

Alaska Telephone Association

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March 21, 2008

Ex Parte Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *High Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Alaska Telephone Association (“ATA”) is unsure how the three relatively unclear maps attached to GCI’s March 14, 2008 *Ex Parte* notice relate to the brief synopsis of its discussions with WCB Bureau Chief Dana Shaffer and a substantial number of Bureau staff on the prior day. Apparently the focus of the dialogue was on brand new “software defined radio and distributed softswitching” technologies that GCI will deploy to provide mobile wireless if it can receive universal service support comparable to that of a cost-based, wireline carrier-of-last-resort that is required to, has been, and continues to provide universal service in rural Alaska. Or perhaps GCI’s advocacy was for universal service support based upon its own costs. That would be a change from its previous advocacy, but is unclear based on the immediate filing.

Curiously, one of the attachments is a map entitled *Communities with Broadband Service Today (DSL speeds or above)*. It appears to show a relatively small number of communities with access to DSL-comparable services. Although broadband was seemingly not a topic of discussion, lest staff be inadvertently misled, we have attached examples of such services advertised on the following company web pages today (not intended to be comprehensive) for communities not indicated on the map; Yukon Telephone Company, Inc¹; Supervision, Inc²; Unicom³; Nushagak Cooperative⁴; and MTA⁵ (some communities served by MTA are indicated on the map). The final attachment is from GCI’s web page⁶. In a comparison of The Ultimate Package Plus and The Ultimate Broadband Package, it indicates that GCI provides at least 320 Kbps of high speed service over its Internet cable modem. The page concludes with the statement, “The Ultimate Package is available statewide.”

Please contact me if you have any questions.

¹ <http://www.yukontel.com/servicespricing.htm>

² <http://www.yukontel.com/svi.htm>

³ http://www.unicom-alaska.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=135&itemid=197

⁴ <http://www.nushtel.com/internet/internet.htm>

⁵ <http://www.mta-telco.com/internet/packages.html#dsl>

⁶ <http://www.gci.com/forhome/internet/ultimate+package+ultimate+broadband+package+comparison+chart.htm>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Rowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Rowe

cc: Dana Shaffer
Nicholas Alexander
Amy Bender
Ted Burmeister
Katie King
Jeremy Marcus
Jennifer Mckee
Gary Siegel
Donald Stockdale

YUKON TELEPHONE CO., INC.

SERVING ALASKA'S TELECOMMUNICATION NEEDS IN RUBY, TANANA, AND WHITTIER

CONTACT US

CHECK EMAIL

USERNAME

PASSWORD

Login

NAVIGATE

ABOUT US

APPLICATIONS

TOOLBOX

DIRECTORIES

HOME

RESIDENTIAL PHONE SERVICE RATES

Single Party Residence Service	\$17.00/Month
Single Party Vacation Rate	\$8.50/Month
*Telephone-Relay System (TRS)	\$0.10/Month
No charge for Vacation	
Federal Subscriber Line Charge	
Single Line	\$6.50/Month
Single Line Vacation	\$3.25/Month
Network Access Fee	\$3.00/Month
Network Access Fee Vacation	\$1.00/Month
Touch Tone Service	No Charge
Toll Blocking - TR1 & TR0	Free at Installation
	\$12.50 if requested at a later date
Deny 3rd Party Calling	No Charge
Deny Collect	No Charge
Emergency 911 Service	Government Assessed
Lifeline Customers	
Single Party Line	*\$1.00/Month
	This includes Network Access and Federal Sub charges

DSL SERVICE - RUBY ONLY

Residential Connection	\$50.00/Month
	* Includes 6 GB Download Limit, 3 GB Upload Limit, and 1 Email Address*
If you require more bandwidth or a commercial connection please contact the Wasilla office for pricing.	
Additional E-Mail Account	\$5.00/Month

BUSINESS PHONE SERVICE RATES

Single Party Business Service	\$28.80/Month
Single Party Vacation Rate	\$14.90/Month
Key Trunk with Hunt	\$22.90/Month
Key Trunk Vacation	\$20.40/Month
Telephone Relay System (TRS)	
*Single Line	\$0.10/Month
*Multi Line	\$0.20/Month
No charge for Vacation	
Federal Subscriber Line Charge	
Single Line	\$6.50/Month
Single Line Vacation	\$3.25/Month
Multi Line	\$9.20/Month
Multi Line Vacation	\$4.60/Month
Network Access Fee	\$3.00/Month
*Toll Blocking TR1 & TR0	Free at Installation
	14.00 if requested at a later date
Deny 3rd Party Calling	No Charge
Deny Collect	No Charge
Emergency 911 Service	No Charge

