

Navigating the FCC: Terms to Know

>>> **Knowing your “ABCs” or specifically, NOIs, NPRMs, and R&O’s is key to understanding the Commission’s decision-making process. Exactly what do these letters mean? Below is a guide to understanding the “alphabets” of the FCC.**

> **Notice of Inquiry (NOI):** The Commission releases an NOI for the purpose of gathering information about a broad subject or as a means of generating ideas on a specific issue. NOIs are initiated either by the Commission or an outside request.

> **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM):** An NPRM explains the need, source of authority and reasons for a proposed rule change. An NPRM contains proposed changes to the Commission’s rules and seeks public comment on these proposals. The public may comment on any part, but the agency will usually include specific questions on which it wants public comment or data.

> **Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM):** After reviewing your comments and the comments of others to the NPRM, the FCC may also choose to provide an opportunity for you to comment further on a related or specific proposal.

> **Public Docket:** The rulemaking docket is the electronic file in which the Commission places all of the rulemaking documents. These public dockets are maintained by the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and is available to the public for viewing.

> **Report and Order (R&O):** After considering comments to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (or Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking), the FCC issues a Report and Order. The R&O may develop new rules, amend existing rules or make a decision not to do so. Summaries of the R&O are published in the Federal Register. The Federal Register summary will tell you when a rule change will become effective.

> **Changes After the R&O**

>> **Petition for Reconsideration:** If you are not satisfied with the way an issue is resolved in the R&O, you can file a Petition for Reconsideration within 30 days front date the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

>> **Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O):** In response to the Petition for Reconsideration, the FCC may issue a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) or an Order on Reconsideration amending the new rules or stating that the rules will not be changed.