



REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

June 24, 2014

Ex Parte Notice

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Rural Telephone Service d/b/a Nex-Tech (“Nex-Tech”), pursuant to the procedures outlined in the Third Protective Order adopted in the above referenced proceedings and pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission’s rules and related provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), please find enclosed the appropriate number of copies of the Public version of an Ex Parte Notice and attached confidential materials provided by Nex-Tech in the aforementioned dockets. A version containing confidential information is also being filed separately under seal with the Secretary's Office via hand-delivery. Finally, a copy of the Ex Parte Notice and the Public version of the enclosures have been submitted via ECFS.

Notwithstanding the Third Protective Order adopted in the above referenced proceedings, much of the information provided in this Ex Parte Notice is confidential information. All confidential information is clearly marked with the legend “Confidential – Not for Public Inspection”.

The information for which confidentiality is requested is “commercial” in nature and would cause substantial harm if released. All of the services provided by Nex-Tech are subject to intense competition. If the information were publicly available, it would harm the company’s business, and adversely affect its ability to provide service to its customers. As further detailed below, Nex-Tech’s confidential information should not be released because it is exempt from the FOIA disclosure requirements.

The release of Nex-Tech’s subscriber information would cause the company substantial harm and damage its competitive position for a number of reasons. The subscriber information could be used by competitors to harm Nex-Tech’s business. The information provided spans several years, in order to show trends, which would provide competitors areas of vulnerabilities in order to design service offerings and marketing campaigns to specifically undermine Nex-Tech’s business strategies.

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Page 2
June 24, 2014

Further, Nex-Tech is required to keep a customer's CPNI confidential, which includes the type, amount of bandwidth, technical configuration, and cost of the customer's service. In order to give the FCC specific customer examples of call completion issues, this filing contains this type of specific information regarding details of Nex-Tech's customer's issues with call completion.

Finally, the information for which Nex-Tech seeks confidential treatment is information that Nex-Tech does not customarily release to the public. Nex-Tech also limits the internal circulation of this information to only those with a need to know. Given the sensitive nature of the information for which confidentiality is requested and the prospect of serious competitive harm, Nex-Tech requests that confidential treatment apply indefinitely.

Should you have any questions concerning the foregoing request, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rhonda S. Goddard
Rhonda S. Goddard COO/Regulated Services

Enclosures