USAC (Universal Service Fund/Schools/Libraries)

Docket No: CC Docket No. 02‐6

Applicant Name: ZEIGLER-ROYALTON DIST 188

Applicant BEN: 136866

Funding Commitment Decision: attached (FCC 471.pdf)

USAC Appeal Number: 77838

Reason for request for waiver:

We are a rural, high-poverty school district who utilizes the USAC program to help pay for telecommunications and data (Internet access). Recently, we determined that we did not respond to a request for additional information within the correct timeframe. The error on our end was related to an error on our electronic mail server. In the past, when additional information was requested, I would receive an email from the Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) within USAC. Since I never saw a message like this, I assumed our funding requests were all in good shape. However, upon generated a receipt of services form the following year, I realized that the requests had been denied. After further investigation, I determined that USAC no longer sends out emails like this (from this sender) to request additional documentation. By this point it was too late to provide the additional documentation that was previously requested.

I appealed my decision with USAC, and was denied. The reasoning is because I had appealed 60 days after my funding commitment decision letter was issued. To be completely honest, I had never investigated the decision letter prior to October 17, 2017. The process has been relatively routine in the previous years, and information was usually requested via the PIA. When I did not receive any emails from the PIA, I assumed we were good to go. This oversight is our fault, and we have since polished our skills with the new system completely. FCC rules require appeals to be made within 60 days of this letter. I am asking for a waiver so that my District may get these funding requests funded…we rely heavily on the USAC program for our budgeting purposes.

I have been responsible for the USAC (ERATE) program in my District for 18 years, and have successfully utilized the funding in all of these years…I have never had any problems. Please consider this oversight on our end. It was an honest mistake. Please do not hesitate to respond with any inquiries you may have in regards to this request.

Sincerely,

Andy Odle

Zeigler-Royalton CUSD#188

[aodle@zr188.org](mailto:aodle@zr188.org)

618.923.1336