



**OPASTCO**

August 15, 1997

**ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND ADVANCEMENT  
OF SMALL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANIES**

Mr. William F. Caton  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: OPASTCO nomination of Edwin H. Eichler to the USAC Board

Dear Mr. Caton:

Please find enclosed for filing the letter nominating Edwin H. Eichler to the USAC Board of Directors. OPASTCO is filing this letter with you in accordance with Paragraph 38, footnote 121 of the Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, In the Matter of: Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket 97-21 and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket 96-45.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

John N. Rose  
President

21 Dupont Circle, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.659.5990  
Fax 202.659.4619  
<http://www.opastco.org>



**OPASTCO**

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**ORGANIZATION  
FOR THE PROMOTION  
AND ADVANCEMENT  
OF SMALL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
COMPANIES**

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company,  
CC Dockets 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) nominates Edwin H. Eichler for the Subset 3 Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier seat on the USAC Board of Directors. Please find attached Mr. Eichler's curriculum vitae.

Ed Eichler is OPASTCO's 1997 Chairman and President of the Pigeon Telephone Company in Pigeon, Michigan. He has significant access and universal service experience spanning 20 years, including his role as founding chair of the Michigan Exchange Carriers Association.

OPASTCO is a national trade association of more than 490 independently owned and operated telephone companies serving rural areas of the United States. Its members, which include both commercial companies and cooperatives, together serve over two million customers.

OPASTCO strongly recommends that you name Ed Eichler to the USAC Board of Directors. His record of service to the telecommunications industry clearly demonstrates that he has the attributes that will serve the USAC Board well as we further journey into these rapidly changing times.

Sincerely,

John N. Rose  
President

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<http://www.opastco.org>

**Edwin H. Eichler**  
7585 W. Pigeon Road  
Pigeon, MI 48755  
517/453-4391

**Curriculum Vitae**

Telecommunications Company Operations Experience

**President and Chief Executive Officer** 1988 to present  
**Pigeon Telephone Company**

Pigeon Telephone Company (PTC) is an independent telephone company in rural Michigan, with 3,421 access lines. Since joining PTC in 1972, responsibilities have included outside plant, plant manager, director of operations, vice president and president.

**President and Chief Executive Officer** 1988 to present  
**Vice President** 1982 to 1988

**Agri-Valley Communications Inc.**

Agri-Valley Communications Inc. (AVCI), founded in 1982 as a deregulated subsidiary, was reorganized in 1994 as the parent company for Pigeon Telephone Company, Thumb Cellular Limited Partnership, WSTD-FM radio station, and other business interests.

**President and Chief Executive Officer** 1988 to present  
**Agri-Valley Services**

Agri-Valley Services, founded in 1996, provides Internet services through AVCI.NET, and provides other communications services.

Access and Universal Service Experience

**Chairman** 1997  
**OPASTCO**

Responsibilities: leading the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies' (OPASTCO) Board of Directors and Executive Committee to direct the regulatory positions of the association on behalf of small, independent, and primarily rural telephone companies.

**Chairman** 1986 to 1996  
**Michigan Exchange Carriers Association (MECA)**

Responsibilities: steering access regulations for Michigan; negotiating policy with small and large companies; overseeing the separation of MECA, from the Telephone Association of Michigan, into two distinct organizations.

-more-

Edwin H. Eichler, page 2

Access and Universal Service Experience, cont'd

**Uniform System of Accounts, Parts 32 and 69** **1985**

Working with the United States Telephone Association, with the assistance of a cost consultant, participated in the study to conform Parts 32 and 69 of the Uniform System of Accounts.

**Cost Studies for Pigeon Telephone Company** **1977 to present**

Twenty years experience participating in all aspects of the total costing process.

**Expert Testimony and Public Speeches** **1985 to present**

Testified in front of the Federal Communications Commission and Michigan Legislature on various access and universal service issues, and publicly addressed the membership of the Minnesota Telephone Association, Telephone Association of Michigan, OPASTCO, and other various groups.

Telecommunications Associations

**Chairman** **1997**

**Board Member** **1989 to 1995, present**

**Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies**

Committee participation has included: Executive, Education, By-laws, Nominating, Industry Relations and Public Relations Committees.

**Vice Chairman** **1996**

**Board Member** **1996 to present**

**Michigan Independent Networks**

Participated on founding board of organization to help Michigan small, rural telephone companies leverage their assets.

**Chairman** **1988 to 1989**

**Board Member** **1984 to present**

**Telephone Association of Michigan**

Committee participation has included: chair of steering committee requested by Michigan Public Service Commission that later became the **Michigan Exchange Carriers Association**, and the Settlements and Special Services, Executive, 50th Anniversary Convention, Personnel & Policy, and Education Committees.

**United States Telephone Association** **1982 to 1992**

Committee participation has included: study group that conformed separations and access rules in Parts 36 and 39 of the Uniform System of Accounts, State Government Relations and Public Relations Committees.

Edwin Eichler, page 3

Telecommunications and Other Organizations

**Chief Executive Officer** 1996 to present  
**Chairman** 1991 to present  
**Board Member** 1988 to present

**Bay Port State Bank**  
Located in Bay Port, Michigan

**Board Member** 1990 to present

**Cellular North Michigan Network General Partnership**  
Helped form organization, located in Traverse City, Michigan

**Governor - Rotary District 6310 (33 clubs)** 1983 to 1984  
**Member** 1974 to present

**Rotary Club**  
Pigeon, Michigan

**President** 1972  
**Board Member** 1970 to 1972

**St. Charles Education Association**  
Located in St. Charles, Illinois, with 350 teacher members

Other Experience

**Public School Teacher, 9th Grade** 1969 to 1972  
St. Charles, Illinois

Education

**Bachelor of Arts Degree, Speech** 1969  
North Central College  
Napier, Illinois

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