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TODAY'S NEWS

PLUM TELECOM POSTS for next administration being considered by decision makers in Romney, Obama campaigns. (P. 1)

SANDY ARRIVES, threatening outages. State commissions, telcos and cable scrambled to prepare. (P. 4)

BROAD SURVEILLANCE POWER draws questions from three justices on Amnesty International's standing. (P. 8)

GLOBALSTAR WANTS RELIEF to lease spectrum for a terrestrial service. (P. 9)

AEREO DEFENDED by consumer and industry groups, copyright law professors, as briefing cycle on injunction appeal ends. (P. 10)

EUROPEAN FIBER ROLLOUT lags because business case isn't clear, analysts say. Rethink of technology neutrality 'mantra' may be needed. (P. 12)

TELECOM NOTES: FCC releases comment cycle on T-Mobile/MetroPCS deal ... Windows Phone market share poised for growth ... Verizon, Sprint in compensation fight in New York. (P. 14)

MEDIA NOTES: Companies re-schedule earnings as Sandy looms ... Tribune, Cablevision settle carriage deal ... TWC's LA RSNs get more distribution. (P. 17)

Romney, Obama Campaigns Eye Telecom Vacancies for After Election

The presidential campaigns of President Barack Obama and former Gov. Mitt Romney have begun efforts to select candidates for their administrations' top communications positions, whichever candidate wins Nov. 6. Such efforts include preliminary plans for who might replace any outgoing administration officials, if Obama is reelected, and if Romney becomes president, determine who would be nominated for high-level telecom positions in the new administration. We recently interviewed former and current Democratic and Republican government officials to understand who will likely help each candidate make the necessary agency appointments if his campaign wins next Tuesday. The campaigns declined to comment, as did those said to be directly involved in the early-on planning efforts.

If Romney wins, former FCC Chairman Richard Wiley will almost certainly be a key voice in helping the Romney transition team set the framework for moving forward, said former commission officials. After leaving the commission in the 1970s, Wiley started his own law firm and now is chairman of Wiley Rein and co-chair of Romney's Justice Advisory Committee (<http://xrl.us/bnv72c>). He was a major voice in the George W. Bush transition team. Bryan Tramont could also be a very influential member of Romney's transition team, former FCC officials said. He was former FCC Chairman Michael Powell's chief of staff and is now a managing partner at the Wilkinson Barker law firm (<http://xrl.us/bnv72i>).

The Republican telecom transition team will also likely include Mike Leavitt and John Kneuer, several former Republican government officials told us. Romney picked Leavitt, a former Utah governor and Health and Human Services secretary under George W. Bush, to lead the GOP nominee's transi-