

# USAC

UNIVERSAL SERVICE  
ADMINISTRATIVE CO

1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20004

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DEC 31 1998

Robert Haga  
Secretary & Treasurer

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 31, 1998

Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
12<sup>th</sup> Street Lobby, TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Report on the date by which USAC could Consolidate the Website  
(CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45)

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) herein files a proposed timetable by which we could consolidate all the universal service websites pursuant to the Commission's November 20, 1998, Order.<sup>1</sup>

Consistent with the Commission's directives, we have established a separate USAC website at the "www.universalservice.org" URL, through which users may access information about the High Cost, Low Income, Rural Health Care, and Schools and Libraries programs.

We are now ready to implement a long-term redesign and consolidation of the USAC website to encompass information currently available on the USAC, the SLC, and the RHCC websites. While we view this project as more than just consolidating the websites, we plan to consolidate the websites no later than April 30, 1999. We envision the USAC website design and consolidation will take place in five distinct stages:

- 1) Establishing the "www.universalservice.org" site with links to "www.rhccfund.org," "www.slcfund.org," and "www.neca.org\usac.htm;"
- 2) Moving the information about USAC from the NECA website to the new website;
- 3) Merging the information from the "www.slcfund.org" and "www.rhccfund.org" websites to the consolidated USAC website, and directing users to the new website via a forwarding message (The completion of this stage will bring USAC in compliance with the Commission's Order.);

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<sup>1</sup> Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Third Report and Order and Fourth Order on Reconsideration and Eighth Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45, FCC 98-306, released on November 20, 1998 at ¶ 60 ("FCC Order").

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4) Establishing a work-group of users, providers, and beneficiaries, and seek their input on the functionality of the site and improvements than should be made;

5) Redesign the website to provide a consistent look and feel for all the programs as well as implementing improvements delineated by the work-group.

Stage one has already been accomplished. Stage two will be completed prior to January 31, 1999 and will cost between \$2,000 and \$10,000 depending on how many graphic art and design templates are required.

We estimate that stage three will be completed no later than April, 1999 with minimal disruption and minimal cost. As the USAC website is our main interface with many of the providers and beneficiaries of the universal service programs, we plan to complete stages four and five in 1999 so that we will be ready for the third application cycle. USAC will continually evaluate our use of the website and seek to make improvements. We look forward to working with the Commission and other interested parties in reorganizing and consolidating the universal service websites so that it provides the needed information in an easy to use and understandable format .

In accordance with Commission rules, I am submitting two copies of this notice for each docket to the Office of the Secretary. Please acknowledge receipt hereof by affixing a notation on a duplicate copy of this letter furnished herewith for such purposes and remitting same to the bearer.

Sincerely,



Robert Haga

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Enclosures

cc: Lisa Zaina, FCC  
Melissa Waksman, FCC  
Lisa Boehley, FCC