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DA 22-1346

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STREAMLINED RESOLUTION OF REQUESTS RELATED TO ACTIONS BY THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY

CC Docket No. 02-6 WC Docket No. 21-93 WC Docket No. 02-60 WC Docket No. 06-122

Pursuant to our procedure for resolving requests for review, requests for waiver, and petitions for reconsideration of decisions related to actions taken by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) that are consistent with precedent (collectively, Requests), the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants, dismisses, or denies the following Requests.¹ The deadline for filing petitions for reconsideration or applications for review concerning the disposition of any of these Requests is 30 days from the release date of this Public Notice.²

Schools and Libraries (E-Rate) CC Docket No. 02-6

Dismissed

Invoicing Records Demonstrate Full Funding³

George E. Peters Adventist School, MD, Application No. 211041129, Request for Review, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed July 7, 2022)

Dismissed as Insufficient4

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¹ See Streamlined Process for Resolving Requests for Review of Decisions by the Universal Service Administrative Company, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 06-122, 08-71, 10-90, 11-42, and 14-58, Public Notice, 29 FCC Rcd 11094 (WCB 2014). Sections 54.719(b) and 54.1718(a)(2) of the Commission's rules provide that any person aggrieved by an action taken by a division of USAC, after first seeking review at USAC, may seek review from the Commission. Sections 54.719(c) and 54.1718(a)(3) of the Commission's rules provide that parties seeking waivers of the Commission's rules shall seek review directly from the Commission. 47 CFR §§ 54.719(b)-(c) and 54.1718(a)(3). In this Public Notice, we have reclassified as Requests for Waiver any appeals seeking review of a USAC decision that appropriately should have requested a waiver of the Commission's rules. Similarly, we have reclassified as Requests for Review any appeals seeking a waiver of the Commission's rules but that are, in fact, seeking review of a USAC decision.

² See 47 CFR §§ 1.106(f), 1.115(d); see also 47 CFR § 1.4(b)(2) (setting forth the method for computing the amount of time within which persons or entities must act in response to deadlines established by the Commission).

³ See, e.g., Requests for Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Diversified Computer Solutions, Inc.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 5250, 5251, para. 3 (WCB 2012) (dismissing appeals as moot where invoicing records demonstrate that the entity was fully compensated for the funding it requested and all submitted invoices were funded).

Computer Guru NOLA (Young Audiences Charter School), LA, Application No. 221019602, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 18, 2022)

Dismissed on Reconsideration⁵

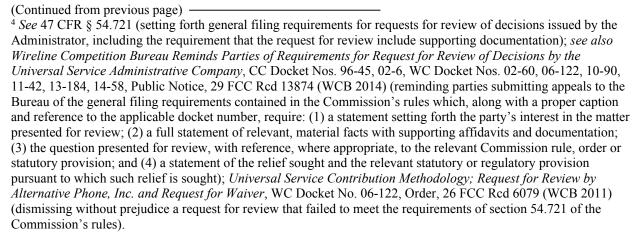
River Run Computers, Inc. (Salem School District), WI, Application No. 191039728, Petition for Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 17, 2022)

Granted⁶

Ministerial and/or Clerical Errors⁷

MFL Mar-Mac Community Schools, IA, Application No. 221034540, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Oct. 18, 2022)

Reconsideration of Waiver of Special Construction Service Delivery Deadline⁸



⁵ See, e.g., Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Allan Shivers Library et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order and Order on Reconsideration, 29 FCC Rcd 10356, 10357, para. 2 (WCB 2014) (dismissing petitions for reconsideration that fail to identify any material error, omission, or reason warranting reconsideration, and rely on arguments that have been fully considered and rejected by the Bureau within the same proceeding).

⁶ We remand these applications to USAC and direct USAC to complete its review of the applications and issue a funding decision based on a complete review and analysis, no later than 90 calendar days from the release date of this Public Notice. In remanding these applications to USAC, we make no finding as to the ultimate eligibility of the services or the petitioners' applications. We also waive sections 54.507(d) and 54.514(a) of the Commission's rules and direct USAC to waive any procedural deadline that might be necessary to effectuate our ruling. *See* 47 CFR § 54.507(d) (requiring non-recurring services to be implemented by September 30 following the close of the funding year); 47 CFR § 54.514(a) (codifying the invoice filing deadline).

