Alaska and Universal Service Reform

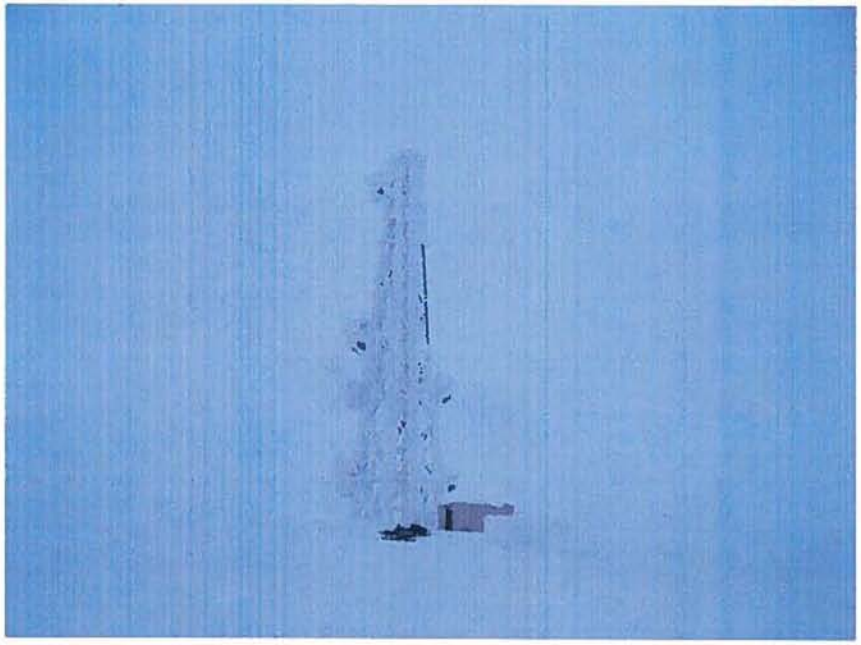
General Communication, Inc.

