



May 4, 2012

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, WC Docket No. 11-42;*
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Lifeline
*and Link Up, WC Docket No. 03-109***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 3, Alan Buzacott of Verizon, Mike Tan of AT&T, Jeb Benedict of CenturyLink and the undersigned, met with Kimberly Scardino and Jonathan Lechter of the Wireline Competition Bureau about the Commission's recent *Lifeline Modernization Order*. They were joined via teleconference by Cathy Carpino of AT&T, Tiffany Smink of CenturyLink, Ann Morrison of FairPoint, Tim Loken of Windstream, Shelley Robinette of Verizon and Christine Burke of Frontier.

The industry representatives advocated for grant of the USTelecom Petition for Waiver¹ (Petition) of section 54.407(d) and sections 54.410(b)(2) and (c)(2) of the Commission's rules with respect to certain eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) compliance obligations in particular states identified in Appendix 1 of the Petition. Specifically, beginning June 1, 2012, ETCs are required to obtain a subscriber's certification form, which complies with section 54.410(d), before the ETC may seek reimbursement for providing Lifeline to that new Lifeline subscriber. In those states where a state entity performs the Lifeline eligibility determination on behalf of some or all of the ETCs in that state, those ETCs must obtain a copy of the subscriber's certification form from the state before the ETC may seek reimbursement for that new Lifeline customer. We explained that the waiver request applies only to those ETCs that are required to enroll customers for whom the state has determined the Lifeline customers' eligibility, but where the state does not provide subscriber certifications to the ETC, and will not by June 1, 2012.

Attendees also discussed:

1. Ways to develop further specific information on the status of Lifeline programs in the listed states, and information on whether states with programs currently inconsistent with the new federal Lifeline rules need to change state statutes, regulations, or processes.

¹ See USTelecom Petition for Waiver, WC Docket Nos. 12-23, 11-42, 03-109; CC Docket No. 96-45 (filed April 25, 2012).

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2. The best method to ensure that the Commission would have knowledge of when such states came into compliance, which would obviate the need for the ETC waiver at that time.
3. Whether states could notify ETCs both that a subscriber is eligible for Lifeline and that the state has obtained a certification form for that subscriber that complies with section 54.410(d), in lieu of the states providing copies of such forms to ETCs. The attendees indicated that they support the Commission waiving the requirement that states physically provide copies of subscriber certification forms to ETCs. This support, of course, is contingent upon the concurrence by the FCC that (for compliance/audit purposes) ETCs are entitled to rely on the representations by states that customer certifications have been acquired.
4. How to address the period between June 1, 2012, when the relevant rules take effect and August 1, 2012, when new 497 Forms containing the following new ETC certification will be submitted to the Commission: **“I certify that my company has obtained a valid certification form for each customer for whom my company seeks Lifeline reimbursement.”**

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



David B. Cohen

cc: Kim Scardino
Jonathan Lechter