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STATE-  
WIDE

TELECOMMUNICATION



fm103

February 2, 1982

Representative Terry Martin  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Martin:

Please consider giving your support to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission's Capital Improvements Budget Request for fiscal year 1983. The amount of this request is \$2,295,000.00. It will fund improvements at existing public radio and television stations all over the state.

KSKA is, as I hope you know, Public Radio in Anchorage. Our portion of this budget request amounts to \$108,000.00. We will use this money for the following things:

1. "Translators" for Bird, Indian, Willow, Wasilla, and Talkeetna. A combination of geography and radio technology now makes it impossible for these communities to hear KSKA. We have had numerous requests for service from residents of these communities. These translators will bring our signal to them.
2. A new production studio - we have in the last year made a major effort to increase public involvement in the sound of KSKA. We now have approximately 75 individuals producing our programming as unpaid volunteers. About 37% of KSKA's air time is filled with programming produced by Anchorage citizens. Most of these volunteers pre-tape their shows prior to broadcast. This is done in our existing production studio. This facility is presently being used almost constantly from 8:00 to 11:00 P.M., seven days a week. We need an additional production studio to allow even more Anchorage residents to produce public radio at KSKA.
3. A remote broadcast kit - this will allow us to broadcast live entertainment and public affairs events in the Anchorage area. This is part of an attempt on our part to become more responsive to the community we serve.

I think it is also important for me to point out that we are not just seeking our funding from government sources. Below is this year's revenue mix for KSKA:

APBC	185,300	44%
CPB (FED)	55,000	13%
PRIVATE SOURCES	182,000	43%

In addition, we are attempting to raise from private sources \$100,000.00 this year to purchase a new transmitter. As you may know, one of KSKA's biggest problems has been a weak signal. We expect very soon to receive approval from the F.C.C. to greatly increase our signal strength. As I said, we hope to accomplish this without seeking funds from the state.

I have enclosed copies of our program guide, and our portion of the APBC Budget Request. If I can help you in any way, please call KSKA at 276-3000. Also, Charlie Northrip, Executive Director of APBC, will be happy to provide any additional information you need.

Thank you for your attention. I hope you can help us in some way.

Sincerely,

*M. MENSE*

Mike Mense,  
President  
Aurora Community Broadcasters, KSKA

Project Title KSKA: Production Equipment;SCA;Translators		Location(s) Anchorage/Bird/ Indian/Willow/Wasilla/ Talkeetna		Election Districts Served 7-12; 6; 13		Start Date Sept.1, 1982		Completion Date June 30, 1983	
AGENCY REQUEST			Operational Cost & No. Personnel Increase .. (Decrease)		First Operating Year '84	Ultimate Annual Year '84	GOVERNOR'S REQUEST		
							Approved	Deferred	Disapproved
1002	Federal Receipts		Funding Source	Federal Receipts			1002	Federal Receipts	
1003	G/F Match			General Fund	10.0	10.0	1003	G/F Match	
1004	General Fund	108.8					1004	General Fund	
1005	I/A Rec pts						1005	I/A Receipts	
	G.O. Bonds							G.O. Bonds	
			Total Annual Operational Cost		10.0	10.0			
			Position (FTE)		0	0			
			Previous Year Priority		Agency Priority		Governor's Priority		
			NA		83- 9				
Total		108.8					Total		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will create a second production control room at KSKA, which will result in increased local program production.

It will also provide improvements in equipment in already existing production facilities at the station, thereby increasing the capabilities of those facilities as well.

A separate and unique portion of the project will purchase equipment that will provide a radio reading service for the blind. This special program service will be broadcast as a part of the station's main signal but will only be capable of reception by special receivers.

The largest single portion of the project will allow the purchase and installation of translators to make the KSKA signal available to the following areas: Bird; Indian; Willow; Wasilla; and Talkeetna.

The project will also provide funds for the purchase of a remote production kit, for use by all public stations in the State.

CATEGORY General Government  
 AGENCY Dept. of Administration  
 PROGRAM Telecommunications  
Alaska Public Broadcasting Comm.

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**35a PROJECT DESCRIPTION --  
 PROPOSED CAPITAL  
 PROJECT**

Capital Project Expenditures (Cash Flow)	Total	Budget Year	Budget Year Plus 1	Budget Year Plus 2	Budget Year Plus 3	Budget Year Plus 4	Remaining Cost
Planning and Engineering							
Land							
Construction							
Equipment	108.8	108.8	0	0	0	0	0
Administration and Other							
<b>Total Annual Expenditure (Capital Cost)</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Project Justification**

**DISCUSSION OF THE NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

KSKA's current on-air and production facilities require the replacement of turntable preamps, audio tape recorder heads and other items in order to maintain a level of technical quality expected of FM broadcasting. In addition, the station's major commitment to news and public affairs requires the purchase of additional equipment to be used in electronic news gathering.

KSKA, existing as it does in the State's largest population area, deals with large numbers of volunteers who participate in the production of KSKA programs. That large volume now requires a second production facility in order to utilize all of the talent available.

Similarly, because of its location in a large population area, a significant number of blind citizens are within KSKA's listening area. The subcarrier generator proposed by KSKA to provide a reading service for the blind will provide the only such service in the entire state.

As stated in forms 31 and 32, the APBC's philosophy is to use translators wherever possible to extend the reach of public broadcasting. KSKA proposed to extend its service to the communities of Bird, Indian, Willow, Wasilla and Talkeetna. Without the translators, those communities would not receive an acceptable public broadcast signal.

