



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

February 27, 2009

DA 09-532

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 continue to hold in abeyance until May 31, 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 requested 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 while the Commission considers Vitelco's emergency petition for waiver. The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) granted Vitelco's request for abeyance until February 28, 2009.¹

On February 10, 2009, Vitelco requested an extension of the Bureau's stay because its underlying petition for waiver remains pending and Vitelco continues to suffer financial strain. We grant Vitelco's request and direct USAC to hold in abeyance until May 31, 2009, adjustments to Vitelco's 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,

Julie A. Veach
Deputy Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau

Cc: Thomas J. Navin
Nicholas M. Holland

¹ See Letter from Dana R. Shaffer, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, to Scott Barash, Universal Service Administrative Company, WC Docket No. 08-236, 23 FCC Rcd 17119 (dated Nov. 28, 2008).