⁷ See, e.g., Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Ann Arbor Public Schools, et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 17319, 17320, n.20 (WCB 2010) (Ann Arbor Public Schools Order) (granting a waiver where the applicant selected the wrong category of service on its FCC Form 471).

⁸ We find special circumstances that justify granting Utah Education and Telehealth Network's (UETN) petition for reconsideration. *See, e.g., Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Ashtabula Area City Schools et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism,* CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 28 FCC Rcd 4051, 4052, para. 2 (WCB 2013) (finding special circumstances to justify granting two petitions for reconsideration).

Utah Education and Telehealth Network, UT, Application No. 191032022, Petition for Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 17, 2022)

Waiver of the Red Light Rule⁹

Bienville Parish School District, WI, Application Nos. 191009938, 191040829, 191007662, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Sept. 27, 2019, Uniti Fiber letter of support filed Feb. 26, 2020)

Denied

Failure to Satisfy Debt/Red Light Rule¹⁰

(Continued from previous page) -UETN initially requested 24 months to complete its special construction project. See UETN, UT, Application No. 191032022, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Apr. 16, 2021, supplemented Apr. 26, 2022). Because UETN had already received additional time to complete its project, the Bureau found that 12 months was sufficient to complete the project and denied the request for a 24-month extension. See Streamlined Resolution of Requests Related to Actions by the Universal Service Administrative Company, CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 21-93, 10-90, 02-60, 18-213, Public Notice, DA 22-575 (WCB rel. May 31, 2022). On reconsideration, we find special circumstances to justify granting an additional 12 months to complete the project. At the outset, we note that that the Commission has specifically stated that applicants "may only receive funding for self-construction if the facilities are built and used within the same funding year." Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, Connect America Fund, WC Docket Nos. 13-184, 10-90, Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, 29 FCC Rcd 15538, 15555-56, 15560, para. 49 (2014). However, the Commission also allows applicants to receive up to a one-year extension of the June 30 deadline to complete special construction and light the fiber if they demonstrate that construction was "unavoidably delayed due to weather or other reasons." Id. . In this particular instance, , we find that UETN will not be able to complete the project within the 12-month extension period that the Bureau previously granted. Besides delays related to the scope of the project, the remote location of the fiber construction, issues in obtaining permits and conducting cultural and environmental compliance analyses on Tribal lands, the project also faced significant delays because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore find that this applicant is unable to complete implementation for reasons beyond its control and has made good faith efforts to comply with Commission rules. Accordingly, we waive the special construction service delivery deadline and direct USAC to set a new special construction service delivery deadline of May 31, 2024, and adjust any associated administrative or procedural deadlines, including the invoice deadline, that might be necessary to effectuate our ruling. See, e.g., Requests for Waiver of the Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Grants/Cibola County School District and Jemez Pueblo Tribal Consortium, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 33 FCC Rcd 10048, 10051, para. 8 (WCB 2018) (waiving the special construction service delivery deadline because the applicant was unable to complete implementation for reasons beyond the service provider's control and the petitioner made good faith efforts to comply with Commission rules and procedures). We also waive any associated administrative or procedural deadlines, including section 54.514(a), that might be necessary to effectuate our ruling. See supra note 6.

(continued....)

⁹ See Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 33 FCC Rcd 12334, 12338-39, para. 14, n.43 (WCB 2018) (holding that waiver of the red light rule was warranted given the grossly disproportionate penalty of funding loss coupled with the other unique circumstances present, including the payment of the debt shortly after it received notice of the debt). Bienville Parish School District timely submitted a paper check to pay its debt but was later informed that only electronic forms of payment were accepted. It then promptly paid the amount due in the correct manner.

