



February 4, 2014

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90, Connect America Fund; Technology Transitions, GN Docket No. 13-5

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 2, 2014, the undersigned, on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”), together with members of NTCA’s Industry and Regulatory Policy and Competitive and Advanced Services Committees and several NTCA staff members (all meeting attendees listed below), met with Carol Matthey, Deputy Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Ms. Matthey provided the committees with a brief summary of the recently released Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the ongoing transition to IP-based services and an overview of other universal service-related matters.

In the question and answer session that followed Ms. Matthey’s presentation, individual committee members asked the following questions: (1) how might reforms to the High-Cost Program for rural rate-of-return carriers enable carriers to recover costs incurred for past investments under then-current rules?; (2) would the Commission consider eliminating or scaling back the Section 54.313 five-year network deployment plan requirement?; and (3) what steps might be needed to ensure the availability of high-cost support for networks where certain consumers cease to take voice telephony services offered to them and instead only procure broadband Internet access services?

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS.

Sincerely,
/s/ Michael R. Romano
Michael R. Romano
Senior Vice President – Policy

cc: Carol Matthey

Meeting Attendees:

Scott Hiatt, CPA
CFO
NineStar Connect

Dennis L. Bachman
General Manager
Citizens Telephone Cooperative

Don Jackson
Manager, Regulatory & Legislative
Tri-County Telephone Association

Brock Johansen
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
Emery Telcom

Janet M. Bathurst
General Manager
S & A Telephone Company

Greg Berberich
Chief Executive Officer
Matanuska Telephone Association

Kevin Kelly
Regulatory Director
TCA

Ryan Boone
Regulatory Manager
Northern Iowa Telephone

Denny Law
General Manager/CEO
Golden West Telecommunications
Cooperative

Janet S. Britton
Director of Legal & Regulatory Affairs
East Ascension

David Clark
Regulatory Manager
Sebastian

Steve D. Meltzer
Senior Vice President
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Executive Director
South Dakota Telecommunications
Association

Roger Nishi
V.P. Industry Relations
Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom

Tom Conry
General Manager
Farmers Mutual Cooperative
Telephone Company

H. Keith Oliver
Senior VP Corporate Operations
Home Telephone Company

Paul Cooper
President
Fred Williamson & Associates

Eric Cramer
CEO
Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation

Jason Dandridge
CEO
Palmetto Rural Telephone
Cooperative

Renee Reeter
Chief Financial Officer
Green Hills Telephone Corporation

Jeff Smith
President and Chief Executive Officer
GVNW Consulting

William A. Squires
Chief Executive Officer
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Thomas R. Farm CPA
Communications Consulting Principal
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David A. Fox
Vice President & General Manager
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Larry Thompson, P.E.
Chief Executive Officer
Vantage Point Solutions

Jim Frame
VP Operations
National Exchange Carrier Association
NECA

Edwin Tisdale
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Rhonda Goddard
Chief Operating Officer
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Bruce H. Todd
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
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Kelley Wells
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Panhandle Telephone Cooperative

Emory Graffis
General Manager
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company

Kevin Hess
Sr. Vice President - Gov't & Regulatory
TDS Telecom

Jonathan West
General Manager/CEO
Twin Lakes Telephone Cooperative
Corporation

Candace Wright
Chief Financial Officer
Blue Valley Tele-Communications

Mark D. Benton
General Manager
Midstate Communications

Mike Kilgore
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
Nemont Telephone Cooperative

Daryl Carlson
EVP/General Manager
Webster-Calhoun Cooperative
Telephone Association

Barb Main
General Manager
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Lance Miller
President and General Manager
McClure Telephone Company

Ryan Johnson
Sales & Marketing Director
Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation

Scott Randall
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Ironton Telephone Company

Robin Tuttle
Herman & Whiteaker, LLC

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Jo Shotwell
CHR Solutions, Inc.

Stuart Polikoff
CHR Solutions, Inc.

Bob Gnapp
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Geoff Feiss
Montana Telecom Association

Wendy Mons
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Kathy Billnger
Peoples Telecommunications

Jerry Burmeister
Interstate Telcom Consulting, Inc

Patrick Holton
Olsen Theilen & Co. Ltd

Keith Galitz
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John Prendergast
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Steve Appelo
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Westel Systems

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