



**Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

November 28, 2008

**DA 08-2578**

Scott Barash  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Barash:

This letter directs the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to hold in abeyance until February 28, 2009, any adjustments in universal service fund high-cost loop support for the Virgin Islands Telephone Corporation (Vitelco).

On November 19, 2008, Vitelco filed an emergency petition for waiver of sections 32.2000(g)(2)(ii) and 36.621 of the Commission's rules to address, among other things, financial strain resulting from the devastation inflicted by Hurricane Omar on Vitelco's telecommunications network, and the negative impact of these rules on Vitelco's universal service high-cost loop support. Vitelco also requests that, while its waiver request remains pending, the Commission instruct USAC to hold in abeyance until February 28, 2009, any adjustments to Vitelco's universal service high-cost loop support payments. In its petition, Vitelco states that Hurricane Omar, which struck the United States Virgin Islands on October 16, 2008, caused massive damage to Vitelco's telecommunications infrastructure, and has resulted in unprecedented financial strain on Vitelco. Vitelco, therefore, requests that the Commission direct USAC to hold in abeyance until February 28, 2009, adjustments to Vitelco's high-cost loop support payments while the Commission considers Vitelco's emergency petition for waiver. In light of the issues raised in this proceeding and the potential for harm to Vitelco's customers absent grant of Vitelco's abeyance request, we instruct USAC to hold in abeyance until February 28, 2009, any adjustments in Vitelco's universal service high-cost loop support payments, pending further Commission action.

This instruction to hold in abeyance is limited to any adjustments in Vitelco's high-cost loop support payments related to the impact of the Commission's rules addressed in Vitelco's November 19, 2008 emergency petition for waiver.

Sincerely,

Dana R. Shaffer  
Chief  
Wireline Competition Bureau

Cc: Thomas J. Navin  
Nicholas M. Holland