¹⁰ See, e.g., Requests for Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Net56, Inc., Wheeling School District 21, Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 28 FCC Rcd 13122, 13126, para 6 (WCB 2013) (denying E-Rate applicant's request for a waiver of the red light rule and dismissing their FCC Form 471 application). The petitioner argues that its application should be funded because, even though it was on red light status when it applied for funding, it eventually repaid the debt. We note that subsequent repayment of the delinquent amount does not reverse the dismissal of the pending application(s) pursuant to the

Gateway Charter Academy, TX, Application Nos. 211008011, 211011728, 211035279, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed June 11, 2022)

Late-Filed FCC Form 47111

Missisquoi Valley School District, VT, Application No. 221040932, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 10, 2022)

Nativity of Our Lord, WI, Application No. 221040912, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Oct. 31, 2022)

Warren Public School District 1, AR, Application No. 221040898, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Oct. 25, 2022)

Late-Filed Invoice Deadline Extension¹²

Amphitheater School District, Application Nos. 211000347, 211000192, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 17, 2022)

Baxter Community School District, PA, Application No. 211018678, Request for Waiver CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 18, 2022)

Highland Free Charter School, AZ, Application Nos. 191040903, 201028086, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 20, 2022)

North Santiam School District 29J, OR, Application No. 211014323, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 21, 2022)

Relying on FCC Form 470 Not Seeking Bids on E-rate Services Later Requested¹³

(Continued from previous page) —	
Commission's red light rule. See id. (e	lenying funding of applications for E-Rate funding that were dismissed
because of the red light rule even if the	debt is later paid).

¹¹ See, e.g., Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Academy of Math and Science et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 9256, 9261-62, para. 13 (2010) (denying waivers of the FCC Form 471 application filing window deadline where petitioners failed to present special circumstances justifying waivers of our rules).

¹² See, e.g., Requests for Waiver of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Ada School District et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 31 FCC Rcd 3834, 3836, para. 8 (WCB 2016) (denying requests for waiver of the Commission's invoice filing deadline rule for petitioners that failed to demonstrate extraordinary circumstances justifying a waiver); see also Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 29 FCC Rcd 8870, 8966, para. 240 (2014) (establishing that it is generally not in the public interest to waive the Commission's invoicing rules absent extraordinary circumstances); 47 CFR § 54.514.

¹³ See, e.g., Request for Review of a Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Albert Lea Schools et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 24 FCC Rcd 4533 (WCB 2009); Petition for Reconsideration by Chicago Public Schools; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 29 FCC Rcd 9289 (WCB 2014) (denying applicants' appeals when their filed FCC Forms 470 that did not include the types of services for which the applicants later requested E-rate funding).

Valmeyer School District, IL, Application No. 201012445, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed June 8, 2021)

Untimely Filed Appeals or Waiver Requests¹⁴

Colonial Heights Public Schools, VA, Application No. 221035306, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Nov. 17, 2022)

DC Preparatory Academy, DC, Application No. 221040051, Request for Waiver, CC Docket No. 02-6 (filed Oct. 24, 2022)

Emergency Connectivity Fund □ □ WC Docket No. 21-93 □ □ □

Dismissed as Moot¹⁵

Tampa Hillsborough County Public Library, FL, Application No. ECF202106969, Request for Review and/or Waiver, WC Docket No. 21-93 (filed Oct. 8, 2021)

Granted

Early Delivery¹⁶

Cumby Independent School District, TX, Application No. ECF202114198, Request for Waiver, WC Docket No. 21-93 (filed Oct. 18, 2022)

Girls Global Academy Public Charter School, DC, Application No. ECF202102746, Request for Waiver, WC Docket No. 21-93 (filed Oct. 19, 2022)

Ministerial and/or Clerical Error¹⁷

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¹⁴ See, e.g., Requests for Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Agra Public Schools I-134 et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 5684, 5688, para. 6 (WCB 2010); Requests for Waiver or Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Bound Brook School District et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 29 FCC Rcd 5823, para. 1 (WCB 2014) (denying requests for review and/or waiver on the grounds that the petitioners failed to (1) submit their appeals either to the Commission or to USAC within 60 days or failed to submit their waiver requests to the Commission within 60 days as required by the Commission's rules; and (2) did not demonstrate special circumstances required for the Commission to waive the rule).

¹⁵ See, e.g., Requests for Review and/or Requests for Waiver of the Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Al Noor High School et al.; Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 8223, 8224, para. 2 (WCB 2012) (dismissing as moot requests for review where USAC had taken the action the petitioner requested). The record shows that Tampa Hillsborough County Public Library indicated in the ECF Portal that it wished to cancel its first Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program window application associated with its Request for Review because the library submitted a new funding application during the third ECF program filing window, that was committed and approved for funding.