The remote production kit will be held by KSKA (due to its central location) and provided to any public station requesting its use for the production of remote programs that could be provided, via the Public Radio Network, to all other stations.

**Project Type**

- Building Construction (C)
- Other Improvement (I)
- Equipment (E)
- Land (L)
- Professional Services (P)
- Other (O)

**Project Characteristics**

- Totally New Facility
- Addition to Existing Facility
- Renovation of Existing Facility
- Major Maintenance or Repair
- Supplement Previously Authorized
- Funds to Enable Completion
- One of Several Phases
- Major External Funding Source
- Other

**Site Features**

NO YES

- Site Currently Owned?
- All Utilities Available?
- Access Already Available?

PROJECT TITLE KSKA

CATEGORY General Government

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35b	PROJECT JUSTIFICATION
	<b>PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT</b>

AGENCY Dept. of Administration

PROGRAM Telecommunications

Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission

Capital Project Expenditures (Cash Flow)	Total	Budget Year	Budget Year Plus 1	Budget Year Plus 2	Budget Year Plus 3	Budget Year Plus 4	Remaining Cost
Planning and Engineering							
Land							
Construction							
Equipment	108.8	108.8	0	0	0	0	0
Administration and Other							
<b>Total Annual Expenditure (Capital Cost)</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Project Justification**

With all stations interconnected by a high fidelity stereo satellite system, concerts, cultural events, and dramatic presentations could be taped or broadcast live from one location to all others in the State.

**DOCUMENTATION OF ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST**

The estimated costs for this project are based on list prices.

**ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONAL EXPENSE**

The \$10,000 estimated is to cover the cost of routine maintenance on the translator facilities. It is anticipated that KSKA would contract this maintenance to individuals in the vicinity of each translator at a cost not to exceed \$2,000 per year.

**IDENTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Alternatives for additional production facilities and for the reader service for the blind would call for separate stations to serve the blind population and to create additional programs. That alternative is obviously far more expensive than the one selected. Similarly, separate independent stations could provide public broadcast programming to the communities proposed for signal translators. Again, the cost for separate independent stations is far greater than the cost of translating the KSKA signal.

**Project Type**

- Building Construction (C)
- Other Improvement (I)
- Equipment (E)
- Land (L)
- Professional Services (P)
- Other (O)

**Project Characteristics**

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- Renovation of Existing Facility
- Major Maintenance or Repair
- Supplement Previously Authorized
- Funds to Enable Completion
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- Major External Funding Source
- Other

**Site Features**

NO YES

- Site Currently Owned?
- All Utilities Available?
- Access Already Available?

PROJECT TITLE KSKA

CATEGORY General Government

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35b	PROJECT JUSTIFICATION
	<b>PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECT</b>

AGENCY Dept. of Administration

PROGRAM Telecommunications

Alaska Public Broadcasting Comm.

Capital Project Expenditures (Cash Flow)	Total	Budget Year	Budget Year Plus 1	Budget Year Plus 2	Budget Year Plus 3	Budget Year Plus 4	Remaining Cost
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Equipment	108.8	108.8	0	0	0	0	0
Administration and Other							
<b>Total Annual Expenditure (Capital Cost)</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Project Justification

COST DETAIL

Production Equipment	52,100
SCA Generator	3,000
Translators 5 at 8,000 ea	40,000
Remote Kit	13,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108,800</b>

Project Type

- Building Construction (C)
- Other Improvement (I)
- Equipment (E)
- Land (L)
- Professional Services (P)
- Other (O)

Project Characteristics

- Totally New Facility
- Addition to Existing Facility
- Renovation of Existing Facility
- Major Maintenance or Repair
- Supplement Previously Authorized
- Funds to Enable Completion
- One of Several Phases
- Major External Funding Source
- Other

Site Features

NO YES

- Site Currently Owned?
- All Utilities Available?
- Access Already Available?

PROJECT TITLE KSKA

CATEGORY General Government

**35b** PROJECT JUSTIFICATION  
**PROPOSED CAPITAL  
PROJECT**

AGENCY Dept. of Administration

PROGRAM Telecommunications

Alaska Public Broadcasting Comm.

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Revised Date

**FY 83**



*A Christian school in spectacular Southeast Alaska*

# Sheldon Jackson College

P.O. Box 479 • Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Telephone (907) 747-5220

January 22, 1982

Representative Terry Martin, Chairman  
House Labor and Commerce Committee  
Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Martin:

I have been provided a copy of your December 14, 1981 memorandum to Bill Barrier of Legal Services ". . . requesting a draft of a House Concurrent Resolution spelling out the committee's policy on statewide telecommunications." I recognize this was written as a draft and that legislation might differ significantly in its final form.

In addition to teaching television, managing a TV translator station and having a pending application for another license, I am a subscriber to a quality TV cable service. We have good service in Sitka and we appreciate it. However, I believe there must be a balance maintained between commercial and state-supported telecommunications systems. As I read the memo, it truly reflects the interest of the commercial enterprises rather than the best interest of the general public.

I have some reservations about many of the individual suggestions in the memo. However, I would like to address two that appear to violate the best interests of Alaskans - especially those in rural Alaska.

First, the reduction of airwave interference between state-owned and private facilities appears on the surface to be a good suggestion. However, we must consider what has prompted this suggestion. Licensed stations have priority and legal rights to specified channels in a community. Cable channels are flexible and can be switched as they wish. However, when all channels are used (as most are now with most cable companies), then a scrambling for space on the dial results. The request of the cable companies to put translator and low power stations on UHF is telling the educational/instructional stations they are really step children. People just won't search on the UHF dial (channels 14-83) which would render their outstanding services useless.