May 2011

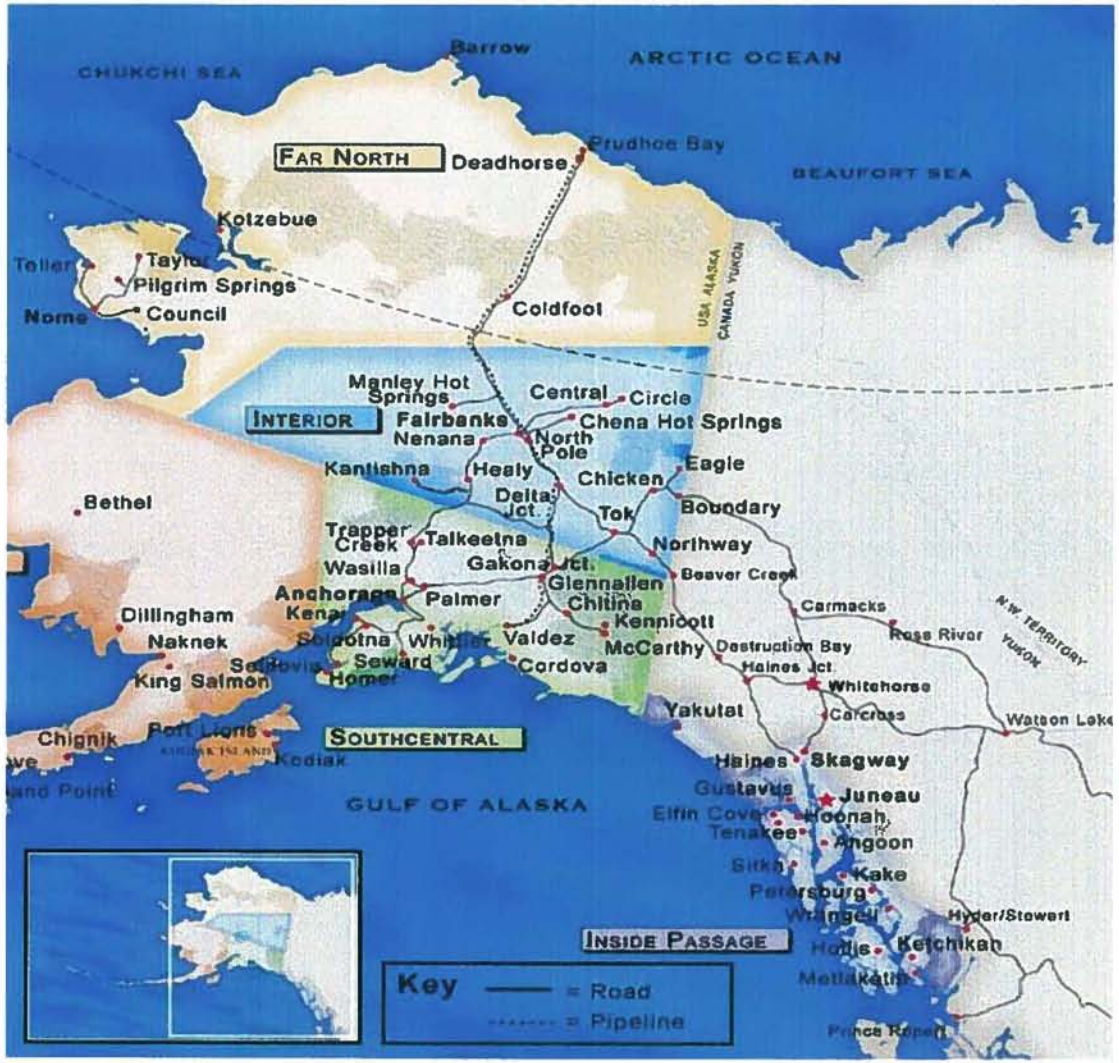
Alaska is Unique

- Enormous
  - 570,627 Square Miles, roughly 1/5 the size of the lower 48
- Limited road system – Over 200 communities are "off-road"
- Sparse Population
  - 710,231 residents
  - Approximately 1.2 persons per square mile, compared to 103.8 persons per square mile in the lower 48