¹⁶ See Streamlined Resolution of Requests Related to Actions by the Universal Service Administrative Company, CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 21-93, 06-122, Public Notice, DA 22-658, 2022 WL 2399676, *11, n.25 (WCB June 30, 2022) (granting requests for waivers for equipment delivered before the start of the approved funding period). See also 47 CFR § 54.1708(b).

¹⁷ See, e.g., Ann Arbor Public Schools Order, 25 FCC Rcd at 17320-21, para. 2, nn.5 & 23 (permitting applicant to add an omitted item that was on its source list; granting a waiver when applicant mistakenly provided the wrong (continued....)

Hereford Independent School District, TX, Application No. ECF202110312, Request for Waiver, WC Docket No. 21-93 (filed Sept. 8, 2021)

Mooresville Graded School District, NC, Application No. ECF202108124, Request for Waiver, WC Docket No. 21-93 (filed Feb. 17, 2022)¹⁸

Terrell Independent School District, TX, Application No. ECF202105500, Request for Waiver, Docket No. 21-93 (filed Nov. 23, 2021)

Reasonable Support Amount¹⁹

Brookhaven-Comsewogue School District, NY, Application No. ECF202204389, Request for Waiver, WC Docket No. 21-93 (filed May 23, 2022)²⁰

Waiver of Service Delivery Deadline²¹

- ¹⁸ The request filed by Mooresville Graded School District on Feb. 17, 2022 for application number ECF202108124 was previously granted a waiver of the appeal filing deadline. *See Streamlined Resolution of Requests Related to Actions by the Universal Service Administrative Company*, CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Docket Nos. 21-93, 06-122, 18-213, Public Notice, DA 22-1239, 2022 WL 17404239, at *6 (WCB 2022). The Bureau now correctly categorizes this appeal as a ministerial and/or clerical error and permits Mooresville Graded School District to correct their funding request to add taxes, as requested.
- ¹⁹ See Requests for Waiver and Review of Decisions of the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program Administrator by Fresno Unified School District, et al., WC Docket No. 21-93, Order, DA 22-7, 2022 WL 118402 (WCB Jan. 4, 2022) (waiving the \$400 reasonable support amount cap for connected devices needed to meet the remote learning needs of students, school staff and library patrons with disabilities); see also Establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund to Close the Homework Gap; WC Docket No. 21-93, Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 8696, 8731, para. 70 (2021) (Emergency Connectivity Fund Report and Order) (recognizing that the reasonable cost of connected devices for individuals with disabilities may be higher than the \$400 reasonable support amount cap set forth in the ECF program and directing schools and libraries to seek a waiver of the reasonable support amount cap if they can demonstrate that the additional cost for the connected devices is necessary to meet the remote learning needs of students, school staff and library patrons with disabilities).
- ²⁰ Although we are granting this waiver, we remind the applicant that the review and processing of their application is subject to the prioritization rules set forth in section 54.1708(c) of the Commission's rules. USAC and the Commission are required to ensure those with the greatest need are funded first because not all third window ECF FCC Form 471 applications will be able to be funded because demand during this window exceeded the amount of available funds. *See* 47 CFR § 54.1708(c).
- ²¹ See, e.g., Requests for Waiver of the Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Grants/Cibola County School District and Jemez Pueblo Tribal Consortium, CC Docket No. 02-6, Order, 33 FCC Rcd 10048, 10051, para. 8 (WCB 2018) (waiving the special construction service delivery deadline because the applicant was unable to complete implementation for reasons beyond the service provider's control and the petitioner made good faith efforts to comply with Commission rules and procedures). We waive the network construction service delivery deadline and direct USAC to set a new service delivery deadline of September 13, 2023, and adjust any associated administrative or procedural deadlines, including the invoice deadline, that might be necessary to effectuate our ruling. We also waive any associated administrative or procedural deadlines that might be necessary to effectuate our ruling. See supra note 6. Consistent with the Commission's decision to adopt the similar appeal and waiver rules that govern all of the Universal Service Fund programs, including the E-Rate program, and to leverage existing E-Rate processes and forms in the Emergency Connectivity Fund program, we rely on E-Rate program precedent to resolve this petition for waiver of the Emergency Connectivity Fund program rules.