Page 2

Representative Terry Martin

January 22, 1982

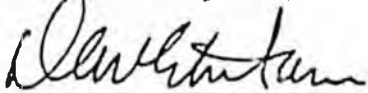
Sure, there should be less interference (normally caused by cable stations transmitting on the same channel as the over-the-air broadcasts. However this problem could be resolved by having cable companies expand their channels as is being done in many "down south" communities.

Secondly, smaller stations should have the right to carry commercials. To have to delete all the pre-recorded commercials from programs originating elsewhere would be totally impractical and is not required by their licenses. Also, the new TV licenses being received by the Learn/Alaska network are for Low Power which allows stations to originate local programming including commercials. Although we don't plan to originate commercials on our two low power stations in Sitka, it would be unwise to impose "artificial regulatory and government barriers" on local incentive. Commercials, in addition to generating some local funds to operate these small stations, can be beneficial to viewers wanting or needing this information.

To ban all commercial advertisements on state-funded facilities is impractical and unwise. To do so will either prompt violations or they will be called by another name such as "corporate underwriting."

Thanks for listening. I would be most pleased to provide additional information if you need it.

With best regards,



Dan Etulain Ph.D.  
Director of Telecommunications

DRE/d

cc: Dr. Charles Northrip, Executive Director, Alaska Public  
Broadcasting  
Commission

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

TO: Members of the Alaska Legislature  
State of Alaska

DATE: February 3, 1982

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 465-2846

FROM: Charles M. Northrip *CMN*  
Executive Director  
Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission  
Department of Administration

SUBJECT: NFCB Newsletter  
Supplement

The National Federation of Community Broadcasters recently published a special supplement dealing with Alaska public stations. Enclosed with this memo are copies of "Community Radio In Alaska" for your information. The supplement provides an excellent summary of the services public radio stations provide to their communities.

Some portions of the supplement refer to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission's long-range plan for Public Broadcasting in the State. The first edition of that plan has now been approved by the Commission and is being printed. As soon as they are available, copies of that document will be made available to you, as well.

*May  
for our file  
in identification of our Commission*



# COMMUNITY RADIO IN ALASKA

**A Special Report from the**

**NFCB NEWSLETTER**

In Alaska, there are radio stations found where roads do not go, and where airplanes deliver groceries. They provide the listeners with the only mass media available, and are often called upon to provide more than traditional radio services. They are called bush stations.

## BUSH RADIO

BY LES ROBINSON  
*Manager, KDLG, Dillingham*

Each day, KDLG's powerful AM transmitter beams its signal over the mountains to dozens of remote villages, and across Alaska's Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea to small islands and lonely ships. Thousands of radios are tuned to the only signal coming from and reaching into this isolated part of the world. The station's studios are located inside the high school building, on one of the unnamed dirt streets, in the tiny village of Dillingham. The rest of the station — its listeners — is found scattered over an area larger than Ohio.

Molly works for the Fish and Game office in Dillingham but spends her lunch hours at KDLG translating news, social events, and flying doctor announcements into the language of the Eskimo. Although many speak

English, Yupik Eskimo is the first language for most.

From Dillingham, it is a fifty-minute airplane ride to the village of Togiak. Twilly is on the high school wrestling team there. His school sent him off to study KDLG for a week. By Friday, he was an old hand at broadcasting the news. Whenever Togiak wrestles in Dillingham, Twilly takes a break between matches and sends the scores home via the radio station.

The village of Manokotak has given Mr. Arkanakyak the responsibility of gathering from each resident the date upon which they were born. He then arranges the names according to dates, and delivers the list to the radio station. He does this each month, to ensure that no villager's name is omitted from the *Birthday Show*.

There is only one teacher at the Aleknagik schoolhouse. Both he and his students monitor the radio each day at recess time. If the announcer reports a temperature colder than forty-four below, the disappointed youngsters must spend their play time inside.

Virginia works at the hardware store. Each summer she complains that there are no more batteries for sale. The fishing people buy them all up. Thousands of commercial fishing vessels aim their antennae at the Dillingham station to hear State of Alaska fishing announcements, and the all-important marine weather forecasts. One woman wrote that after three months on the water, she would have gone "bananas" without the radio.

K.C. spends her day answering the KDLG telephone.

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from preceding page*

She takes hundreds of messages and announcements which arrive from crackling radio telephones found in some spots, and from pilots who hand carry notes from village to village. When the weather is bad the radio is called upon to deliver the mail. "To Bill in Koliganek: From Martha at Kanakanak Hospital . . . You are a daddy, we had a baby girl this morning. We are both fine. Love and miss you," is typical.

As the only station, people depend on radio as their primary source of news. National Public Radio programs bring the outside world closer. Alaska Public Radio Network programs help tie the listeners to other parts of the state. Local news is gathered by telephone, mail,

snow machine, the news director's airplane, bush pilots, and occasionally by sled dog.

Danial is the election supervisor in a village one hundred and fifty miles from KDLG. One day in the fall he appeared at the station to announce that Jimmy Carter had carried his town by two votes. Unconcerned that election day was not until tomorrow, Danial explained that the citizens were worried the results would not reach the radio station in time to be reported on election day. Everyone had agreed to vote a day early.

People use the bush stations as their newspaper, telephone, mail service, jukebox and bulletin board. The radio is no good unless people can use it. The work of the bush station is to make that easy.

