

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

September 18, 2009

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

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Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Panora Communications Cooperative and Prairie Telephone Co., Inc. Application for Waiver of Part 36 Study Area Boundary Freeze CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Panora Communications Cooperative (PCC) is undertaking a project to upgrade its rural central Iowa exchange service to provide fiber-to-home (FTTH) service to all of its approximately 1,900 customers.

A critical element of PCC's broadband upgrade involves PCC's acquisition of a 2.1 square mile, 34-customer area, located in a private residential development on the north side of Lake Panorama owned by Prairie Telephone Co., Inc. (Prairie). PCC needs this area to construct redundant fiber routes to improve the reliability of its broadband services. It will also allow it to bring high-speed broadband service over FTTH facilities to the 34 customers in the area.

On July 15, 2009, PCC and Prairie applied for a study area waiver in order to transfer the 2.1-square mile area. On August 10, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Public Notice regarding this waiver request and set a comment date for September 9, 2009, and a reply date for September 24, 2009.

Receipt of this study area waiver will enable PCC to proceed expeditiously and efficiently with its proposed FTTH upgrade. I would greatly appreciate any assistance you could provide to ensure its timely review so that PCC can have resolution on this matter.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin
United States Senator

29 SEP 2009 RCUD



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 16, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Harkin:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition filed by Panora Communications Cooperative and Prairie Telephone Company, Inc. The companies request that the Commission waive the definition of "study area" to allow them to remove 35 access lines from Prairie's Iowa study area and include those access lines in Panora's Iowa study area.

The Commission received the petition on July 23, 2009, and, as you note in your letter, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau placed the petition on Public Notice for comment. The comment cycle closed on September 24, 2009. The Bureau will make every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski
Chairman