



October 31, 2014

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: **Ex parte filing** in WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 30, Clover McNeil from Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative (ASTAC), Dave Dengel and Shilah Butler from Copper Valley Telecom<sup>1</sup> (CVT), Christine O'Connor from ATA and the undersigned from GVNW Consulting, Inc. (GVNW) conducted an ex parte meeting with Daniel Alvarez of Chairman Wheeler's office. This ex parte covers the majority of the discussion items, with recent efforts by the ATA to develop an Alaska consensus plan covered in a separate ex parte letter to be filed by Ms. O'Connor.

This ex parte meeting consisted of a discussion of two primary issues: First, we discussed Chairman Wheeler's familiarity with the harsh climactic conditions and uncompromising terrain that he has observed in his previous and most recent visits to Alaska. With respect to uncompromising terrain, Mr. Dengel presented a letter from his telecommunications construction contractor Michels Corporation that discussed various factors, including the presence of permafrost that **result in the costs to deploy telecommunications plant in Alaska when on the road system as being 2.5 to 3 times more than what would be experienced in the contiguous lower 48 states.**

Second, we discussed CAM issues including the WCB staff perspective regarding timing and intentions with regard to whether the price cap version of CAM will be mandatorily applied to rate of return carriers, and shared that we had been assured that it was not the intent of WCB staff to propose a mandatory application of the price cap CAM to Alaska rate of return carriers. We expressed our appreciation for such an approach in high cost areas such as Alaska that require additional careful thought in developing forward-looking and data driven national policy.

We also reviewed the steps that each company is engaged in to increase capacity and avail their customers of robust connections, in light of the immense size of their service areas and the challenges that accompany serving areas of uncompromising terrain.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Dengel shared observations from the October 28 White House event for their Smart Rural Community Award.

As required by the Commission's rules, this ex parte record is now filed in the above referenced docket. If there are any questions, please call me on 503.612.4409.

Respectfully submitted,

Via ECFS 10/31/14

Jeffrey H. Smith  
President and CEO

Attachments

Copy to  
Daniel Alvarez

Dave Dengel  
Shilah Butler  
Dave Goggins  
Steve Merriam  
Clover McNeil  
Doug Neal  
Christine O'Connor