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November 17, 2009

Sharon Gillett, Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20054

Re: WC Docket No. 02-60

Dear Ms. Gillett,

This letter is to request an extension of the June 30, 2010 deadline for filing of the 466 for the Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP) for a period of one year. In addition, this letter requests a waiver of the requirement in the Order that the Pilot Program be limited to three funding years.

Our RHCPP currently consists of a consortium of 34 partners at 41 facilities located throughout Western New York. The R-AHEC staff has been working diligently since the program began, yet the progress we have been able to achieve concerns us. Like many other projects, that we fear we will be unable to complete our intended efforts and meet the June 30, 2010 deadline.

We as well as the others participating in the RHCPP have experienced several delays. We submitted our RFP and all supporting documents in January, 2009 only to experience a number of delays and approval of our posting seven months later in July. After two years of effort, we learned that we ourselves are an ineligible entity and have already incurred \$160,000 in non-reimbursable administrative expenses. We still are only in the stage of selecting a vendor and then completing the subsequent Form 466.

Our goals and objectives were to reach out to the facilities in the rural areas to assist them in the delivery of healthcare. This proposed one year extension will allow R-AHEC the chance to fully engage these rural partners and complete this project in an efficient manner.

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. Discrimination is prohibited by Federal Law
Complaints of discrimination may be filed with the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, DC 20250-0700. NYS TDD 800-662-1220

PARTNER, NEW YORK STATE AHEC SYSTEM

Therefore, R-AHEC respectfully requests that we be given a one year extension to June 20, 2011 to have funds committed from the RHCPP through the 466 filing process and one additional carryover year for expending the funds. Having a positive answer within the next month would considerably aid us in the continued development of this project and network.

Please advise me if I can provide any further information that may assist you in considering this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth L. Oakley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Kenneth L. Oakley, PhD, FACHE
Project Coordinator

Cc: Thomas Buckley, Senior Deputy Division Chief
Daniel Johnson
Jeff Mitchell
Michelle Picou
Michael Prospero