

May 21, 2014

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

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 14, 2014, Martha Reid and Sheila Kearns of the Vermont Department of Libraries spoke via telephone with James Bachtell, Soumitra Das, Chas Eberle, and Mark Walker of the Wireline Competition Bureau and Jonathan Chambers of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis. The purpose of the call was to discuss cost data from recent wireless local area network (WLAN) upgrades in Vermont libraries and the Vermont FiberConnect project.

Vermont FiberConnect (Vermont Telecommunications Authority) received a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant to build fiber connections to over 300 community anchor institutions, including the 43 libraries listed in Attachment 1. Those libraries are now part of a 1 Gbps fiber wide area network (WAN) with fiber service provided by Sovenet Fiber for \$200/month per location. The State of Vermont Department of Libraries provides to these libraries a 100 Mbps Internet shared access connection and pays \$900.00/month to Sovenet Fiber for this service and \$200 a month for the data transport from the WAN core.

Ms. Reid provided the cost estimate (Attachment 2) that the Department is using for its statewide library WLAN upgrade. This estimate is for libraries connected to the state WAN, which enables centralized control of all wireless access points (WAPs) by a wireless controller at the Department's main facility. Though the estimate includes three WAPs, Ms. Reid explained that most small libraries only require one WAP at a cost of \$640. Vermont also provided actual network equipment cost data for each of the 43 recently-upgraded libraries. That data is available on the E-Rate Modernization Data page at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/e-rate-modernization-data>.

The Department conducted site visits to each library to determine the number of WAPs necessary, but did not develop a per square foot or per patron model. Each library is responsible for cabling. The Department purchased all Cisco equipment even though there were less expensive bids because the state has a bulk purchasing contract with Cisco. The required Smartnet fee is for each library's router and includes software and security upgrades. The optional cost is for switches and WAPs. No library has elected to pay the optional Smartnet charge. The Department has signed agreements with each library on the WAN; libraries will be responsible for equipment maintenance and replacement.

Respectfully submitted,

 /s/

Charles Eberle

Attorney-Adviser, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau

Attachments:

Vermont FiberConnect Libraries

Vermont WLAN Upgrade Budget