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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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DA 99-573

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**PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED FOR VERMONT TELEPHONE COMPANY,
 INC.'S REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF CONDITIONS ADOPTED BY THE
 COMMON CARRIER BUREAU IN APPROVAL OF PETITION FOR STUDY AREA
 WAIVER**

CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

AAD 95-30

Released Date: March 26, 1999

Comment Date: April 15, 1999

Reply Date: April 26, 1999

On March 12, 1999, Vermont Telephone Company, Inc. (VTel) filed an Expedited Request for Modification of Waiver Conditions that were imposed upon VTel in *Champlain Valley Telecom, Inc. et. al.*, 11 FCC Rcd 7111 (Com. Car. Bur.)(*Waiver Order*). Specifically, VTel requests that the Common Carrier Bureau (Bureau) allow VTel to modify the cap on VTel's universal service funding authorized in the *Waiver Order*, based on more accurate and updated financial and demand data than the 1992 data available at the time the cap was established.

In the *Waiver Order*, the Bureau granted the study area waiver request of three local exchange carriers,¹ subject to a cap on the amount of high cost support that each carrier could receive based on estimated amounts provided by the carriers. VTel asserts that those initial estimates have proven inaccurate due to upgrades in VTel's infrastructure and an increase in its working loops. VTel requests that the Bureau increase the cap on VTel's high cost support payments based on updated financial data. VTel proposes a new allocation methodology whereby the caps on the three carriers that acquired the Contel exchanges would be adjusted, but the total of the three caps would be unchanged.

Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on before April 15, 1999, and reply comments on or before April 26, 1999. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998).

¹ VTel, Champlain Valley Telecom, Inc. and Northland Telephone Company of Vermont each requested study area waivers as a result of their acquisition of exchanges from Contel of Vermont (Contel exchanges).

Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address.>" A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appear in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Parties who choose to file by paper should also submit their comments on diskette. These diskettes should be submitted to: Sheryl Todd, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., room 5-A422, Washington, D.C. 20554. Such a submission should be on a 3.5 inch diskette formatted in an IBM compatible format using WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows or compatible software. The diskette should be accompanied by a cover letter and should be submitted in "read only" mode. The diskette should be clearly labeled with the commenter's name, proceeding (including the lead docket number in this case Docket No. 96-45, type of pleading (comment or reply comment), date of submission, and the name of the electronic file on the diskette. The label should also include the following phrase "Disk Copy - Not an Original." Each diskette should contain only one party's pleadings, preferably in a single electronic file. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

For further information, contact Adrian Wright, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484, or via e-mail: awright@fcc.gov.