

Before the
Federal Communication Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
OSIRUS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.)
) CC Docket No. 96-45
Petition for Waivers of the Commission's)
Rules to Participate in NECA Pools and)
Tariffs and to Obtain Accelerated USF)
Support)

Reply Comments Of:
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)

Opposing Osirus's Petition and Supporting Allband Communications
Cooperative

Comments:

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) opposes the Osirus petition and supports the comments of Allband in this proceeding because:

Allband Communications Cooperative already has plans in place and is pursuing service of the very same areas being sought by Osirus.

TBNMS and Allband are members of the Alpena Regional Fiber Consortium, (ARFC) which is a collaborative venture between Federal, State and Local government, the local school system, our community college, our hospital and other strictly non-profit organizations to share the burdens of distributing fiber optic cable across a wide area to enhance information flow and inter-agency communication throughout the region.

As consortium members we have been witness to the dedication and hard work on the part of Ron Siegel and the Allband organization as they struggled with the enormous task of building and licensing a communications infrastructure to bring telephone and Internet service to underserved areas that do not enjoy even the basic (to most of us) link to the world that telephone service provides.

We have seen the passion and perseverance exhibited by Ron Siegel and Allband in providing basic services such as telephone, 911 emergency service and internet to remote areas where other telecommunication companies did not want to bother expending effort or resources in view of the limited economic returns. Service by Allband has already commenced at their "Robbs Creek" exchange and Ron Siegel has already expressed plans to service seven other surrounding areas that also lack basic phone and emergency 911 service. One of those areas - Thunder Bay Island in Lake Huron would be essential to bring not only phone and emergency services to that underserved area, but also would provide TBNMS with the means to transmit critical real time weather and meteorological information from the island and from buoys in Thunder Bay. This communications link would also provide enormous potential for science education and research opportunities for TBNMS.

It is our position that Allband Communications Cooperative already meets the requirements, has the plans in place, has expended enormous efforts and is fully capable of putting in place services to the very areas that Osirus is now petitioning for.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary therefore opposes the petition by Osirus Communications, Inc.

Thank you,

01/17/2008

Jefferson G. Gray

Site Superintendent

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary