

A photograph of a man and a young child standing in a field of tall grass in front of a large, weathered wooden barn. The man is wearing a dark hoodie and a baseball cap, and the child is wearing a denim jacket. The scene is set in a rural landscape with rolling hills in the background under a clear sky. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# FCC Form 481 Webinar: Program Year 2020 Updates

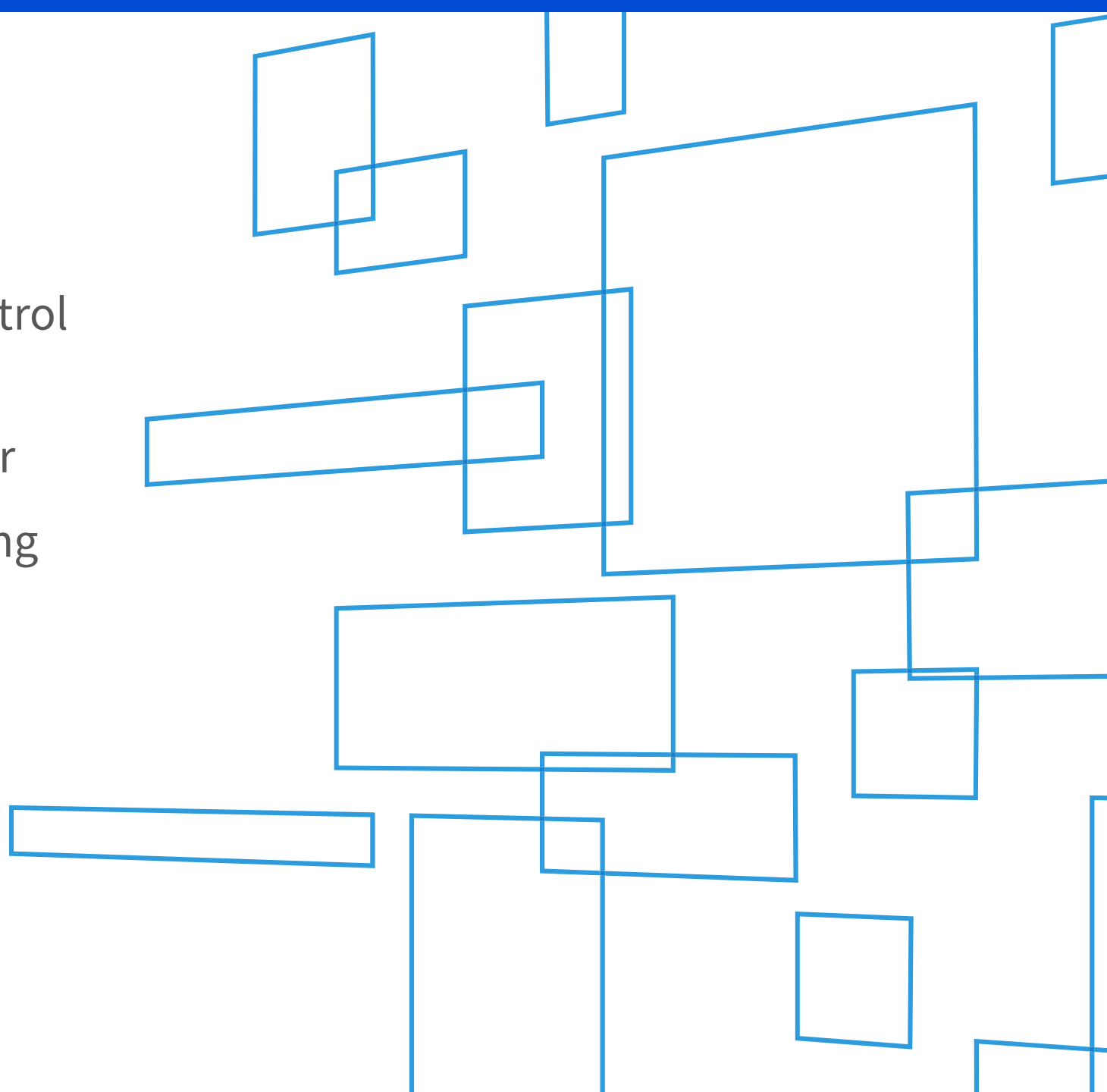
High Cost Program  
May 7, 2019



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

## Housekeeping

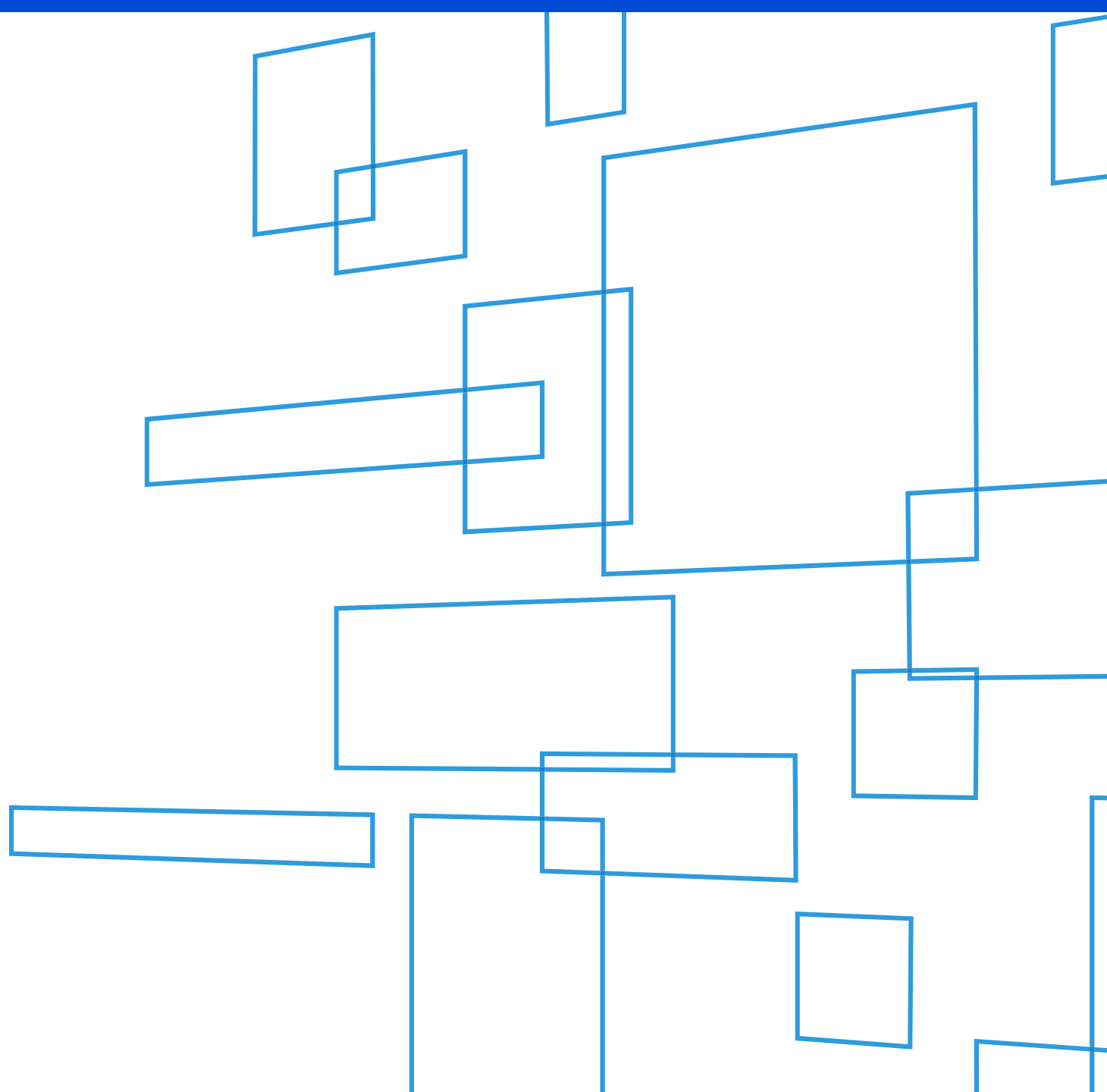
- Use the “Audio” section of your control panel to select an audio source
- Turn on your computer’s speaker, or
- Use the call-in instructions (including audio PIN)



