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COLE, RAYWID & BRAVERMAN, L.L.P.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1919 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 200
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-3458
TELEPHONE (202) 659-9750
FAX (202) 452-0067
WWW.CRBLAW.COM

JAMES F. IRELAND
202-828-9846
JIRELAND@CRBLAW.COM

LOS ANGELES OFFICE
2381 ROSECRANS AVENUE, SUITE 110
EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA 90245-4290
TELEPHONE (310) 643-7999
FAX (310) 643-7997

July 15, 2002

VIA COURIER

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Re: CC Docket No. 94-102; Sixth Quarterly Report of Alpine PCS, Inc. and RFB Cellular, Inc. on TTY-Digital Deployment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Alpine PCS, Inc. ("Alpine") and RFB Cellular, Inc. ("RFB"), I am submitting this sixth quarterly report on the implementation of TTY access to digital wireless systems.

Alpine and RFB recently filed a joint request for a limited waiver from the deadline to comply with the Commission's TTY requirements.[1] As explained in that request, Alpine (which operates in the California, Michigan and Hyannis, Massachusetts markets) and RFB (which operates in the Michigan markets) are each confronting unique problems that preclude compliance with these requirements at this time.

In regards to the California markets, Alpine has an ongoing commercial dispute with Lucent Technologies, its equipment vendor for Alpine's California systems. Initially, Alpine selected Lucent primarily on the basis of an agreement that Lucent would finance portions of Alpine's equipment purchases. However, Lucent reneged on its financing agreement, and the parties have been unable to resolve the ensuing business and financial disagreements. As a result of these disagreements, Lucent has been unwilling to provide hardware or software to Alpine, including the upgrades required for transmission of calls made from TTY devices.

[1] *See* Alpine PCS and RFB Cellular Request for Limited Waiver of the Commission Requirements Under 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(c), CC Docket No. 94-102, filed on June 26, 2002.

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In the interest of resolving this matter Alpine and Lucent have been in discussions for more than a year. The most recent meeting with Lucent took place on May 22, 2002, but did not result in any resolution. At this meeting, Lucent again refused to provide Alpine with the hardware and software upgrades it needed to comply with the Commission's June 30, 2002 deadline. Because Alpine depends upon Lucent to assist in implementing needed upgrades Alpine has requested from the Commission a one-year waiver of the deadline so that the parties can continue to work to resolve the dispute and implement the upgrade.

In the Michigan and Hyannis markets, Alpine and RFB share a switch, manufactured by Motorola. Although Alpine and RFB had reported in previous quarterly reports that they probably would be able to meet the June 30, 2002 deadline, both Alpine and RFB recently concluded that financial difficulties would preclude their compliance with the deadline. Despite these financial difficulties Alpine and RFB have continued to diligently prepare their Michigan and Hyannis networks to be able to meet the CALEA, E911, TTY and number pooling/portability mandates. In the past six months, they have installed Motorola's IS-41 capability (at a cost exceeding $1.6 million) to support these mandates. However, they still will need additional hardware and software at an estimated cost of more than $4 million in order to comply with the Commission's numerous technical requirements.

As explained more fully in the recent waiver request, Alpine and RFB have been adversely affected by the recent economic downturn and resulting collapse of financial markets. They have also experienced a drastic decline in roaming revenues. Due to this financial situation, and the high cost of the equipment required to meet the Commission's mandates, Alpine and RFB explained to the Commission that they do not have sufficient financial resources to acquire the additional upgrades necessary to meet the recent June 30, 2002 deadline.

Due to these circumstances, Alpine and RFB have requested a one-year waiver of the deadline to comply with the TTY requirements. Alpine and RFB believe that a one-year waiver from the June 30, 2002 deadline will allow both entities to continue to purchase upgrades as they are able. As explained in the waiver request, Alpine and RFB remain committed to providing TTY capabilities to the public and intend to continue to use their best efforts to come into compliance with the TTY requirements as expeditiously as possible.

Please contact the undersigned if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

James F. Ireland

cc: Arthur L. Prest

By Hand Delivery:
Qualex International – Portals II – **Room CY-B402**

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Kris Monteith, Chief, Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications – **Room 5C-739**
Chief, Disabilities Rights Office, Consumer Information Bureau

By E-Mail:
mlittell@fcc.gov