



July 30, 2015

Ex Parte Notice

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

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, July 28, 2015, the parties listed on the Attachment hereto, representing various rural telecom operators and associations, met with Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) staff as listed on the Attachment to discuss concepts and other specific plans for the updating of existing universal service cost recovery mechanisms.

In particular, we discussed the opportunities and challenges presented in attempting to implement a methodology that would provide for recovery of previously incurred costs through existing mechanisms and network costs incurred in the future through a new recovery mechanism. We discussed the need for carefully designed transitions between old and new mechanisms, the need for thoughtful approaches to setting clear and predictable rules in new mechanisms that will take account of the interaction of old and new mechanisms and also provide reasonable opportunities for cost recovery in high-cost areas going forward, and ultimately the need to ensure that consumers under any mechanism have the choice to adopt voice or broadband that will be reasonably comparable in price and quality to those services as available in urban areas.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. 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

JULY 28 MEETING ATTENDEES

Wireline Competition Bureau

- Carol Matthey
- Steve Rosenberg
- Suzanne Yelen
- Alex Minard
- Ted Burmeister (by phone)
- Christopher Cook
- Gary Seigel
- Joe Sorresso (by phone)

Rural Representatives

- Gerry Duffy on behalf of WTA-Advocates for Rural Broadband
- Genny Morelli of ITTA-The Voice of Mid-Size Telecommunications Companies
- Lynn Follansbee of USTelecom
- Jim Frame and Jeff Dupree of the National Exchange Carrier Association
- Denny Law of Golden West Telecommunications (by phone)
- Robert DeBroux (by phone) and Jeff Jung of TDS Telecom
- Cheryl Parrino of Parrino Consulting
- Scott Schultheis of Reynolds Schultheis
- Brian Sullivan of JSI
- Jeff Smith (by phone) and David Cohen of GVNW
- Chad Duval of Moss Adams
- Larry Thompson of Vantage Point (by phone)
- Vince Wiemer of Alexicon (by phone)
- Mike Romano on behalf of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association