- Rough Terrain and Climate
  - Mountains, islands, rivers, and lack of roads
  - Short construction season (May to October)
- Rural areas rely on satellite middle mile

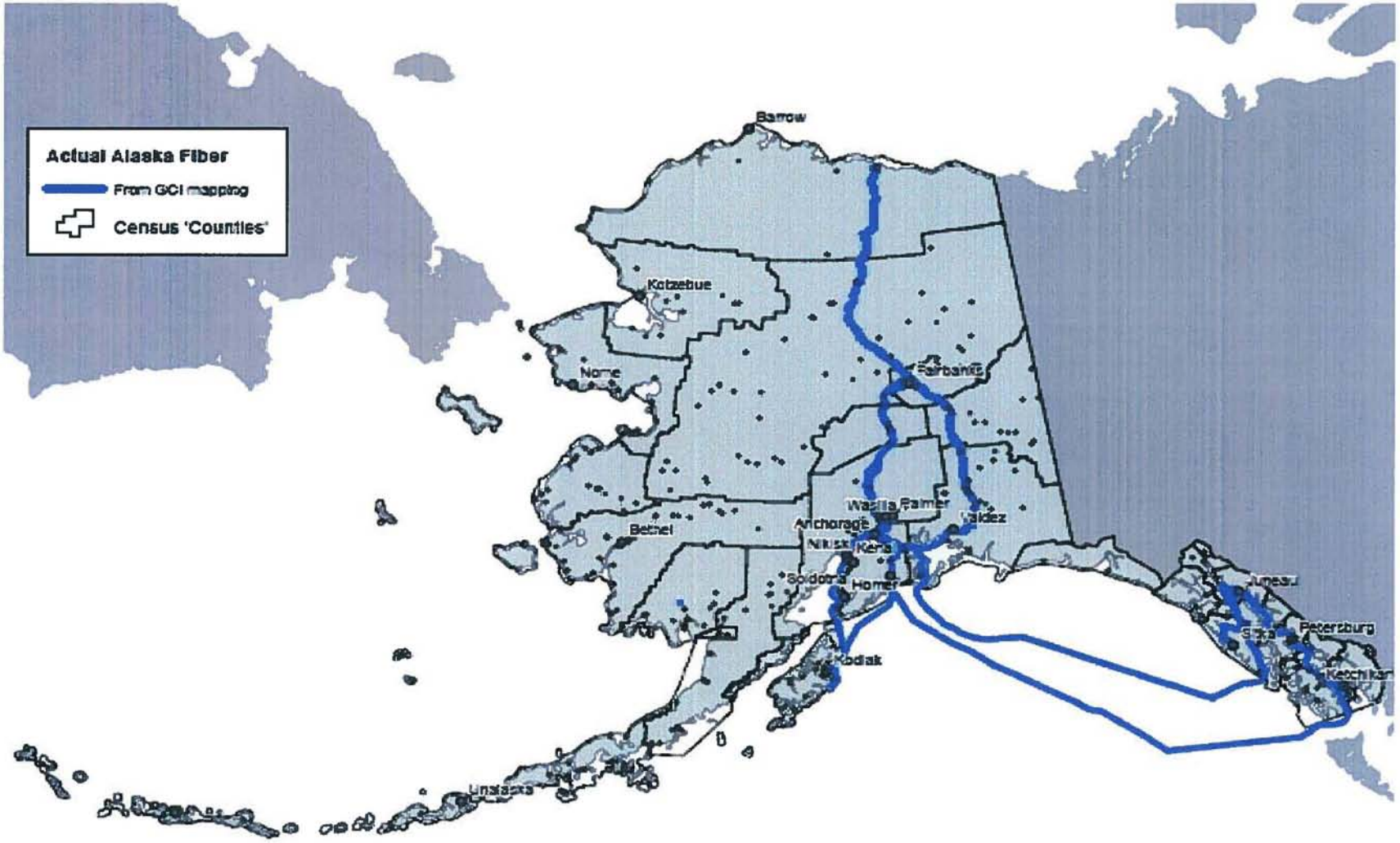
Alaska Telecommunications – Challenges and Benefits



