

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MINERAL COUNTY
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May 25, 2016

Jon Wilkins, Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc./SAL Spectrum, LLC
Petition for Waiver
File No. 0007122225
AU Docket No. 14-252
GN Docket No. 12-268

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

I am the County Administrator for Mineral County, Colorado, and I understand that Atlantic Tele-Network, Inc. (ATN) has asked the FCC for a rule waiver that would allow it to compete as a "rural service provider" for spectrum licenses in an upcoming FCC spectrum auction. Our population is 712 persons, making us the second least populous of county in Colorado. Despite the scarcity of residents in Mineral County, ATN's subsidiary Commnet Wireless has provided wireless service to us for 11 years.

Commnet has consistently demonstrated its commitment to rural areas like ours. Just one example occurred in early June 2013, when lightning ignited a series of wildfires in our area. As thousands of firefighters were deployed to help prevent movement of the fires into populated areas, Commnet reached out to the incident command team, asking what they could do to help. The reply, build a new cell site to provide service to the first responders. Within two days, Commnet had commenced service from a new site at Bristol Head, providing access to better communications until the wildfires could be brought under control.

There could scarcely be a more rural-oriented wireless service provider than Commnet (and its parent ATN). It truly uses the spectrum to benefit rural areas like ours. To the extent that rural service providers are offered an advantage in acquiring additional spectrum in the upcoming auction, it would be a travesty if ATN were denied that benefit. I therefore urge the FCC to grant the waiver that ATN has requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janelle Kukuk". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Janelle Kukuk
County Administrator
719-658-2360