January 2, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Lorenzo Miller or John Emmett
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of the Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 and High Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337
Amendment to Expedited Waiver Request of Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc., Idaho Study Area 472295

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc. (Silver Star), hereby files an amendment to the Petition for Waiver filed on September 27, 2012, in which Silver Star requested an expedited waiver, pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules and the HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order,¹ to correct erroneous study area boundary data and to correct erroneous data concerning density, road miles and road crossings for its Idaho study area used in the quantile regression analysis model for limiting capital and operations expenses in the high cost loop support algorithm. Specifically, Silver Star hereby amends the boundary data for the Idaho study area and amends the data concerning road miles and road crossings.

Silver Star hereby amends the boundary data for the Idaho exchange to correct the boundary of the Irwin and Wayan exchanges to conform to the boundaries of record maintained by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. Silver Star is providing the Commission with a new CD-ROM containing a WinZip archive with the required Shapefile showing Silver Star’s revised

study area boundary.\(^2\) With this change, the boundary is slightly smaller than the one shown in the September 27th waiver petition, but larger than the boundary shown by the Commission.

In addition, after discussions with the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) staff concerning the data used by the Commission in the regression analysis for the determination of road miles and road crossings and after further review of the ESRI Street Map data, Silver Star has concluded that the ESRI 2010 Street Map data is grossly inaccurate for Silver Star with respect to road miles and road crossings. Pursuant to the Commission’s model, the ESRI Street Map data shows 2058.83 road miles and 7,010 road crossings for the Idaho study area. However, based on Tiger Line 2010 Census data, the correct number is 3,513.87 road miles\(^3\) and 19,114 road crossings for this study area.\(^4\) The CD-ROM provided includes a separate Shapefile showing the Tiger Line base map, roads and road crossings for the study area. Silver Star has confirmed the accuracy of the Tiger Line data by comparing it to Idaho county maps showing road miles and road crossings\(^5\) and Silver Star’s internal information concerning road miles and road crossings in its study area. Silver Star also is providing an aerial photo of a portion of its service area with a comparison of Tiger Line Road miles and ESRI StreetMap Data. This photo highlights the discrepancy between the two data sources and shows that, even though the Tiger Line data does not capture all roads in the area, it is significantly more accurate than the ESRI Street Map data. It appears that the ESRI Street Map data for Silver Star is not accurate, at least in part, because this data was not updated for Silver Star’s study area in 2010.

Accordingly, Silver Star amends its waiver request to correct erroneous data on road miles and road crossings in the regression model and asks that the Commission use Tiger Line data instead of ESRI Street Map data for calculating road miles and road crossings for its Idaho study area. Based on Tiger Line data, Silver Star requests that the Commission correct the road mile and road crossings data to reflect 3,513.87 road miles and 19,114 road crossings for this study area.

In the *HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order*, the WCB states that Tiger files were used for the road miles data for Guam and American Samoa because ESRI Street Map does not include data for these study areas. The WCB opines that the Tiger file data “may be less accurate for transportation applications.”\(^6\) The WCB also finds that using separate data for only two areas, Guam and American Samoa, was reasonable and would not affect the slope on the

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\(^2\) Also included in the CD-ROM is a Readme file with the information set forth in Appendix C of the *HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order*.

\(^3\) This calculation of road miles also reflects a decrease in road miles that resulted from the amended boundary data. It also reflects a correction to a small error in Silver Star's calculation of road miles, whereby Silver Star double counted approximately 19 miles of road along the Wyoming and Idaho boundary.

\(^4\) See attached spreadsheets.


\(^6\) *HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order* at n. 53.
LnRoadMiles and LnRoadCrossings\textsuperscript{7}. As shown by Silver Star, for its study area, it is the ESRI Street Map data which is far less accurate. In addition, as with the use of Tiger Line data for Guam and American Samoa, the use of the Tiger Line data for Silver Star should not affect the slope on the LnRoadMiles and LnRoadCrossings.

In the HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order, the Commission states that "when considering whether there are special circumstances and the public interest is served by granting a waiver of the benchmark methodology, we will be focusing on ensuring that accurate data is used to perform the necessary computations, regardless of the extent of support reduction."\textsuperscript{8} The changes requested by Silver Star in the September 27 Petition concerning density and in this amended Petition concerning the Idaho study area boundary, road miles and road crossings, correct inaccurate data in the benchmark methodology. Accordingly, Silver Star's request meets the Commission's standard for demonstrating special circumstances that justify grant of an expedited waiver and that its request is in the public interest.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Silver Star requests that the Commission expeditiously grant its waiver request and correct the Idaho study area boundary and the data concerning density, road miles and road crossings. Silver Star also requests that the Commission apply the corrections to the benchmark methodology effective July 1, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mary J. Sisak
Mary J. Sisak
Counsel for Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.

Enclosure (CD-ROM hand delivered only)
Attachments

\textsuperscript{7} Id.
\textsuperscript{8} Id. at para. 31.
Tiger line 2010 data extraction

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| FCC Total    |               | *7010     | 2058.8265  |

* This is an FCC number.
** This is Silver Star's derived number using the FCC model and instruction for calculating crossings.