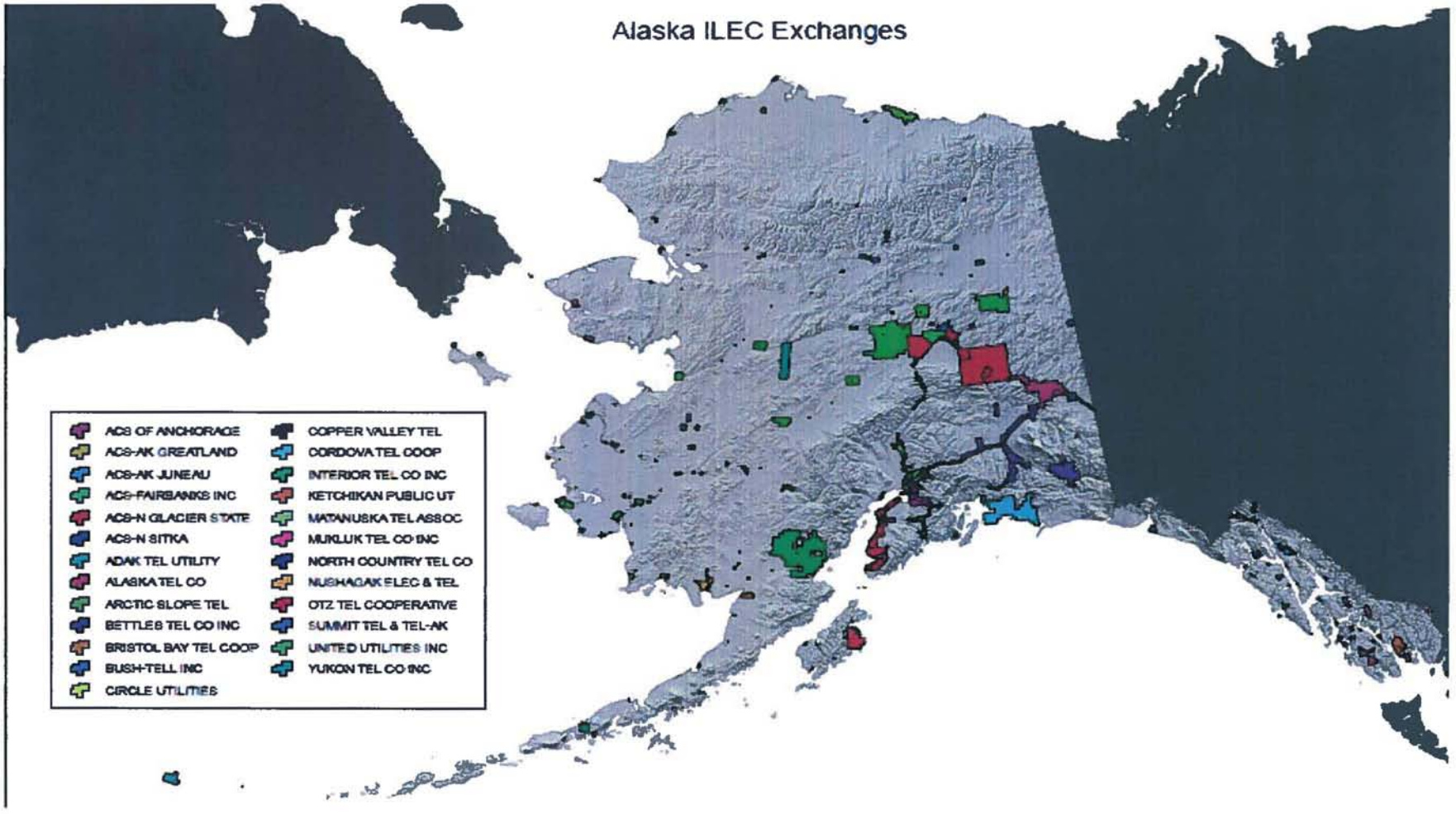
Alaska's Limited Road & Pipeline System



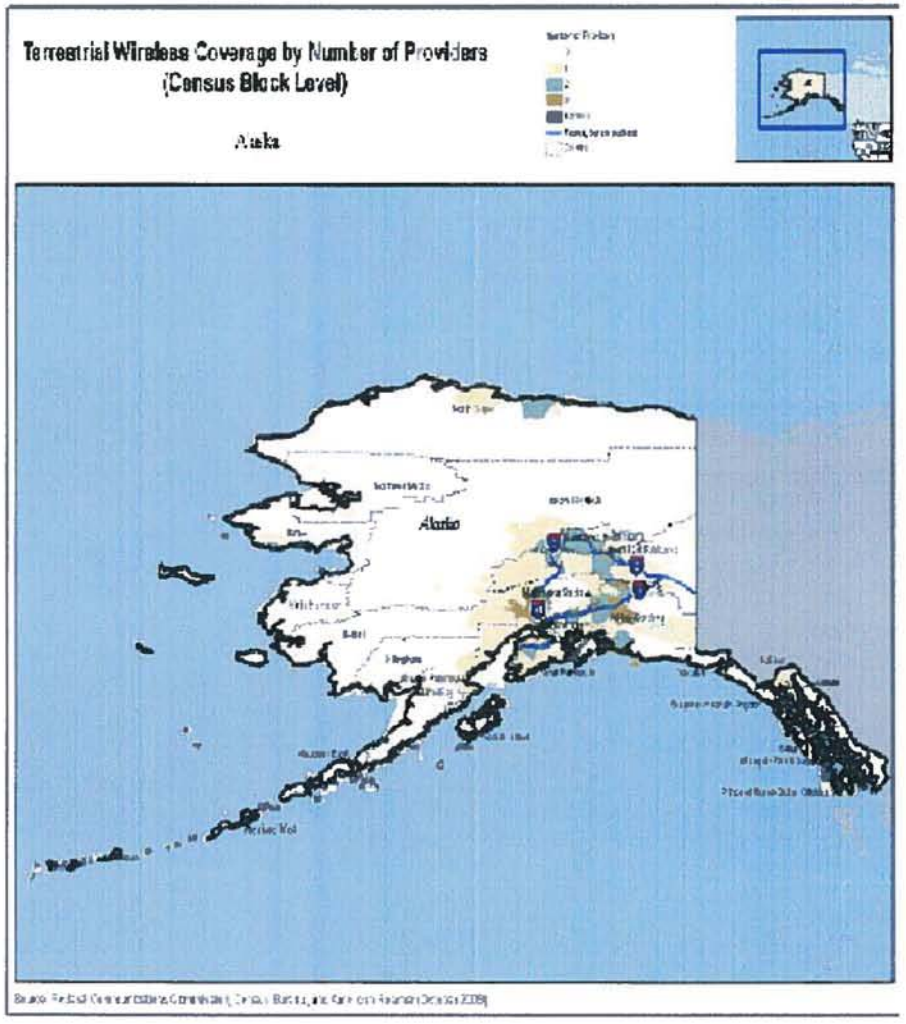
Alaska's Fiber "Backbone"



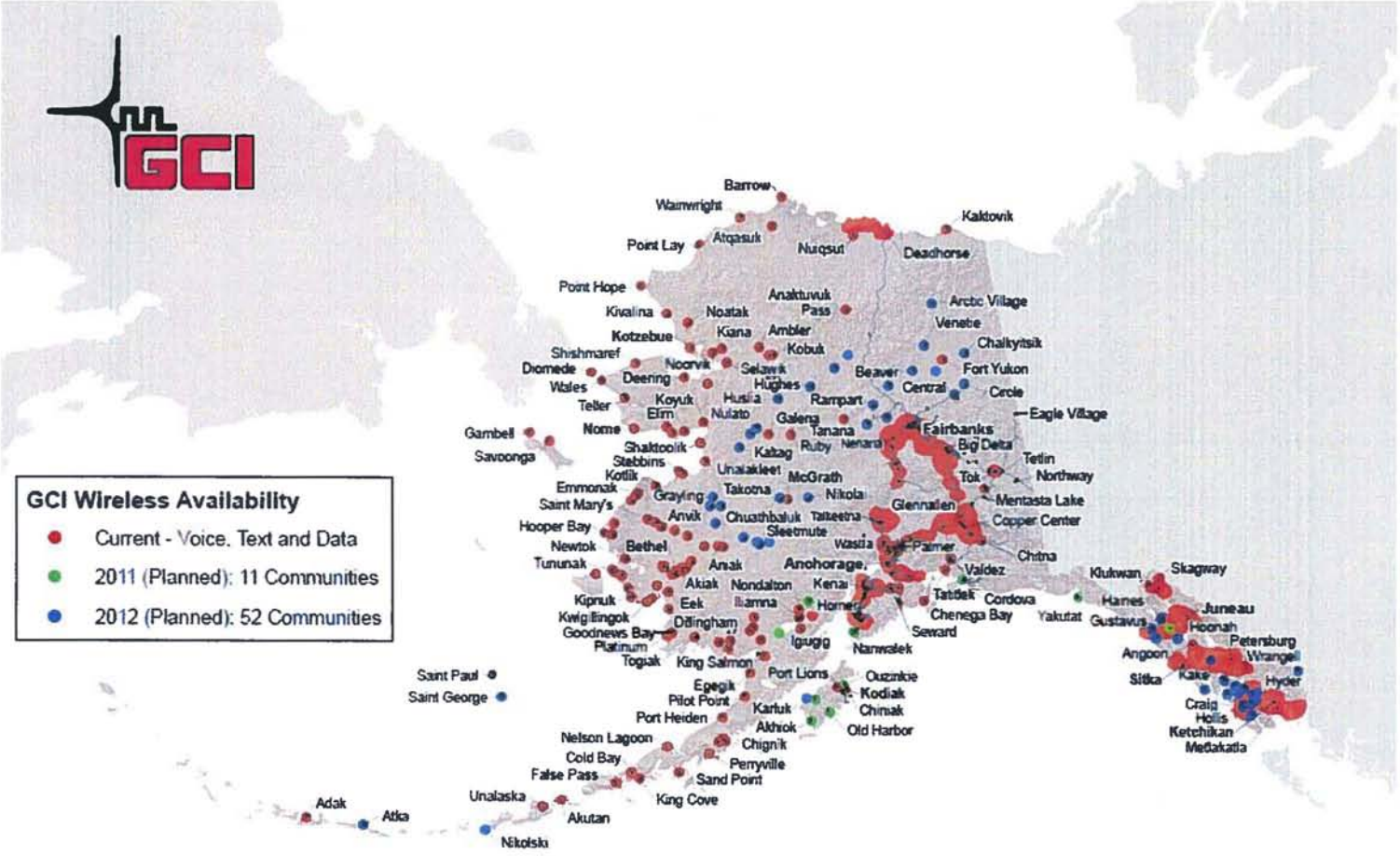
Alaska's ILEC Exchanges