TAXES & SURCHARGES

All Residential and Commercial Lines are subject to the following Taxes and Surcharges per month	
Alaska Universal Service Fund (Local Charge)	1.2% of applicable monthly charges
Federal Tax	3% of applicable monthly charges
Utility Tax (Regulatory Cost Charge)	1.730% of applicable monthly charges

CALL FEATURES

TANANA/RUBY

WHITTIER

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 [Business Solutions](#) |
 [About US](#) |
 [Employment](#) |
 [Customer Service](#)

search...



THURSDAY Mar 20th

[Home](#) > [Unicom Services](#) > [Internet Services](#) > Coverage Area

INTERNET SERVICES

[DSL](#)
[Dial-Up](#)
[Coverage Area](#)
[FAQs](#)

COVERAGE AREA

Dial Up Village (DSL only in Bethel)	DSL Only Villages (No dial up available)
Akiakchak	Chefornak
Akiak	Eek
Alakanuk	Kipnuk
Atmautluak	Kongiganak
Bethel	Kwigillingok
Chevak	Newtok
Emmonak	Nightmute
Hooper Bay	Quinhagak
Kasigluk	Toksook Bay
Kwethluk	Tuntutullak
Mtn. Village	Tununak
Napaskiak/Oscarville	
Napakiak	
Nunak Iqua	
Nunapitchuk	
St. Mary's/Pitkas	
Togiak	
Tuluksak	

NUSHAGAK COOPERATIVE

An extraordinary cooperative in rural Alaska

Site Direct

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[contact us](#)

[member links](#)

[local links](#)

[home](#)

internet service

[cable modem internet](#) [dial-up internet](#) [internet FAQs](#) [Acceptable Use Policy](#)

HIGH-SPEED CABLE MODEM INTERNET SERVICE

Peak Speeds up to 5 times faster than the typical dial-up access! Always on-line. No dialing up - no busy signals ever - and no need for that second phone line. Web sites appear many times faster than with dial-up access, and crystal clear audio flows without interruption or interference. Service includes 5 MB personal web hosting space.

- 64\64Kbps with up to 1GB of throughput* \$54.99/month
- 128\64Kbps with up to 2GB of throughput* \$69.99/month
- 256\128Kbps with up to 3GB of throughput* \$144.99/month
- Connect Fee - \$38.05 + tax
- Cable Modem Rental Fee - \$5/month
- Cable Modem Deposit - \$100 [waived when you sign up for a bundle]
- Unreturned Cable Modem Fee - \$250
- Package Upgrade/Downgrade - \$18
- *Additional data transfer beyond package amount will be prorated at \$30 per GB/per month



Local Long Distance Wireless Business Internet Directory DTV

Bundles Save You Money | Contact Us | View/Pay My Bill

Internet

Search

- Internet Packages
- Broadband For Business
- About Webmail & SpamShield Pro
- Web Hosting Services
- Hotspots
- Help Desk
- Login to Webmail and DSL Usage >
- Login To MTAProtects

High Speed & Low Cost MTA Internet Packages

Play games, listen to music, share photos, send email and talk on the phone all at the same time. MTA's Internet packages fit your lifestyle.



Save when you bundle Internet with other services >



Click for Webmail and DSL Usage >

> Go to the online order form & sign up!

Find the Internet package for you



- 128 kbps always on connection
- For chatting and checking email

Sign up and get your first 3 months for only \$19.95 - the same price as Dial-Up!

