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August 12, 2022

Latest News

2020 Pennsylvania Broadband Victory Canceled by Feds

This week, the FCC canceled the SpaceX Award to bring internet service to unserved Pennsylvanians. SPACEX, the Elon Musk funded private sector satellite initiative, won the bid through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Program for providing broadband to unserved households and businesses in 35 states, including Pennsylvania. The program auctioned off census block tracts of unserved households and businesses in 2020 using the fund to support new infrastructure, which must be in place within 10 years.

Starlink, also known as SpaceX or Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, won the auction to provide broadband to 59,200 unserved Pennsylvania households and businesses in 61 counties. That is nearly one-third of the 184,505 unserved Pennsylvania households and businesses to benefit from the 2020 auction. The FCC determined that Starlink's application failed to demonstrate that the provider could deliver the promised service and would not be the best use of the funds to bring broadband to unserved areas. Starlink's total award was slated to be \$885 million. Who would have thought satellite communications was still considered "experimental" by ANY federal agency?

It is unclear how the FCC will resolve this issue and whether these unserved areas will be awarded to another provider. The FCC also rejected the application of LTD Broadband, which won \$1.3 billion in 15 other states. To read more about the FCC's decision, [click here](#). To see the list of winning companies by county from 2020, [click here](#).

Major CDC COVID-19 Changes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has substantially revised its COVID-19 guidance. Social distancing guidance of six feet is no more. Quarantining is no longer recommended if you were exposed to COVID-19. Instead, the CDC recommends that you wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5. Isolation recommendations for those who are sick or test positive for COVID-19 are revised yet again. Breakthrough cases are no longer considered rare and vaccination status differentiation is out. To view an overview of the changes, [click here](#).

Today in History...

On August 12, 1990, fossil hunter Susan Hendrickson discovered three huge bones jutting out of a cliff near Faith, South Dakota. They turn out to be part of the largest-ever Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever discovered, a 65 million-year-old specimen dubbed Sue, after its discoverer.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.



Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum

This class provides an interactive opportunity to engage in tabletop exercises taught by knowledgeable professionals that reflect real-world experiences and situations.

[9/15/22 – West \(Westmoreland Co.\)](#)

[9/29/22 – PSATS \(Cumberland Co.\)](#)

[10/13/22 – East \(Montgomery Co.\)](#)

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