

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Accepted / Filed

In the Matter of)

APR 16 2019

Petition for Waiver of)

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

FCC 54.316-HUB late filing fees)

Westgate Communications LLC d/b/a WeavTel)

WC

cc Docket No.

14-58

P.O. Box 1268)

Wenatchee, WA. 98807)

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Universal Service)

Support Mechanism)

Petition for Waiver of
FCC 54.316-HUB late filing fee for Westgate Communications LLC
d/b/a WeavTel

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Westgate Communications LLC d/b/a WeavTel, here after Westgate, is a single member limited Liability Corporation and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) operating in North Central Washington State. Westgate is the incumbent local exchange carrier for the remote high cost exchange of Stehekin Washington 520580.

The majority of the Stehekin Exchange lies in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and is bounded by two national wilderness areas and one national park. The entirety of the exchange is serviced by an isolated/non-connecting power grid and road system. Transportation to the exchange is limited to a private passenger ferry, private boats and a private barge company.

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During 2018, Westgate reached 81 loops with a total structure count in the exchange boundaries of approximately 130 buildings or potential customers.

During 2018, Westgate filed FCC form 54.316-HUB four days late. Subsequently, in 2019, the CAFBLS fined Westgate \$1,724.00.

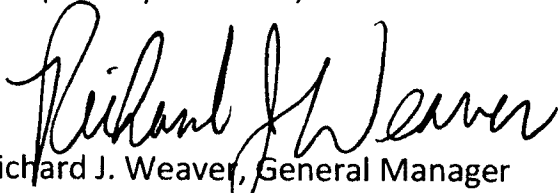
Westgate missed the 54.316-HUB filing date due to the current pressure and small office staff to field the various filing requirements. Westgate has one full time employee/owner, a part time technician, and a part-time bookkeeper. Westgate has further been under a USAC audit for over two years.

Because Westgate is a cost capped company under Part §54.302, Monthly per-line limit on universal service support, the fine is excessively burdensome and-hinders the operation of the Stehekin Exchange and Westgate's mission in meeting its five-year buildout requirement under CAF-BLS.

II. Request

Westgate respectfully petitions the Commission to request a Waiver of FCC 54.316-HUBB late filing fee of \$1,724.00 imposed for filing the report four days late. Westgate requests the commission consider the extreme pressure that the company is experiencing as it is a cost capped company, has been absorbing the costs of a USAC audit in excess of two years with limited number of personnel. The fine assessed may appear to be a small amount of funds, but when compared to Westgate's total budget, it is a substantial amount. Westgate believes these monies would be better utilized meeting USAC's audit costs and the company's required build out of services. Westgate would further ask the commission to consider that Westgate has met its original line count proposal that was committed to prior to procuring a RUS loan and creating the Stehekin Exchange. This was all accomplished while the Universal Service funding mechanism has been in the process of reform.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard J. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Weaver" clearly legible.

Richard J. Weaver, General Manager
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Dated: March 26, 2019

