

December 29, 2015

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Appeal of denial of funding under the Universal Service Rural Health Care Program (RHCP), FRN 14560591

To Whom It May Concern:

We are filing this appeal of a denied filing on a one-time basis. The details of the situation are documented in the document uploaded under the file name Charles Cole FINAL Notice of Dismissal (FRN 14560591).pdf.

In this appeal, we seek only to obtain an exception due to the relative newness of the rules surrounding the Healthcare Connect Fund. We understood the deadline for filing Form 463 as six months after the close of the Fund Year. We only recently learned of the specific rule requiring that the Health Care Provider (HCP) file its Form 463 within six months of the issuance of the Funding Commitment Letter (FCL) or service termination date. As USAC's description notes, we did file the Form 463 within six months of the issuance of the FCL. We did not realize that the deadline for completion was August 20. Instead, we misunderstood the deadline, thinking it was December 31, 2015.

As the filing agent for Charles Cole Memorial Hospital and its clinics, we recognize the importance of all the rules and deadlines of the Rural Health Care Program, both the Telecom Program and the Healthcare Connect Fund. Normally, we are well-versed in the rules. We follow them carefully. In this instance, we somehow missed this particular rule. Therefore, we seek this appeal on a one-time basis only.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rau
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