



**OPASTCO**

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Suite 700  
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February 2, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

***Ex Parte* Notice**

**RE: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service  
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Monday, February 2, 2004, Archie Macias of Wheat State Telephone Company and John Rose of the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO) met with Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and his Senior Legal Advisor, Lisa Zaina. We discussed OPASTCO's views on the Joint Board's proceeding concerning the process for designating eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs), with a specific focus on proposals that would establish presumptive benchmarks for how many ETCs should be designated, based upon the amount of monthly per-line universal service support received in a given study area. The attached chart was provided as a written presentation during the meeting.

In accordance with FCC rules, this letter is being filed electronically in the above-captioned docket.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Smith  
Policy Analyst  
OPASTCO