# Welcome

Today's Speakers:

- **Elizabeth Pertsevoi**  
Senior Program Manager for User Support, High Cost
- **Anissa Qudsia**  
Product Manager, High Cost



# Form 481

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- All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) participating in the High Cost and/or Lifeline programs, with the exception of Mobility Fund Phase I participants, must file FCC Form 481 on an annual basis.
- The form collects financial and operations information, which is used to validate carrier support.
- Failure to file by the deadline may impact support.
- **Filing due date: July 1, 2019**

A man with a beard, wearing a dark shirt and a vest, stands in profile on the left side of the frame, looking at a tablet device. The background is a vast field of solar panels under a cloudy sky. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# FCC Form 481: Resources to Assist Carriers

Elizabeth Pertsevoi

Senior Program Manager of User Support, High Cost



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# Form 481 Resources

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**Resources to help carriers complete Form 481:**

<https://www.usac.org/hc/tools/forms.aspx>

**Resources include:**

Online Filing User Guide

FAQs

Upload Templates

Filing Videos

# Form 481 Resources





<https://www.usac.org/hc/tools/forms.aspx>

## FORMS

Upload Templates

ETCs are encouraged to file online. View [upcoming filing deadlines](#)  for the High Cost Program to ensure timely filing.

### Current Forms

<b>FCC Form 481</b>	Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form
<a href="#">File Online</a>	<a href="#">FCC Form 481 Instructions - DRAFT</a> 
<a href="#">FCC Form 481 - DRAFT</a> 	<a href="#">FCC Form 481 Online Filing User Guide</a>  , <a href="#">Filing Videos</a>
	<a href="#">FCC Form 481 Upload Templates</a>
	<a href="#">FCC Form 481 FAQs</a>
	<a href="#">FCC Form 481 Filing Guide</a> 

# Form 481 Resources

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## FCC Form 481 Online Filing User Guide

- Steps to start a new filing or continue a pre-existing filing
- Information on how to populate the form, including:
  - Overview of each line item and possible answers
  - Instructions on how to attach files and upload data using upload templates
  - Explanation of how to populate the dynamic tables manually
- Instructions on how to certify a filing



# Form 481 Resources

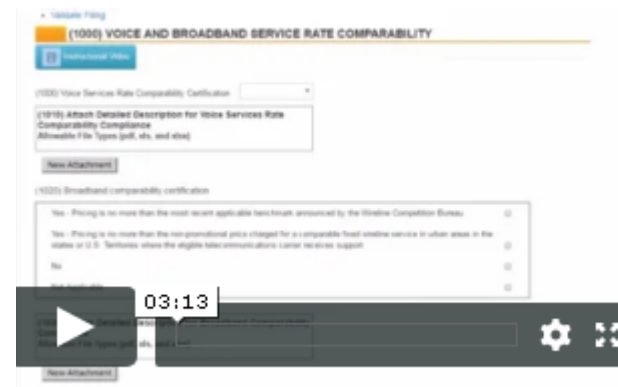
## FCC Form 481 Videos



### Overview of the FCC Form 481 Online System

Take a tour of the E-File system and get an overview of the sections involved in filing the FCC Form 481.

8:07 minutes



### (1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability

Learn about how to report your voice and broadband service rates.