LaSalle Parish School District, LA, Application No. ECF202115372, Request for Waiver, WC Docket No. 21-93 (filed Dec. 16, 2022)

Rural Health Care Program

WC Docket No. 02-60

Granted

Waiver of the Invoice Filing Deadline—Sua Sponte Waiver²²

The Lutheran Home at Kane, PA, *Sua Sponte* Waiver, WC Docket No. 02-60, Funding Request No. 19254301

CHA Broadband Services, *Sua Sponte* Waiver, WC Docket No. 02-60, Funding Request No. 19625841

Waiver of Competitive Bidding Rules to Prevent Loss of Service²³

Abbeville Community Health Center, LA, *Sua Sponte* Waiver, WC Docket No. 02-60, Funding Request Nos. 1839524 and 1839529

AEH – MJ Edwards Clinic, MS, *Sua Sponte* Waiver, WC Docket No. 02-60, Funding Request No. 1839582

Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, MS, *Sua Sponte* Waiver, WC Docket No. 02-60, Funding Request No. 1845067

Merryville Community Health Center, LA, *Sua Sponte* Waiver, WC Docket No. 02-60, Funding Request No. 1839543

Aaron E. Henry Community Health Services Center Inc. – Batesville Clinic, MS, *Sua Sponte* Waiver, WC Docket No. 02-60, Funding Request No. 1839619

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²² See Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, Order, 35 FCC Rcd 1986, 1994 (WCB 2020) (Funding Year 2018 Invoice Waiver Order); Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, Order, 32 FCC Rcd 5065, 5065-66, paras. 2, 4 (WCB 2017) (Funding Year 2016 Invoice Waiver Order) (granting a waiver sua sponte of the invoice filing deadline when the deadline had already passed at the time that health care providers received USAC's decision, which made compliance with program rules impossible). We waive the petitioners' invoice filing deadlines and allow 180 days from the later of the release date of this Public Notice or the issuance date of a funding commitment letter (FCL) to file the invoices with USAC.

²³ See Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, Order, 32 FCC Rcd 7532, 7533-34, paras. 6-8 (2017) (ensuring continuous service by waiving the Commission's competitive bidding rules to allow health care providers to select a new service provider without competitive bidding after their service provider abruptly ceased operations mid-funding year). The Commission previously recognized that a waiver of the competitive bidding rules to ensure that the aforementioned health care providers could switch service providers to continue receiving service might be necessary. In the Matter of DataConnex, LLC, File No.: EB-IHD-15-00020296, Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 1575, 1619-20, para. 113 (2018) ("[W]e recognize that the proposed forfeiture discussed herein may cause uncertainty for those healthcare providers that have selected DataConnex as their service provider. Accordingly, we will consider using our discretion to waive Section 54.603(b) of the Commission's Rules to provide these healthcare providers with the option of selecting a new service provider if needed to help alleviate any disruption in service.").

Contribution Methodology WC Docket No. 06-122

Denied

Request for Waiver of Form 499-Q Revision Deadline²⁴

EverGem LLC, Request for Waiver, WC Docket No. 06-122 (filed Oct. 31, 2022)

For additional information concerning this Public Notice, please contact James Bachtell in the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at james.bachtell@fcc.gov or (202) 418-2694.

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²⁴ 47 CFR § 54.713. See, e.g., Universal Service Contribution Methodology; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Requests for Review of Decisions of Universal Service Administrator by Airband Communications, Inc. et al., WC Docket No. 06-122, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 10861 (WCB 2010) (denying deadline waivers where claims of good cause amount to no more than simple negligence, errors by the petitioner, or circumstances squarely within the petitioner's control); Universal Service Contribution Methodology; Requests for Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Achilles Networks, Inc., et al., WC Docket No. 06-122, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 4646, 4648-49, paras. 5, 8 (WCB 2010) (finding that good cause is not shown when filers claim they were unaware of their obligation to file the forms, ignorant of the process for electronically filing the forms, or had otherwise failed to file the forms); Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Request for Review by National Network Communications, Inc., CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, 22 FCC Rcd 6783 (WCB 2007) (finding that good cause is not shown when filer claimed it did not have skilled personnel to interpret and correctly apply the FCC Form 499 instructions). See also, Universal Service Contribution Methodology; Request for Review of Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by deltathree, Inc., WC Docket No. 06-122, Order, 26 FCC Rcd 333 (WCB 2011) (noting that absent good cause to waive the FCC's rules, the annual true-up process is the proper recourse if a contributor determines outside the 45-day revision window that it under- or over-projected quarterly revenue).