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SAN DIEGO

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
2000 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-1888
TELEPHONE (202) 887-1500
TELEFACSIMILE (202) 887-0763

NEW YORK
WASHINGTON, D.C.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA
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BRUSSELS
BEIJING
HONG KONG
SINGAPORE
TOKYO

August 10, 2004

Writer's Direct Contact
202/887-1510
CTritt@mofocom

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Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204A
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: **EX PARTE**
ALLTEL Communications Inc., Petitions for Designation as an Eligible
Telecommunications Carrier and for Consent to Redefine the Service Areas of
Rural Telephone Companies,
CC Docket No. 96-45, DA Nos. 03-1881, 03-1882, 03-3824, 03-3825, 04-565,
04-686, 04-998, 04-999

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Francis X. Frantz, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of ALLTEL Communications, Inc. ("ALLTEL"), Glenn S. Rabin, Vice President, Federal Communications Counsel, and the undersigned of Morrison & Foerster LLP, all representing ALLTEL, met on August 6, 2004, with Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and Scott Bergmann, legal advisor, to discuss the status of ALLTEL's petitions for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier ("ETC") in non-rural areas of Virginia, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

The ALLTEL representatives emphasized that ALLTEL's ETC petitions are limited to non-rural service areas, and some have been pending for over one year. They explained that, in light of the *Virginia Cellular ETC Order*¹ and ALLTEL's service commitments, as supplemented,² those ETC petitions should be granted expeditiously. None of ALLTEL's

¹ *Virginia Cellular, LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for the Commonwealth of Virginia*, 19 FCC Rcd 1563 (2004).

² See Letter from G. Rabin, Vice President, Federal Communications Counsel, ALLTEL, Inc., to M. Dortch, Sec., Federal Communications Commission, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA Nos. 03-1881, 03-1882, 03-3824, 03-3825 (Mar. 1, 2004).

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petitions raises novel or difficult issues, and they all should be decided by the Wireline Competition Bureau applying the governing principles on delegated authority.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed with your office for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceeding.

Yours truly,

/s/ Cheryl A. Tritt
Cheryl A. Tritt
Counsel for ALLTEL Communications, Inc.

cc Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Scott Bergmann