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## HISTORY OF PUBLIC RADIO IN ALASKA

BY CHARLES M. NORTHRIP *Executive Director, Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission*

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While noncommercial broadcasting in the United States can trace its origins to the earliest turn-of-the-century experimentation in radio, public broadcasting in Alaska is a fairly new development. Several commercial broadcasting pioneers operated stations in Alaska's territorial days, but the first public station did not begin service until three years after statehood.

### THE BIRTH OF ALASKA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

KUAC, an FM station licensed to the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, signed on in September, 1962. The station began as a joint effort of the University's Departments of Speech and Drama and Electrical Engineering. It was among the first 65 stations in the US to qualify to receive support from the new Corporation for Public Broadcasting in 1969. It was also a charter member of National Public Radio.

Interest in public broadcasting on a statewide level was sparked in 1962 by the passage of the first federal assistance program for public television: the Educational Television Facilities Act. While this funding was not pursued, during the ensuing years several proposals to create an Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission were presented to the state legislature.

After the proposed legislation failed in 1967 and 1968, the governor appointed an educational broadcasting committee instead, with Charles M. Northrip of KUAC-FM as its first Executive Director. Short-term funding for the committee's work was provided by the

Department of Education and by the Rockefeller Foundation, and free office space offered by the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

In 1969, the possibilities of satellite distribution of educational material provided a higher level of visibility for the committee's work, and legislation virtually identical to that which failed in 1967 and 1968 passed the state legislature in 1970. Funding for the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission began in July, 1970.

### PRECEDENTS FOR STATE SUPPORT

The need for radio service in Alaska's rural areas was apparent to the new Commission. In December of 1969, still working as a governor-appointed committee, they had begun discussion of an idea for a public radio station in Bethel to serve the vast and sparsely-populated area of southwest Alaska. By April of 1970, a nonprofit corporation had been formed to act as licensee for the new station, the governor's office had requested state funds for a portion of the equipment costs, and Northrip had submitted an application to the FCC for an AM radio station construction permit and an application to the new, broadened Educational Broadcasting Facilities Program (EBFP) for federal assistance in the purchase of equipment for the station.

The creation of a nonprofit corporation to serve as the licensee for the Bethel station set an important precedent for the way in which state support for public broadcasting would be accomplished in Alaska. State

funds for equipping and operating stations were to be appropriated to the new Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission (AEBC). The creating legislation, however, prohibited the AEBC from being the owner, operator or licensee of any station or production facility unless "no other competent contracting agency exists."

The formation of the community nonprofit corporation in Bethel created an entity which could receive funds for the station from the state. More importantly, such a corporation — formed solely to operate a public station, and governed by a board of local people whose primary interest was the service such a station could provide to the local area — set a pattern for similar developments in other communities, and provided the solid community-oriented base that is now one of the outstanding features of public broadcasting in Alaska.



### A DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT

With the state legislature's commitment to public broadcasting in 1970, the ensuing decade was a period of extraordinary development. KYUK in Bethel went on the air in May, 1971. The station used an AM frequency to cover the many villages within a hundred-mile radius of the transmitter. News and other programs both in the Yupik Eskimo dialect and in English were among the unique aspects of its program schedule.

Plans were also starting for other stations. In early 1971, a meeting arranged by the Alaska Educational Broadcasting Commission in Kotzebue resulted in the formation of a local committee to explore ways to bring public radio to that area. KOTZ, patterned on the Bethel organizational model, signed on in March, 1973.

*First "Community" Stations.* Capital Community Broadcasting in Juneau was incorporated in 1972 and was the first local nonprofit corporation to offer membership in the governance of its proposed station to the general public. In early 1974, KTOO-FM began operating at a power of 10 watts. The station became CPB-qualified in 1977, increased its power, and upgraded its studio facilities in 1978.

In 1974, the Alaska legislature took the initiative in station development and appropriated start-up funds to the AEBC for two new stations, without a request from the Commission. K'RW in Barrow went on the air at 10,000 watts in December, 1975 and KMX1-FM in

Kodiak began broadcast at 3000 watts in June of 1976. Kodiak Public Broadcasting, Inc. operated as a membership nonprofit corporation, while Silak-Kuagvik Communications, Inc. in Barrow followed the Bethel and Kotzebue model of a nonmembership local corporation.

The only exceptions to the rule that Alaska public stations are owned by local nonprofit corporations are KUAC, the university station in Fairbanks, and the Dillingham public radio station. KDLG-AM is owned by the Dillingham City School District and operates at 5000 watts. Since its inception, however, the station has had a community advisory board to oversee its programming to the Bristol Bay area. The station began broadcasting in July of 1975, with a grant from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Its operating costs are now partially supported by the Commission, much as is the case with all other public stations in the state.

*Continued Growth.* The most rapid period of growth has been in the last five years, with eight new public stations beginning operations.

- KRBD in Ketchikan signed on in May, 1976 as a ten-watt local membership-supported operation, and increased power to 7000 watts in 1979.
- KSTK in Wrangell began in July, 1977 as another ten-watt FM based on the KTOO model, and raised its power to 3000 watts in 1979.
- Petersburg's KFSK signed on in August, 1977.
- KSKA, the 3000-watt station of Aurora Community Broadcasting in Anchorage, signed on a year later.
- Katchemak Bay Broadcasters in Homer put 5000-watt KBB1-AM on the air in 1979.
- Lynn Canal Broadcasting, a membership nonprofit corporation, started KHNS in Haines at 3000 watts in the fall of 1980.
- KSKO, Kuskokwim Public Broadcasting's 5000-watt station in McGrath, began broadcast in July, 1981.
- KCAW, owned by Raven Radio, is scheduled to sign on in Sitka at 10,000 watts at the start of 1982.

