What Should We Expect From The New FCC?

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A Forward-Looking and Carefully Thought Through Agenda

- The prior speakers have laid out some of the new Administration’s (and at least the new FCC Chairman’s) plans in telecommunications.
- They are both far-reaching and very significant for our country’s future.
- A great deal of thought went into these initiatives and policy proposals and I am optimistic that we will see progress.
It Is Not As Easy As It Looks—And It Does Not Look Easy

- While the plans you have heard discussed hold much promise, the topic assigned to this panel is: “What Should We Expect From The New FCC?”
- Note that it is not phrased as “What Should We Hope For From The New FCC?”
- I will therefore try to lower expectations (somewhat) and talk about what we can expect in the real world, and why.
What the right hand giveth, the left hand taketh away.
That is a great vision for the future, and those sound like great plans, but are the trains running on time?
We did not see that one (or those 14 things) coming.
We live in the real world.
So, What Can We Really Expect?

- Look to transition plans and initial policy pronouncements as setting directions for the future, rather than as defining detailed regulations and policies.
- Watch for those crises arising out of left field that are on no one’s transition plans, but that may dramatically affect them.
- Recognize that the FCC must adapt to changing economic conditions.
- Remember that the FCC does not speak with one voice and is an independent regulatory agency.