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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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2000 OCT 17 A 10: 21

DA 00-2306

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**ATEAC, INC., ALASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY, ARCTIC SLOPE TELEPHONE
ASSOCIATION COOPERATIVE, INC., INTERIOR TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.,
MUKLUK TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., AND UNITED-KUC, INC.
SEEK A WAIVER OF THE DEFINITION OF "STUDY AREA" IN PART 36 OF THE
COMMISSION'S RULES**

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHEDCC Docket No. 96-45

Release Date: October 12, 2000

Comment Date: October 27, 2000

Reply Comment Date: November 6, 2000

On September 22, 2000, ATEAC, Inc. (ATEAC), Alaska Telephone Company (ATC), Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC), Interior Telephone Company, Inc. (ITC), Mukluk Telephone Company (MTC), and United-KUC (United-KUC) (collectively, petitioners) filed a petition for waiver of the definition of "study area" as set forth in Part 36 of the Commission's rules. That definition constitutes a rule freezing all study area boundaries. This waiver is needed to allow the Alaska study area formerly owned and operated by GTE Alaska Incorporated to be divided, and the thirteen exchanges therein to be distributed among the existing Alaska study areas of ATC, ASTAC, ITC, and MTC, and to form a new Alaska study area for United-KUC. The petitioners submitted five separate orders from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska indicating that it does not oppose the issuance of a study area waiver from the Commission.

Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before **October 27, 2000**, and reply comments on or before **November 6, 2000**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. *See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24,121 (1998). Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. If multiple docket or rulemaking numbers appear in the caption of this proceeding, however, commenters must transmit one electronic copy of the comments to each docket or rulemaking number referenced in the caption. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, Postal Service

mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit electronic comments by Internet e-mail. To receive filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address.>" A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, commenters must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. All filings must be sent to the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Parties also must send three paper copies of their filing to Sheryl Todd, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street S.W., Room 5-B540, Washington, D.C. 20554. In addition, commenters must send diskette copies to the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Pursuant to section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, this proceeding will be conducted as a permit-but-disclose proceeding in which *ex parte* communications are permitted subject to disclosure.

For further information, contact Adrian Wright, Accounting Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-0484.