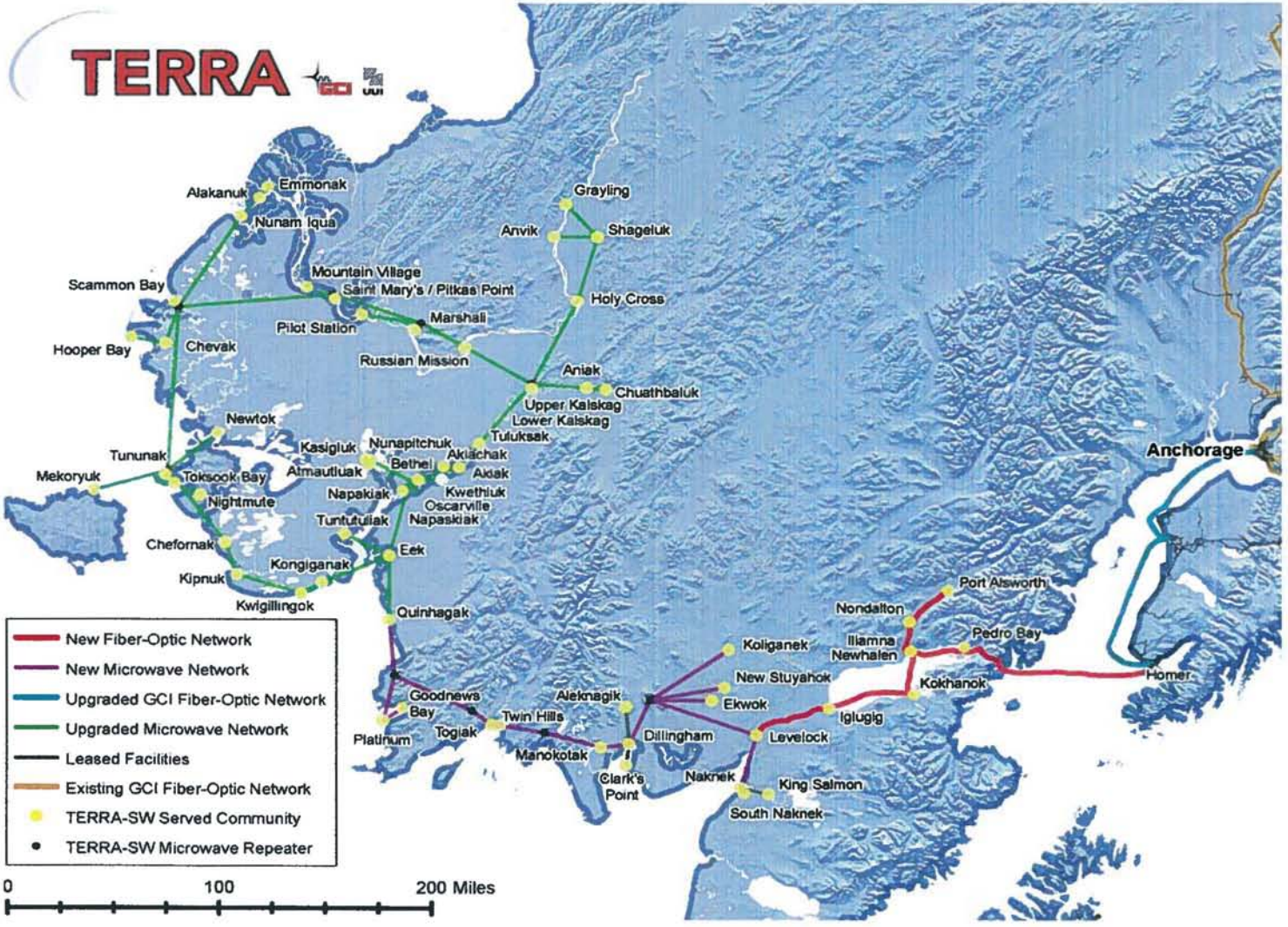
Alaska's Wireless Coverage (2009)



