



March 18, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Waiver of Form 472 Invoice Deadline for Funding Year 2014

Contact:

Crystal McCall
Somerset Area School District
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Billed Entity Number: 125333
Form 471 Application Number: 971961
Funding Request Number: 2646788
CC Docket No. 02-6

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On behalf of the Somerset Area School District (SASD), I am writing to respectfully request the FCC to grant a waiver of the Funding Year 2014 Form 472 BEAR filing deadline so that we will not lose these vital funds.

We just learned that, although we submitted our BEAR well before the deadline, we actually missed the deadline due to actions of our service provider. We understand that we must explain the extraordinary circumstances that we experienced in the hope that the FCC will find granting the waiver will be in the public interest.

The invoice deadline in question was denied due to no fault of SASD. I filed our final 472 BEAR form with USAC on July 10, 2015 – well before the October 28 deadline. I then awaited receipt of the 472 BEAR notification letter from USAC approving or denying my request. I finally received this form on December 7, 2015 well after the deadline of October 28, 2015 filing requirement. The notification said that our BEAR was denied. I immediately contacted USAC via phone and was informed that our service provider failed to check block 2 when they certified our form. I was instructed to file an appeal with USAC requesting an invoice extension.

I filed this appeal with USAC on December 8, 2015 and awaited a response. I then checked with USAC on January 18, 2015 via email and again on February 22, 2016 requesting an update to our appeal status. On March 15, 2016, I finally received a decision from USAC denying our request. Their explanation is as follows:

- FCC Form 472 Number 2206248 was not certified online by the Service Provider by 10/28/15, the last day to submit an invoice to USAC. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all blocks of the FCC Form 472 are submitted to USAC in a timely manner. You did not demonstrate otherwise in your appeal. Therefore, the appeal is denied.

As you can see, I clearly filed my 472 BEAR form well in advance of the deadline; however, USAC failed to inform SASD in a timely manner in order for me to correct the problem with the provider and refile the BEAR form. Their denial is based on their opinion that SASD failed to comply with requirements of deadlines yet USAC clearly does not demonstrate the same.

The deadline oversight is purely unintentional.

The reimbursements will total \$9,792 for the District's internet services. This may not be a large sum of money to some institutions, but it is extremely important in our District. As I am sure you are aware, Pennsylvania still has not passed a state budget for the 2015/2016 fiscal year and the loss of funding's such as this would be detrimental to our district.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully submitted,



Crystal McCall

Purchasing/Accts Payable Coordinator