### STATE SUPPORT GUARANTEED

In 1980, the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission (the AEBC became the APBC in 1976), instituted its "Essential Service Level" formula for providing public stations with operating support. The ESL formula guarantees that the APBC will request sufficient funds for each station, so that when those funds are combined with all other sources of station income, each station will meet all Corporation for Public Broadcasting qualification criteria.

With almost all Alaska population centers served by public broadcasting, the APBC is now concentrating on providing translator or repeater service to those areas not yet served. The Commission is also committed to maintaining its ESL funding standard for all existing full-service stations.

"The most important thing that the Alaska Public Radio Network can accomplish is to decentralize the way information is disseminated in Alaska," says APRN Executive Director Marcia Alvar. "For years, most of the news in the state came from Anchorage and Juneau. The Alaska Public Radio Network, and its daily thirty-minute news program *Alaska News Nightly*, represent the first time that communities from all over the state can speak for themselves, through the member stations, on issues and ideas of importance to local communities."

Alaskans with one another. APRN has also helped the stations concentrate more closely on coverage of local events, since they can rely on program material from their sister stations, fed through the network, to cover part of their daily program schedule. Stations contribute programs to APRN without monetary compensation.

#### HISTORY OF ALASKA PUBLIC RADIO NETWORK

APRN's first broadcasts were in 1975, when Elaine Mitchell and others of Juneau station KTOO-FM broadcast live coverage of the Alaska state legislature. These broadcasts continued in various forms for several years. In November of 1976, APRN first broadcast statewide election coverage, using feeds from around the state. After receiving funding from the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission in 1977, the Network did the first live two-way hearing from the Alaska state legislature. APRN also began feeding National Public Radio and other state programs to stations on a regular basis.

For the next year, programming consisted largely of NPR feeds, although APRN continued the tradition of election coverage with live broadcasts on both primary and general election nights in 1978. That year also marked the debut of *Capital Connection*, a daily legislative coverage news program.

Early in 1979, discussion began in earnest about producing a daily, statewide APRN news and public affairs program. There was much debate about what type of news programming was desired. Some stations wanted on-the-hour coverage; some a daily, in-depth program. In the summer of 1979, stations met and opted for the daily, in-depth format.

#### PRESENT INTERCONNECTION; FUTURE PLANS

APRN and member stations are presently interconnected by a 3Khz circuit leased from Alascom at a cost of approximately \$34,000 per year. The audio quality of this interconnection is, quite simply, wretched — one of the reasons for the excitement over the development of satellite interconnection.

In 1980, the Alaska legislature appropriated \$165,000 for a satellite uplink. Ten of the fifteen Alaska public stations already have downlinks. Funding received from the federal Facilities Program will complete satellite interconnection and APRN will be on satellite in the summer of 1982.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Alaska Public Radio Network is unique in this country. It is one of only four state public radio networks providing daily news coverage. It is the only network making such an extensive use of independent station-based, non-network reporters for a large percentage of its material. It covers live events around the state when they happen, and truly gives the stations in "the bush" a chance to be one of the "Voices of Alaska."



## VOICES OF ALASKA— APRN

BY BRUCE THERIAULT

*President, Alaska Public Radio Network*

Alaska Public Radio Network is really a cooperative. It is governed by a board of directors elected by the fifteen member stations, and operated on a daily basis by a four-person staff. A committee structure helps with decision-making, including an active Program Advisory Committee consisting of program and news directors from the stations.

APRN is funded by the stations, which pass through a portion of their grants from the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission to operate the network. Its programming comes from all its stations.

Since *Alaska News Nightly* went on the air in 1979, there has been a continuing extra effort to ensure that a significant portion of the program comes from the local stations. Stations have contributed over 1100 pieces to *Alaska News Nightly* during each of the two years the program has been on the air — around 40% of the program's content.

*Alaska News Nightly*, and the other cooperative programming of APRN — live coverage of news, sports and cultural events — has done much to acquaint

# TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

BY JON NEWSTROM  
News Director, KCAW, Sitka

According to the US census, Alaska's population is a mere 400,000, with almost half of that number living in Anchorage. Only four out of the fifteen stations in the Alaska Public Radio Network are in communities of over 10,000. Excluding these four, the stations have an average of under 4,000 potential listeners.

Those small communities are what makes reporting in Alaska interesting, and the fact that only four out of fifteen have roads to them makes reporting in Alaska unique. Without distraction of a road to any place other than where you are, the town becomes close. For news reporters, too close for comfort.

In early November, almost forty reporters from the fifteen APRN stations attended a weekend workshop entitled *Reporting in a Small Town: Too Close for Comfort*. This seminar was held in Bethel, a "bush" community of about 3,000 people on the Kuskokwim River. Much like an NFCB National Conference, we held sessions in legal problems of reporting and the basics of journalism. Unlike participants at a national conference, however, we had all heard each other on *Alaska News Nightly*.

Ted Hall, publisher of the *Rainy Lake Chronicle* in Rainier, Minnesota (population 250 or so), led the first discussion. His viewpoint as a reporter working in a small town provided a perspective we all needed.

How do you report that your friend and neighbor made a fool of himself, without making him angry and yet reporting the truth? "With the skill that won him the Navy Cross as a World War II fighter pilot, the father of the bride untangled himself from her train."

