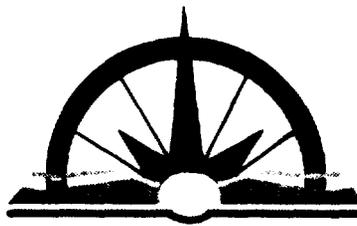


RECEIVED



MAY 07 2001 Arrowhead Library System

FCC MAIL ROOM

May 3, 2001

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Reference: In the matter of Request for Review by Arrowhead Library System of Decision of Universal Service Administrator. FCC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45. / FRN 131242.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Per instructions from Bill Kraemer of the Universal Services Administration Company Schools and Library Division (SLD), we have been advised to withdraw our appeal of funding request number 131242. Arrowhead Library System has been assured that SLD has made the changes originally requested and the SPIN number has been changed accordingly.

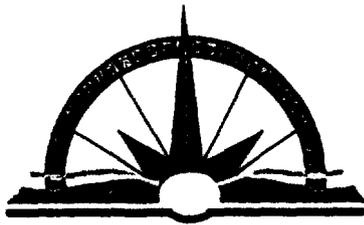
A copy of our original appeal is attached for your reference. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shari Fisher or me.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Weikum". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jim Weikum
Director

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E



Arrowhead Library System

RECEIVED

MAY 07 2001

FCC MAIL ROOM

Date of FCC Appeal Filing: November 2, 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Reference: In the matter of Request for Review by Arrowhead Library System of Decision of Universal Service Administrator. FCC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.

Arrowhead Library System Interest and Utilization

The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is a seven-county regional public library system providing library services to "rural" residents for the region and coordinating programs and services between 29 member public libraries.

Since 1996, ALS has provided a *wide area network* of high-speed ("frame relay") telecommunications links for its member public libraries. These frame relay circuits enable library staff and the public to access the Internet and World Wide Web, a regional public library catalog (that will soon include school library holdings), and licensed proprietary databases of full-text information from periodicals.

The dedicated frame relay circuits are leased by ALS from US West and GTE, connecting the libraries to ALS headquarters in Virginia, and from there to the Internet.

Facts

- March 1998 – ALS staff filed an application for "Year-One" E-Rate that included a request for discounted rates on both the US West and GTE frame relay circuits. Note, however, that the GTE frame relay costs are inadvertently included with the US West total of \$75,972. No distinction was made for GTE costs. (*Attachment A and B*)
- February 9, 1999 (Received 02/16/99) – ALS is notified that \$76,311.18 in Universal Service Fund discounts are committed for ALS. (*Attachment C*)
- March 1, 1999 – ALS files appeal regarding GTE funds. (*Attachment D*)
- May 14, 1999 – With no response from SLD, ALS staff visits and requests assistance from Congressman James Oberstar's office in Chisholm, MN.
- July 1999 – ALS is notified that while funds (\$16,855.31) for GTE sites were indeed committed to ALS under US West *SPIN #143005231 Funding Request Number (FRN) 00131242*, the filing error would result in loss of ALL GTE funds. There is no dispute that the circuit charges were incurred, nor that they aren't eligible for reimbursement. However, SLD indicates that a FRN can not be split between two

- providers once a commitment has been made. According to Mickey Revenaugh of SLD, the "system" cannot handle such a request for "Year One." (*Attachment E*)
- September 1999 - ALS receives reimbursement (\$44,620) for US West frame relay circuit costs. There are no additional BEAR forms pending for US West services. This is the total ALS expects to receive from US West for "Year One." (*Attachment F*)
 - October 26, 1999 - With continued unresponsiveness from SLD in the form of a formal denial of the appeal request, ALS again requests assistance from Congressman Oberstar's Duluth, Minnesota office.
 - November 1, 1999 - ALS receives a formal written denial of the appeal. (*Attachment G*)
 - November 2, 1999 - ALS appeals to the FCC.

Item presented for Review

ALS seeks a correction to the originally filed 471 form for "Year-One" funding. As stated previously, there is no dispute the GTE charges were incurred. ALS should not be penalized for a simple filing error on the 471 form. The total funding committed to ALS is not affected.

Relief Sought

A portion of the designated funding for US West (*FRN 00131242*) should be allocated to GTE, SPIN #143004784 as indicated on the *Cost Calculation Grids and BEAR form information (total \$16,855.31)*. See *Attachment H*.

Signature Jim Weikum Date 11/2/99
ALS Director - Jim Weikum