Regularly \$25.99 per month

> Learn More



- 256 kbps always on connection
- Great for checking, airline reservations or doing research, and just the right tool for kids in school. Let them discover the World-Wide Web

Sign up for just \$34.99/month

> Learn More



- 512 kbps always on connection
- View graphic-intensive sites, send & receive pictures & shop
- Upgrade to a faster speed at the same price as part of a TrueBlue Bundle

Sign up for just \$49.99/month

> Learn More



- 768 kbps always on connection
- Get off the sidelines and into the action
- Save \$15 every month when you upgrade to GoPlay on your TrueBlue Bundle

Sign up for just \$64.99/month

> Learn More



- 768 kbps always on connection
- Unlimited access with freedom from go!tracking
- A direct DSL line with no shared traffic, FREE DSL modem, and 24/7 tech support

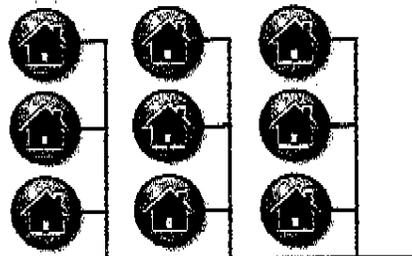
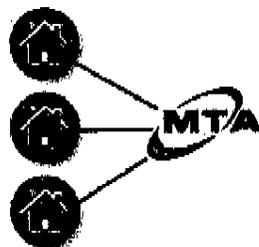
Sign up for just \$139.99/month

> Learn More

People love DSL Internet because:

- You can stay online and talk on the phone at the same time
- Your DSL connection is always on, ready to go
- You save monthly when you bundle it with other services > read more
- The service is itemized on your existing MTA statement
- Most homes are DSL-ready and don't require additional wiring > installing DSL
- DSL gives you a direct line without shared neighborhood traffic:

With DSL, you have a direct line to the Internet (Image below left). With cable modem service (on the right), connections are shared with other users.



- 56 kbps connection
- Unlimited access
- Local access numbers, 4 email addresses & free web address
- Option to save with prepaid discount prices
- Sign up for just \$19.95/month
- > Learn More

Internet Package Details



SEARCH:

Name, Business, Product or Service



Anchorage


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FOR HOME

Cable Television

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Cellular Services

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Local Phone Services

[Digital Local Phone Service](#)
[Anchorage/Eagle River](#)
[Fairbanks](#)
[Juneau](#)
[Ketchikan](#)
[Kodiak](#)
[Soldotna](#)
[Wasilla](#)
[Sitka](#)
[Lifeline](#)
[Conference Calling](#)

Long Distance

[Calling Plans](#)
[Calling Cards](#)
[Conference Calling](#)
[Toll Free - Inbound Option](#)
[Fraud Protection](#)

GET GCI GET ALASKA AIRLINE MILES

Sign up for GCI qualifying products and get Alaska Airlines Miles!

Which Package Is Right For You?

To make it easier...here is a comparison chart that shows the differences between GCI's Ultimate Package Plus and the Ultimate Broadband Package which bundles all our services together for the *same* low price.



The Ultimate Package Plus	The Ultimate Broadband Package
<p>Cable TV which includes tons of Digital channels and music channels. If you like variety with a lot of choices, this is the plan for you!</p>	<p>Basic Cable TV which just includes your local broadcast stations and a few others. If you want great reception and not a lot of channels, this is the plan for you.</p>
<p>High Speed Internet cable modem 320Kbps with an always on connection and comes with 1 email address and 3,072 MB's included monthly usage. If you want WAY faster Internet with unlimited downloads Click here to view your upgrade options.</p>	<p>Internet Xtreme cable modem 3.0Mbps/256Kbps - It's WAY, WAY faster than 320Kbps and also comes with FREE features such as email guard, 4 email accounts, 10 MB web space, 5,120 MB's included usage and 24/7 live technical support - It's high speed Internet at it's finest. Faster speeds are also available.</p>
<p>Long Distance 150 free out-of-state minutes. Upgrade to 1,000 total minutes for just \$10 more per month. (14 cents a minute for all your in-state calls.)</p>	<p>Long Distance 150 free out-of-state minutes. Upgrade to a total of 1,000 minutes for just \$10 more per month. (14 cents a minute for all your in-state calls.)</p>
<p>Local Phone Service (if available in your area) Comes with voice mail and up to 13 other calling features.</p>	<p>Local Phone Service (if available in your area) Comes with voice mail and up to 13 other calling features.</p>
<p>Alaska Airlines Miles - Get 1 mile per dollar spent on your Ultimate Package Plus monthly plan fee.</p>	<p>Alaska Airlines Miles - Get 1 mile per dollar spent on your Ultimate Broadband Package monthly plan fee.</p>

Please note both packages explained above are only available in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai/Soldotna and Palmer/Wasilla. The Ultimate Package is available statewide.

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