And how do you deal with the problem of reporting on a small town government? Often the city council member who complains about your news is the one who delivers oil to your house on cold winter nights — or your doctor, landlord, accountant or best friend.

The long-term commitment and understanding of the people and the area in which the reporter is working was stressed by Tom Richards, former editor of Alaska's only Native newspaper. He and Bill McCaughan of the University of Alaska conducted a simulation game on village reporting. The exercise brought up important considerations for small town reporters in Alaska — Native stereotypes in the media, and the necessity of sensitivity at the station to Native and rural issues.

Also joining reporters in Bethel was Bob Rhodes of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Rhodes' Northern Service covers three million square miles, with four regional production centers feeding repeaters.

There are notable similarities in these two northern services, the CBC and APRN. The geographic size of Rhodes' area dwarfs even Alaska; the natives of the Arctic areas are direct relatives of Alaska natives. Some of the Alaskan stations are programming in Eskimo dialects, as are most of the Northern Service stations. Small towns in Alaska sometimes resent stations hiring Outsiders; Rhodes has the same problem.

At it for a few more years, the CBC provides APRN with valuable examples. When Rhodes sends reporters to a village, he sends three. One is an English speaker, and two speak various Native dialects. When they return to the production center, bilingual stories are prepared.

In Alaska, the public news stations are much more important than in other parts of the country, because they are the sole service . . . and not one of a bunch of stations on the band. They're the only place to go!

The CBC spends a considerable amount of time looking to the future and planning programs to prepare people for changes the future will bring. That idea caught hold in Alaska. At a recent teleconference meeting of the APRN Program Advisory Committee, a project was started in which each station will host a town meeting or call-in program. The topic: the future of Alaska. These meetings or programs will be edited to fifteen half-hour programs which will be carried by APRN, followed by a statewide call-in program.

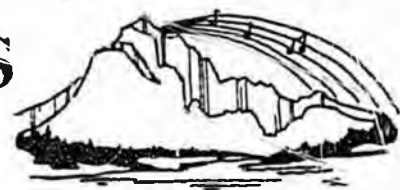
Programming ideas weren't the only ones that the Alaskan reporters took away from their meeting with Rhodes. The CBC has started a program of training local people instead of hiring "carpetbaggers." Of course, not every one is from the local area, but when they hire someone from the Outside, they don't ask if they want to *live* in the community, but if they want to *die* there.

The Bethel workshop was the beginning of what we hope will be a long history of cooperation between the CBC and APRN. A Whitehorse production staff will probably attend the All-Alaska Symposium (an NFCB regional meeting) in Petersburg this winter. Alaskans will probably attend a workshop in Mackenzie as well.

*Too Close for Comfort* was organized by Marcia Alvar, APRN's Executive Director. It was the first time the network's reporters had been able to meet as a group to discuss the uniqueness of their work. "In Alaska," notes Alvar, "the public news stations are much more important than in other parts of the country, because they are the sole service . . . and not one of a bunch of stations on the band. They're the only place to go!"

# COMMUNITY RADIO KHNS

BY DEBRA J. SCHNABEL *Manager, KHNS, Haines*




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... if your idea of community radio means an alternative to the commercial sound, it would be misleading to describe KHNS as community radio. KHNS is the alternative to *NO* radio.

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The truth of the matter is that when a group of hams got together in 1978 to talk about a radio station for the community of Haines, they didn't have in mind community radio as we know it now.

In fact, the idea of "going public" was considered only after realizing the grim fact that the group could not guarantee the FCC that a privately-owned station (a recurring dream for 25 years) could survive a year in a city of 1900 people and two grocery, two hardware and four liquor stores. And what finally forced the timely decision to incorporate as a public, non-profit corporation was personal reaction to the rumor that a religious group had designs for the local air waves.

"Going public" broadened the financial base and the service area for Lynn Canal Broadcasting. The Alaska legislature agreed to fund the radio project on the condition that the community of Skagway — isolated by fifteen miles of fjord, population 750 — also be served by the signal and the programming. Service to Klukwan, a native village of 250 people located 22 miles north on the Highway, must also be provided.

Today, having spent 48 months, \$309,500 in state funds and \$142,750 in NTIA funds, KHNS is broadcasting the gamut of information and entertainment programming that is expected of community radio, to 3,000 people, with 3,000 watts.

But if your idea of community radio means an alternative to the commercial sound, it would be misleading to describe KHNS as community radio. KHNS is the alternative to *no* radio. And because of that, we must exercise a degree of discipline not usually found in community radio.

KHNS sounds different than most community radio stations because we are not alternative radio. As such, we must be accessible to the broad base of the community for at least a part of each day. We feel strongly, however, that we should not sacrifice service to specialized needs in the attempt to achieve accessibility.

We chose to make the daytimes the more broadly accessible listening time. We play a cross of popular, rock and country music during the weekdays, and rotate short-format features of special interest within

the program format. The entire programming puzzle maintains maximum audience flow from one program to another. Produced promotional and public service announcements are integrated throughout the entire program schedule, much like commercials are placed in the commercial format.

The KHNS community, collectively, is fairly typical of Alaskan communities of its size and larger. (Come to think of it, that's not more than 25 places.) The white/native ratio is probably about 8:1. Generally, the economy is still controlled by a conservative element that immigrated to Alaska following World War I. Since the '60s, Alaskan communities have seen an influx of younger, politically liberal pioneers. They escaped the cities and came to Alaska, just as the state was opening up to large-scale resource development. They came seeking alternatives, and they have influenced the communities they live in by forcing an assessment of values. This has often meant political struggle.