2:45 minutes

# Form 481 Resources

## Form 481 Filing Guide

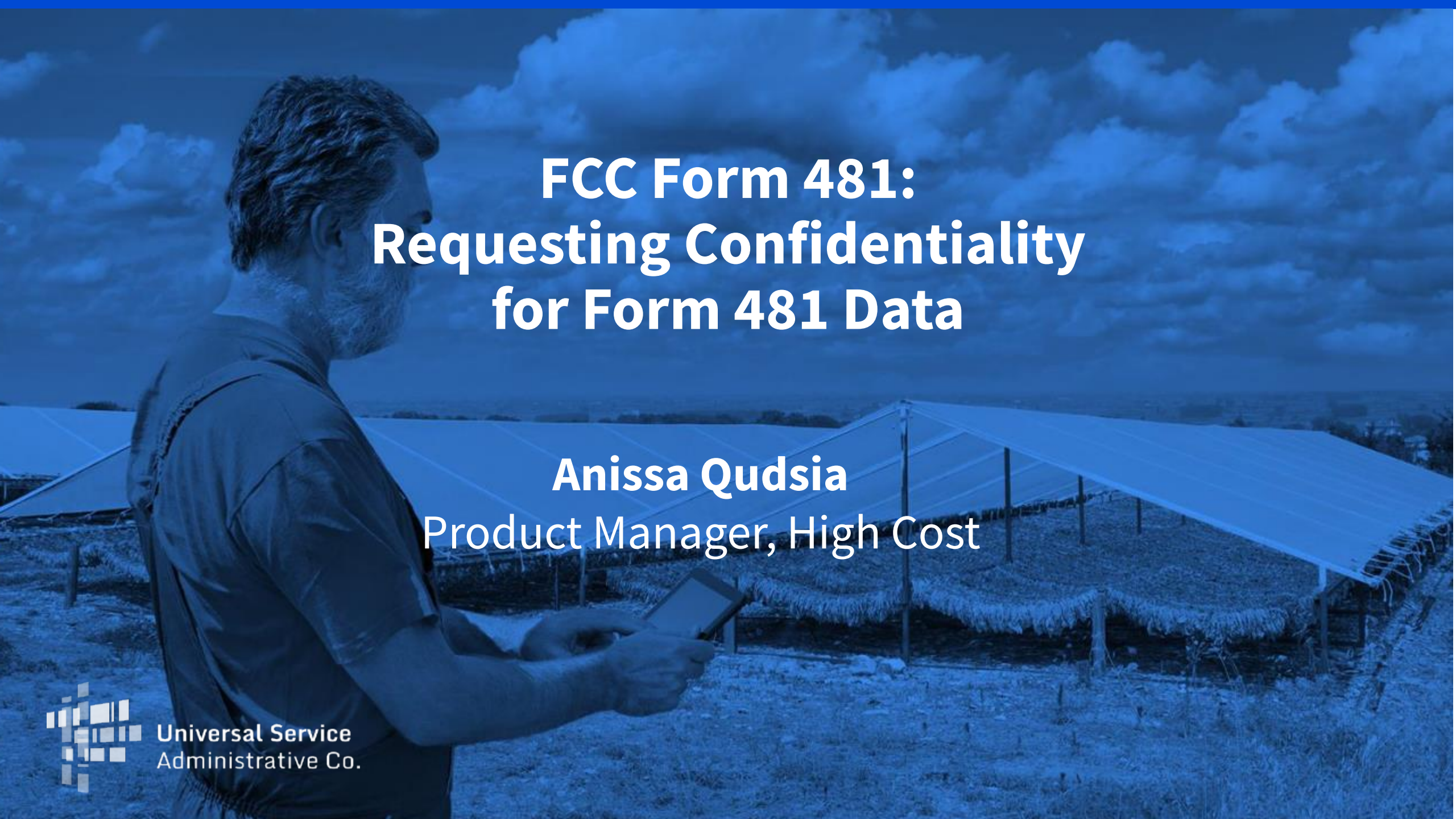
481 Section & Issue	High Cost Program Rule	Notes	Lifeline Program Rule	Lifeline Program Filers
Section 600: Emergency certification	54.313(a)(1)	Certify for voice and for broadband service	54.422(b)(4)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC-designated
Section 1000: Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability	54.313(a)(2) and (a)(3)	Certify that voice and broadband rates are reasonably comparable. Identify most recent wireline survey (see Section 1000 in FAQ for details).	N/A	N/A

# High Cost Support Center

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1-844-357-0408

[HCQuestions@USAC.org](mailto:HCQuestions@USAC.org)

A man with a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt and a vest, stands in profile on the left side of the frame, looking at a tablet device. The background is a vast field of solar panels under a cloudy sky. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# **FCC Form 481: Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data**

**Anissa Qudsia**  
Product Manager, High Cost



**Universal Service  
Administrative Co.**

# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

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- USAC publishes much of the Form 481 data filed by carriers, per FCC direction.
- Carriers can request confidentiality for any Form 481 line item.
- Detailed financial information is considered confidential by default.
  - Carriers do not need to request confidential treatment of this information.
- Starting this year, the process for requesting confidentiality has been automated and incorporated into the Form 481 system.

# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

- To request confidentiality of data not considered confidential by default, a carrier should click on the “Confidentiality Request Form” button located at the bottom of the screen listing the carrier’s Form 481 filings:

	Submission Period	Submitted Date	Status	Filing Period	Timeliness	Edit/Submit	View/Print	Download	Filing Number	Delete
+	2017 Submissions									
+	2016 Submissions									
+	2015 Submissions									
+	2014 Submissions									

[Return to 481 Search](#)   [Create New Form 481](#)   [Return to SPC Portal](#)   [Confidentiality Request Form](#)

# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

Section 5005 - Alaska Plan Participants ▾

## REQUEST CONFIDENTIALITY: ALASKA PLAN PARTICIPANTS

Line #	Field Description	Select For Confidentiality
5011	Please indicate whether terrestrial backhaul or other satellite backhaul became commercially available in the previous calendar year in areas previously served exclusively by performance-limiting satellite backhaul.	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">View/ Edit</a>
5012	If the filing carrier identified in its approved performance plans that it relies exclusively on satellite backhaul for a certain portion of the population in its service area, indicate whether any terrestrial backhaul or other satellite backhaul became commercially available in the previous calendar year in area that were previously served exclusively by satellite backhaul.	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">View/ Edit</a>
5013a	Description of Backhaul Technology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Confidential by FCC
5013b	Date backhaul Available (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Confidential by FCC
5013c	Newly served Locations or Population	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated Confidential by FCC

[Previous](#) [Next](#) [Review Explanations](#) [Exit](#)

- The drop-down menu lists each Form 481 section
- Lines that are confidential by default are marked as “Designated Confidential by FCC”
- To indicate that a line should be considered confidential, click the checkbox next to the line.

# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

- When the box is selected, a text box will appear requesting an explanation of why this information should be treated as confidential.
  - The FCC will review these explanations.
- The request will not be accepted without an explanation that addresses all the questions listed.

**Explanation** X

Please provide a response to each of the following questions listed below in your explanation. Your response can be up to 2000 characters.

1. A statement of the reasons for withholding the information from public inspection;
2. Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought;
3. Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains trade secrets or is privileged;
4. Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition;
5. Explanation for how disclosure of the information could result in competitive harm;
6. Identification of any measures the party has taken to prevent unauthorized disclosure;
7. Identification of whether the information is already available to the public and the extent of any previous disclosure;
8. Justification for the period of time the party asserts the information should not be available for public inspection;



# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

- After selecting all lines for confidential treatment requests, click on “Review Explanations”
- A summary will appear for review before submission
- Explanations are displayed and can be edited using the “View/Edit” link
- Use the “Previous” button to go back to change lines to be treated as confidential
- Click “Exit” to save and go back at a later time to complete the request
- Click “Next” to submit the request

**EXPLANATIONS SUMMARY**

**Carrier Contact Information**

**Line 20**  
Test

[View/ Edit](#)

**Section 1000**

**Line 1000**  
Test

[View/ Edit](#)

**Section 5005**

**Line 5011**  
Test

[View/ Edit](#)

# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

- Click “Next” to go to the final page, where there is an optional field to provide additional information.
- The carrier **must** enter a contact name, phone number and email address.
- Click “Exit” to save a request and complete it at a later time.
- When complete, click “Submit.” No revisions can be made after a request is submitted

