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August 4, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of Oral *Ex Parte* Communication,
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding. On Friday, August 1, 2003, representatives of Rural Cellular Association ("RCA") met with Bryan Tramont, Senior Legal Advisor to Chairman Michael K. Powell, to discuss rural wireless carrier issues relating to the eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") designation process and methodologies for providing high-cost support to both incumbent and competitive ETCs. In addition to undersigned counsel, RCA board members Janice Wiese, Terry Addinton, John Rogers, Dan Rule, and Tom Walsh participated in the meeting on RCA's behalf.

Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria
Counsel for Rural Cellular Association

cc: Bryan Tramont, Esq.