Many community radio stations are an outgrowth of that struggle, and they come to represent alternative values within the community. But stations such as KHNS must embody that struggle, and act as a cohesive force. They must react to the natural tendency of the community to split into factions. And they must avoid becoming a polarizing force themselves.

A community radio station in this situation must be deliberate in every choice it makes. KHNS must be careful to balance the collective consciousness of the community in its administration and its programming. The staff (local hire, but professional, please) must collectively represent the communities' values.

Of course we heed the individuals. The mayor dismisses *Folk Tradition* as two hours of music no one *ever* heard before. Someone else believes that a "public" station shouldn't feature popular or image artists at all. One hears too much, and then not enough, classical music. A listener wants to do away with the local *Evening Report* and hear "that other half hour of *All Things Considered*," while a corporate director is contemplating doing away with *All Things Considered* because he thinks it is not. She wants Mother Jones; he, William F. Buckley.

But the emphasis is always the community. Essentially, KHNS is just another community member, but one that reflects all community members on some facet. And in that way, within that concentrated discipline, we take on a life of our own. We are community radio KHNS.

Alaska provides a model for state support and nurturing of citizen-controlled and -programmed radio. It is an exciting place to be.

BY RICH McCLEAR

Manager, KCAW, Sitka

Alaska is a state of many very unique local communities, with a lot of very different problems, needs and strengths – not to mention climates, languages and cultures. These communities stretch over four time zones in an area which, if superimposed over a map of the US, would reach from Atlanta, Georgia to International Falls, Minnesota to Los Angeles, California. Alaska has fewer people needing access to the public broadcast media than the city of Minneapolis, but these people don't have buses or even roads to bring them to their local stations.

With the isolation of individuals and of whole communities, and the dramatic cultural differences between communities, local public broadcasting has taken on a crucial role in everyday life. As Les Robinson's article on *Bush Radio* demonstrates, radio in Alaska can be central to people's livelihood, safety, and ties with friends and community. And, as in the rest of the country, it gives citizens the opportunity to understand in detail the problems of their local communities, and encourages them to participate both in solving those problems and in celebrating their strengths.

To meet Alaskans' needs for public broadcasting, the long-range planning committee of the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission was established. In recent meetings, the committee has drawn up a planning report that will be submitted to the full Commission at the beginning of 1982. This draft report gives some indication of where public radio in Alaska may be going.

#### COVERAGE

The planning committee has called for public radio service to every community of over 25 people in the state. Each service is to be controlled by a local board of directors and supported, in part, by local financial and volunteer resources. The committee envisions three types of service to the communities.

The first class of station is the *full service regional station*, CPB-qualified and with fully-equipped studios that allow them to produce at least ten hours a week of local programming. This local programming will include local news, public affairs, music (other than local record shows), documentary and drama.

Selected programming from the full service stations will be placed on satellite to serve the second level of station, which is the *local access repeater*. The repeater will be licensed as a regular public radio station, but

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

will have a small staff of one or two, and a small local-access studio. These stations will choose programs from the full-service regional stations, and will also provide local news and access programming.

In this way, communities which cannot support full-service stations will be guaranteed some local service. As local support grows, local programming at these stations will grow also. Communities currently being proposed for this class of service are in the 600-1200 population range.

The third class of station proposed is the *translator station*. The translator will repeat one of the full-service or repeater stations for smaller, isolated communities. Some translators will be served from satellite feeds.

The planning committee has proposed the establishment of one more regional center (there are currently fifteen), seven local access repeaters and several new translators for radio by FY85. For each type of station, the community will provide at least 15% of the station's operating resources (including volunteer time). Larger communities will be asked to provide more support.

#### TRAINING

Since local citizen control is the keystone of Alaska public broadcasting, the planning committee has set board training as the highest priority. They call on the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission to offer stations the opportunity to have *board training workshops*, funded by the Commission and held in the station's community, and to develop board training materials for all stations.

As its second priority, the Commission will assist in funding one *statewide training workshop* and one *training resource "round robin"* person to visit stations each year. The workshops are to train staff, and the round robins are to train both staff and volunteers at their own stations.

Both the workshops and the round robins, while funded by the Commission, are to be planned and controlled by the stations themselves.

The third priority set in the draft report is to aid stations in providing a *match for the women's and minority training grants* awarded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Lower priorities call for the Commission to respond to other training proposals from the stations if funds are available.

*Continued on next page*

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

*Continued from preceding page*

## PROGRAMMING

The nature of Alaska public radio is local, and the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission is prohibited by law from being directly involved with programming. The long-range planning committee thus focused on assisting the stations' local programming efforts, and set two long-range objectives.

The first is to *provide each full-service station with the resources to produce at least ten hours of local programming a week*, excluding record programs. The second is to set up a *program fund* to enable stations and producers to create programs for regional, state-wide and national distribution. By FY85, this fund would contribute 25% of what the stations themselves spend on programming.

One of the goals of the program fund would be to support new ideas and experimental programs. The draft committee report states, "APBC funds . . . must be free of any conditions that would limit programming freedom. Program producers should be able to "fail" without severe consequences."

## CONCLUSIONS: AN EXCITING PLACE TO BE

These plans are still in draft form. They have not yet been presented to the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission, or to the governor and legislature. The long-range planning report is a document produced by the APBC staff, and a committee consisting of three of the nine APBC commissioners and four station managers. However, it is based on what is already in place in Alaska.

This state, more than any other, supports the idea of community radio. With only two exceptions (one university and one school district), our stations are controlled by local boards of directors, most elected by members. One-third of the stations have Native Alaskans in control of their boards. Most stations make extensive use of volunteers on the air.

