for the DAC at (202) 418-0581 or DAC@fcc.gov, or Suzy Rosen Singleton, Alternate Designated Federal Official for the DAC at (202) 510-9446 (VP/voice).

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