

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of
Request for Review of the
Decision of the
Universal Service Administrator by
Wells Public Library
Wells, Maine
Federal-State Joint Board on
Universal Service
Changes to the Board of Directors of the
National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.
File No. SLD-144481
CC Docket No. 96-45
CC Docket No. 97-21

ORDER

Adopted: January 9, 2001 Released: January 10, 2001

By the Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau:

1. The Accounting Policy Division (Division) has under consideration a Letter of Appeal filed by Wells Public Library (Wells), Wells, Maine, on June 9, 2000. Wells requests review of a decision by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company to deny Wells' application for discounted services under the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism. For the reasons set forth below, we deny the Letter of Appeal and affirm SLD's denial of Wells' application.

2. Under the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism, eligible schools, libraries, and consortia that include eligible schools and libraries, may apply for discounts for eligible telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections. The Commission's rules provide that, with one limited exception for existing, binding contracts, an eligible school, library or consortium that includes eligible schools or libraries must seek

1 Letter from Sandra Broomfield, Wells Public Library, to the Federal Communications Commission, filed June 9, 2000 (Letter of Appeal).

2 Letter from Schools and Libraries Division, Universal Service Administrative Company, to Sandra Broomfield, Wells Public Library, dated September 21, 1999 (Funding Commitment Decision Letter); Letter from Schools and Libraries Division, Universal Service Administrative Company, to Sandra Broomfield, Wells Public Library, dated May 10, 2000 (Administrator's Decision on Appeal).

3 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.502, 54.503.

competitive bids for all services eligible for support.⁴ In accordance with the Commission's rules, an applicant must file with SLD, for posting to its website, an FCC Form 470 requesting services.⁵ The applicant must wait 28 days before entering into an agreement with a service provider for the requested services and submitting an FCC Form 471 requesting support for the services ordered by the applicant.⁶ Further, the instructions for the FCC Form 471 state that the date of signature for the FCC Form 471 "CANNOT be earlier than the 29th day following the posting of the associated FCC Form 470 to the [SLD] Web Site."⁷

3. Upon review of the record, the Division concludes that SLD correctly denied Wells' request for support. Wells signed its FCC Form 471 on April 2, 1999, prior to its allowable contract date of April 5, 1999. A signature date on an FCC Form 471 or on a service provider agreement that predates the expiration of the 28-day posting period indicates that the applicant failed to wait 28 days before entering into an agreement with a service provider and therefore violated the Commission's competitive bidding rules.⁸ The Common Carrier Bureau has consistently denied requests for review by applicants that had similarly violated the Commission's competitive bidding rules.⁹ The Division, therefore, denies Wells' Letter of Appeal.

4. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to authority delegated under sections 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 54.722(a), that the appeal filed by Wells Public Library, Wells, Maine, on June 9, 2000, IS DENIED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mark G. Seifert
Deputy Chief, Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

⁴ 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.504, 54.511(c).

⁵ See Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Description of Services Requested and Certification Form, OMB 3060-0806 (FCC Form 470).

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 54.504(c); see Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Services Ordered and Certification Form, OMB 3060-0806 (FCC Form 471).

⁷ Instructions for Completing the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Services Ordered and Certification Form (December 1998) at 24 (FCC Form 471 Instructions).

⁸ See *Minor High School*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21, Order, DA 00-1612 (rel. July 20, 2000), para. 5.

⁹ See *Cathedral Grade School*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21, Order, DA 99-2953 (rel. December 21, 1999); *Currituck County Schools*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21, Order, DA 00-625 (rel. March 23, 2000); *Gustine Independent School District*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21, Order, DA 99-2534 (rel. November 16, 1999).