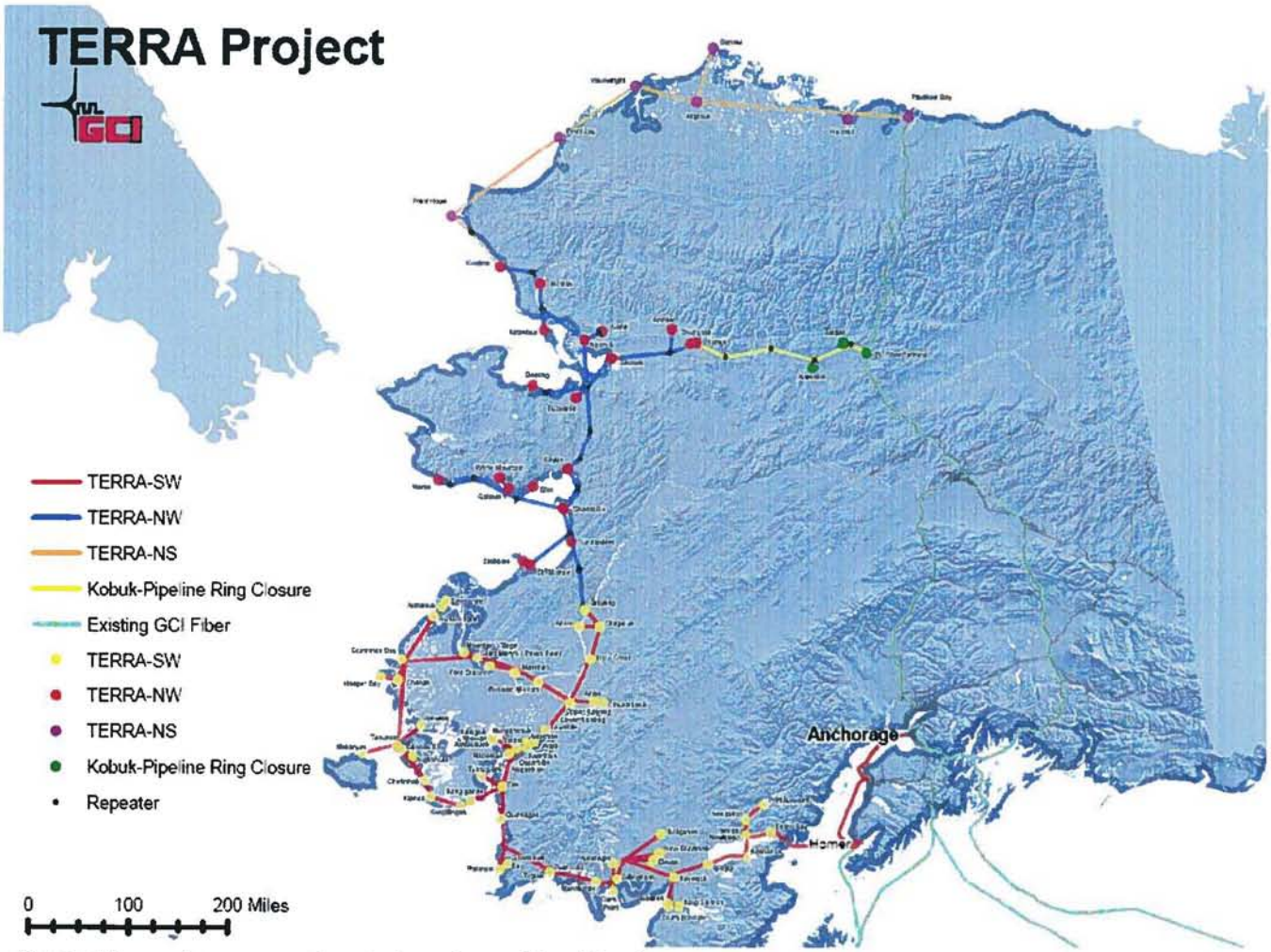
GCI – Bringing Wireless to Rural Alaska



Building the Middle Mile – The Key to Rural Broadband



An Illustrative Vision of a 21st Century Alaska Broadband Network



Illustrative only - unconstructed routes subject to change.