Provide additional information, if any, and your contact information below in the case of any questions that may arise during the assessment of your confidentiality request. Please note that all fields listed under Carrier Contact Information are required (except for telephone extension) before proceeding to submit the form.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please add any other information that may be useful in assessing whether the request for confidentiality should be granted. (1000 max character limit)

(optional)

### CARRIER CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name *(up to 60 characters)*

Contact Telephone Number *(10 digit integer)*

Ext *(up to 5 digits)*  (optional)

Contact Email Address *(jsmith@example.com)*

# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

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- Upon submission, the system will display a confirmation screen and send a confirmation email.

## CONFIRMATION

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**Congratulations. Your Confidential Request form has been successfully submitted.**

Submission was submitted on Tue 16 Apr 19 11:12:10 AM EDT by Elizabeth.Pertsevoi@usac.org .

SAC : 613000

498 ID : 143002683

Carrier Name : ACS OF ANCHORAGE

Program Year : 2020

A confirmation email will be sent to the email address on record for your user ID. Please email USAC at HCCERTS@USAC.ORG if you do not receive this email within 24 hours.

[Return to 481 Search](#)

[Print Confirmation Page](#)





# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

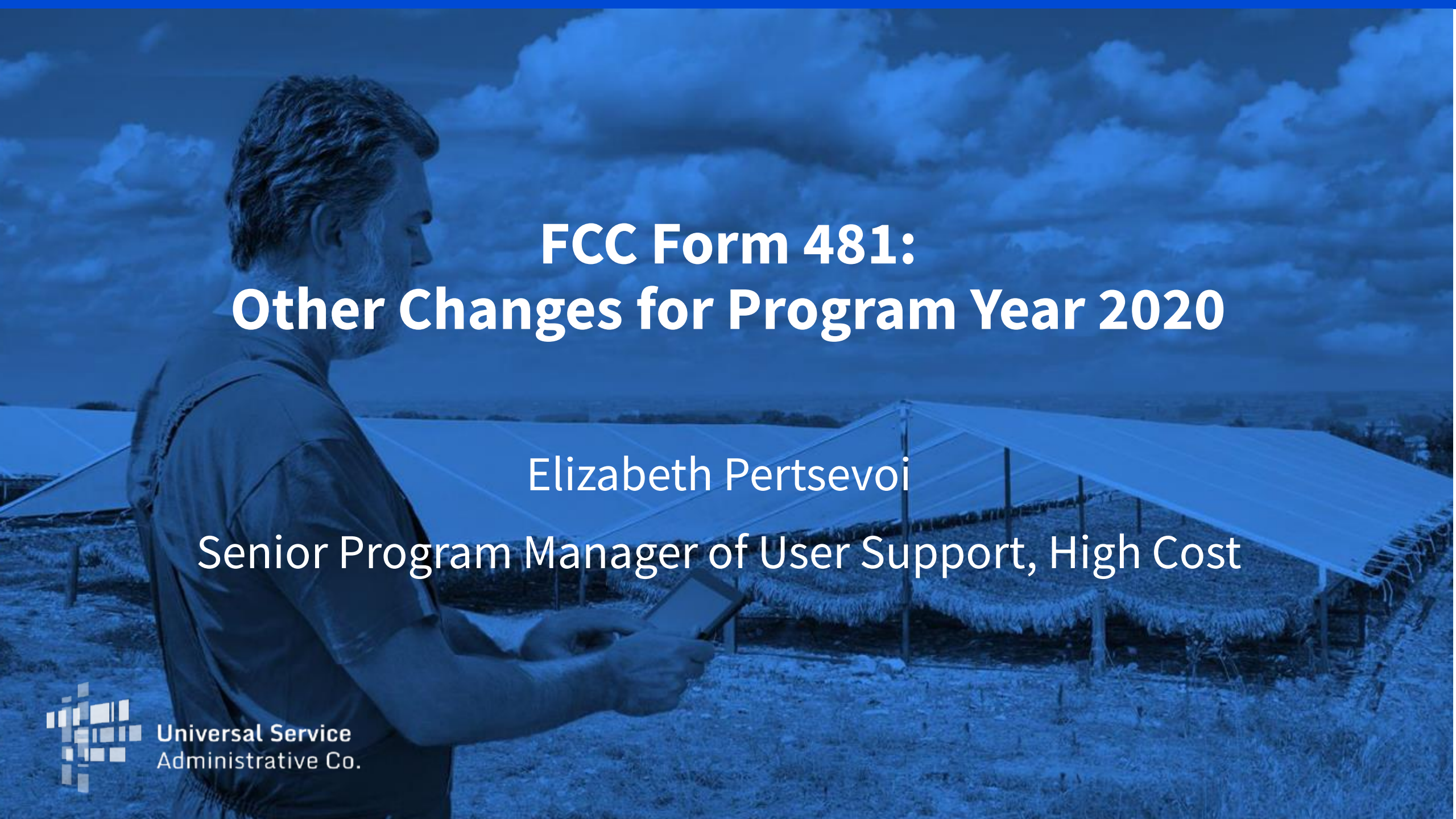
- Confidentiality requests appear in the list of form submissions and are denoted by “CR” in the filing number column.
- Click the “Update” button in the “Edit/Submit” column to open a request that has been started, but not yet submitted.

