



January 30, 2014

Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Cisco WebEx LLC Request for Review of a Decision of the Universal Service Administrator, WCB Docket No. 06-122

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On January 24, 2013, on behalf of Cisco WebEx LLC (“WebEx”), Jeff Campbell of Cisco, the undersigned of Wiltshire & Grannis LLP, and Scott Blake Harris and Bryan Tramont of Wilkinson, Barker, Knauer LLP met with Julie Veach, Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Kim Scardino, Chief of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Chin Yoo, Deputy Division Chief, and Carol Pomponio, Attorney-Advisor.¹ During the meeting, we discussed issues related to WebEx’s Petition for Review of a Decision of the Universal Service Administrator.

During that meeting we urged the Bureau to act quickly to address the uncertainty resulting from USAC’s attempt to pull apart an integrated information service to find telecommunications revenue. We explained that the uncertainty engendered by USAC’s approach – which could be extended to any service that integrates telecommunications – is already discouraging investment in information services by WebEx and its parent, Cisco. We also detailed the planning and reporting challenges such uncertainty causes for companies like WebEx.

We explained that WebEx is undoubtedly an information service, offering customers a single integrated service that allows users in remote locations to interact with information just as they would during in-person meetings. We described how information from audio inputs is integral to the service, supporting the delivery of information through the WebEx online interface such as who is attending the call and who is speaking, and integrating with WebEx video capabilities by, for example, enabling the interface to highlight the video of whoever is speaking during a WebEx session. We noted that the host of a meeting can customize the delivery of information captured through WebEx audio inputs by, for example, muting or ejecting speakers or highlighting a particular video input regardless of who is speaking. The

¹ WebEx notes that this ex parte notice should have been filed by Tuesday, January 28, 2014, and apologizes for its oversight.

audio inputs thus go far beyond the mere “transmission . . . of information of the user’s choosing” and cannot be treated as telecommunications under the statute.²

We noted that WebEx is much more expensive than traditional conference calling, which confirms that WebEx “alter[s] the fundamental character” of the service within the meaning of the Commission’s *InterCall Order* and thereby qualifies as an integrated information service.³ Further, because WebEx audio inputs integrate telecommunications and information service capabilities, forcing WebEx to contribute on its telecommunications component would have virtually no impact on the Fund. WebEx does not provide reseller certificates to its carrier partners and, therefore, makes indirect USF contributions on its telecommunications inputs. WebEx then adds substantial value to those inputs by integrating the information services described above. There is little difference between the value of the telecommunications component of WebEx audio and the price WebEx pays for telecommunications inputs – and WebEx is paying USF indirectly on that value.

Finally, we noted the benefit to the industry of promptly addressing questions like those presented here. We explained that making a series of fact-based decisions will provide the industry with needed guidance, and thereby encourage ongoing investment in information services like WebEx.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brita D. Strandberg

Brita D. Strandberg
Counsel to Cisco WebEx LLC

cc: Julie Veach, Wireline Competition Bureau
Kim Scardino, Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Chin Yoo, Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Carol Pomponio, Telecommunications Access Policy Division

² 47 U.S.C. § 153(50).

³ *Request for Review by InterCall, Inc. of Decision of Universal Serv. Admin.*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd. 10,731, 10,735 ¶13 (2008).