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Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit

Fred R. Rosetti, Ed.D.
Executive Director

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Letter of Appeal
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

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January 12, 2001

RE: CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21
SLD Form 471 App. # 188358
SLD Funding Request # 397733

To whom it may concern,

Please accept our letter of appeal, with regard to a funding commitment decision, of the above-mentioned funding request, submitted to the Schools and Libraries Corporation E-Rate Program.

Our request for an appeal, to the Schools and Libraries Division, has been denied due to the passing of an allowed thirty-day period. We realize the time lapse between our report and the appeal date extended beyond the thirty-day window, but we believe extenuating circumstances and a communication breakdown between our organizations has occurred throughout the processing of information, with regard to this specific request for funding.

Prior to the receipt of the SLD funding notification, our records indicate a request to complete a Technology Implementation Worksheet requested by the Program Integrity Assurance Group. At that time, we contacted the PIA group, specifically, Ms. Budilowsky, for clarification of the information needed for the completion of the report. At that time, an extension of a few additional days was granted. Our obligation to complete this survey was satisfied and submitted prior to the new deadline. We mention this because our records of communication i.e. phone, e-mail, fax, and postal communication show no attempt by the SLD to contact our organization for any additional information with regard to this particular funding request. Additionally, our requests for verification of contact have not been satisfied. Specifically, the SLD cannot

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substantiate their attempts to inform our organization of the need for any additional information.

Additionally, upon received our funding request letter, we contacted the Program Integrity Assurance Group inquiring for an explanation and if any other information was needed. Following, we contacted the Client Service Bureau inquiring about any attempt to contact our organization with regard to this specific funding request.

The Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit has what may be considered a daily regiment of contact with the SLD. We have filed on behalf of a twenty school Systems over a four-year period with applications in excess of 150 funding requests. This is the first denial of a request, due to a late response for additional information. Again, we have continual contact with the Schools and Libraries Division and our files indicate no record of any Intermediate Unit staff member being contacted with regard to this particular request other than through the PIA group, which, subsequently, the information was provided in a timely manner.

During the past few months we have made several attempts to rectify this communication problem with little results. The SLD application process requires a preferred method of contact; our indicated choice was via telephone. Again, we cannot substantiate any attempt on behave of the SLD to contact our offices concerning this funding request.

In closing, we ask your review of this particular funding request, and if possible a review of the attempts by the SLD to communicate to our organization. The outcome of this appeal will impact at least nine school systems and the education process of over 12,000 students in the state of Pennsylvania. Coincidentally, this request for funding has been approved in the first two years of funding. The request is for reimbursement for costs associated with 56k frame relay service for Internet connection within the schools. Please be assured, will gladly provide any additional information needed to process this funding request. Thank you in advance for your time and attention with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian R. Dolan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Brian R. Dolan
Consortium Procurement Officer, Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19

FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

Form 471 Application Number: 188358

Funding Request Number: 397456 Funding Status: Funded
SPIN: 143005465 Service Provider Name: Commonwealth Telecom Services, Inc.
Contract Number: T
Services Ordered: Telecommunications Services
Earliest Possible Effective Date of Discount: 07/01/2000
Contract Expiration Date: N/A
Billing Account Number: 717-084-2374
Pre-Discount Amount: \$134,533.08
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: 54%
Funding Commitment Decision: \$72,647.86 - FRN approved; modified by SLD
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: The shared discount was corrected.

Funding Request Number: 397733 Funding Status: Not Funded
SPIN: 143001398 Service Provider Name: Bell Atlantic - Pennsylvania, Inc.
Contract Number: T
Services Ordered: Telecommunications Services
Earliest Possible Effective Date of Discount: 07/01/2000
Contract Expiration Date: N/A
Billing Account Number: 717 H51-0091 349
Pre-Discount Amount: \$271,977.12
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A
Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Late response to SLD inquiries
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Applicant has not provided sufficient documentation to determine the eligibility of this item.

Funding Request Number: 397862 Funding Status: Funded
SPIN: 143004791 Service Provider Name: GTE North Incorporated
Contract Number: T
Services Ordered: Telecommunications Services
Earliest Possible Effective Date of Discount: 07/01/2000
Contract Expiration Date: N/A
Site Identifier: 125980
Billing Account Number: N3H EAC-2532
Pre-Discount Amount: \$834.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: 47%
Funding Commitment Decision: \$391.98 - FRN approved; modified by SLD
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: The estimated monthly charge was changed to reflect the documentation provided by the applicant.

Funding Request Number: 398207 Funding Status: Funded
SPIN: 143005407 Service Provider Name: Epix Internet Services, Inc.
Contract Number: MTM
Services Ordered: Internet Access
Earliest Possible Effective Date of Discount: 07/01/2000
Contract Expiration Date: N/A
Billing Account Number: 00075888
Pre-Discount Amount: \$26,736.00
Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: 54%
Funding Commitment Decision: \$14,437.44 - FRN approved; modified by SLD
Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: The shared discount was corrected.

Swar
3/11/00

7/20/00 Survey
Completed
etc.

11/13/00
Case id # 370.00000
MARLENE Raftery