	Submission Period	Submitted Date	Status	Filing Period	Timeliness	Edit/Submit	View/Print	Download	Filing Number	Delete
☰	2020 Submissions									
	2020		Not Submitted	Open		<input type="button" value="Update"/>			CR	

# Requesting Confidentiality for Form 481 Data

- A request that has been submitted will display “Submitted” in the status column.
- A request that has been submitted cannot be revised.

	Submission Period	Submitted Date	Status	Filing Period	Timeliness	Edit/Submit	View/Print	Download	Filing Number	Delete
	2020 Submissions									
	2020	Apr 16, 2019	Submitted	Open	On time				CR	
	2020		Saved Not Certified	Open		<input type="button" value="Update"/>			1	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

A man with a beard, wearing a dark vest over a short-sleeved shirt, is shown in profile from the waist up, looking down at a tablet computer he is holding with both hands. He is standing in a field of solar panels. The solar panels are arranged in long rows and are tilted towards the sun. The background shows a clear sky with some clouds. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# FCC Form 481: Other Changes for Program Year 2020

Elizabeth Pertsevoi

Senior Program Manager of User Support, High Cost



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

# Changes to Section 3005

## Section 3005 – Rate-of-Return Carriers

- Line 3007 asks carriers if they use a consultant to prepare data submitted to USAC or NECA
  - If the answer is yes, a table to provide the name of the consultant and firm will appear

(3007) Does this filing retain a Cost Consultant and/or Firm, or other Third Party to prepare financial and operations data disclosures submitted to the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), USAC, or the Administrator?

<input type="button" value="Add New Row"/>		<input type="button" value="Delete Selected Row(s)"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Row #</b>	<b>(3007a) Name of Consultant</b>	<b>(3007b) Name of Consultant Firm/Third Party</b>

# Elimination of Rate Floor Requirement

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- In 2011, the Commission adopted a rule aimed at limiting support paid to rural carriers that charge rates below a minimum benchmark established annually by the FCC.
- Carriers that charge rates below the benchmark (currently \$18) must report the rates that they charge and the number of lines they serve at that rate using the “Rate Floor Data Collection Report and Certification” file located on the High Cost forms [webpage](#). This filing is due July 1.



# Elimination of Rate Floor Requirement

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- On April 15, 2019, the FCC released an Order (FCC 19-32) eliminating the rate floor requirement.
- The FCC determined that absent commission action, the rate floor would increase by nearly 50 percent on July 1 and rates for many rural subscribers would go up.
- The order eliminates rate floor reporting obligations after July 1, 2020, following a one-year period of monitoring residential retail rates.
- Carriers will be required to complete the Rate Floor Data Collection Report and Certification, if applicable, this year and next.

**Questions?**