This system developed because it was state policy to develop community radio. Already, Alaska has fifteen regional centers, with one more planned. The first local access repeater has been funded by the legislature, and the APBC has been involved in funding staff training.

Alaska provides a model for state support and nurturing of citizen-controlled and -programmed radio. It is an exciting place to be.



With the isolation of individuals and of whole communities, and the dramatic cultural differences between communities, local broadcasting has taken on a crucial role in everyday life. Radio in Alaska can be central to people's livelihood, safety, and ties with friends and community.

*NFCB Participant Members in Alaska include KCAW (Sitka), KFSK (Petersburg), KMXT (Kodiak), KRBD (Ketchikan) and KTOO (Juneau).*

*NFCB Associate Members are Alaska Public Radio Network, Educational Media Services (Fairbanks), KDLG (Dillingham), KHNS (Haines), KOTZ (Kotzebue), KSKA (Anchorage), KUAC (Fairbanks), KYUK (Bethel), Media Too (Anchorage) and Western Media Concepts (Anchorage).*

7  
Comments, September 24, 1981

Rodger Davis to the House Labor and Commerce Committee

Representing: Executone of Alaska, ACI Office Systems, EOA Services, Member of the Office Systems Group.

Background: Former Branch Marketing Support Manager for Xerox in Alaska.

Present President of Executone of Alaska, Inc. Alaska's largest supplier of non-utility Telecommunications Equipment.

Present Officer and Board Member of ACI Office Products -- a broad based Word Processing, Data Processing, and Office Products Company.

Board Member in the recently founded EOA Services, Inc., a Data Networking Company.

Issue: The Industrial Age is over, the Information Age has just begun. Those who control the distribution of information control our age.

General: Fact: None of us would be here today, the Governor would not have issued Executive Order No. 50, and all of the wonders of Communications technology that make this hearing worthwhile would not even be an issue without competition in the Telecommunications industry.

Still today, the operating utilities control over 90% of all terminal equipment in the industry, after more than ten years of competition. In Alaska, the percentages are at least the same. This is only possible because the operating utilities have used their legislated Monopoly power to stifle competition. These methods include predatory tariffs, disparagement, Customer Harassment, interference with Monopoly services to customers using competitive equipment, and unsubstantiated reports of Market Sharing between utility parties. In spite of this, competition with the utilities continues because the goods and services being provided are needed in the Market Place. The Legislature will have to play a key role in ensuring survival of competition against incredible pressure to eliminate it by the utilities.

On Items 4,5,9,10, we are not qualified to testify and defer to those who are.

COMMENTS: Item 1: Is there a danger of Government crowding out private business? -- absolutely. All business exists in Alaska within a very confined market. The State represents over 20% of our firm's business, and is the single largest potential customer for four out of five telecommunications projects that we now have in development. Any direct action by the State can and will have a major impact on our business.

Generally, State actions are well intentioned, but ill-informed. Two examples came to my attention in the past week:

1. The Department of Community and Regional Affairs reacting to reports of high construction costs in Iliamna, purchased for the village heavy equipment, virtually running the existing contractor out of business.
2. The same Department, reacting to high transportation costs for goods brought into the village of Pedro Bay, purchased for the village a new heavy truck to transport goods, potentially destroying the business of a family providing the service for 50 years.

In both cases, the existing businesses have to buy their own equipment, pay the absurd present interest rates to suppliers, and pay taxes. Their new competitors do not.

Whether the State sets up other competitors not burdened by the costs of doing business or compete themselves, they can be devastating.

Item 3: Is there a danger of a telecommunications monopoly developing? -- absolutely. Pacific Power and Light, doing business in Alaska as Alascom, or Telecom, or Pacom, is committed to being the Bell System of Alaska. While they gobble up small independent utilities, their monopoly-generated revenues cross-subsidize their penetration of unregulated markets.

In areas where their Pacom Division, (the Division that sells and services station equipment), could aggressively compete with local utilities, they have approached the utilities with offers to curtail their efforts to compete in exchange for the utilities' support before the Commission of PP&L's efforts to stifle competition for long-distance services. This agreement does not, however, curtail Pacom from competing where the customer calls them in, or in competition for existing non-utility supplied customers where they sell at rates that no company not receiving Monopoly revenues from other sources could sell at and still survive. Interestingly, the only two utilities who agreed to this arrangement, that we are aware of, were both government owned and operated.

Unfortunately, the utilities appear to be making headway in their efforts to help Alascom stifle long distance competition. The notification attached as Exhibit A, indicates that ATU has succeeded in making any competition in Anchorage extremely expensive.

My final comments are directed at the Alaska Public Utilities Commission. First, let me affirm my confidence in the quality of staffing of the Commission. Let me also acknowledge that they are grossly understaffed to regulate an industry changing as fast as Telecommunications. Before the FCC's deregulation order goes into effect in March of 1982, they desperately need more accounting, tariff, and legal staffing.

Beyond the staffing problems, they need to develop a policy in tune with the National recognition that new technology in a competitive environment is the best possible means of holding down the costs of services to Alaska.

While the Federal Courts have repeatedly held that utilities may not use revenues from Monopoly services to cross-subsidize or hold down artificially the cost of services where they have competition, the APUC has passively allowed it to go on and on.

They appear to be taking the position that somehow Alaska is different from the rest of the world and competition really won't work here. The justification has been that, by allowing artificially high long distance rates and exceptional revenues pass through from Alascom to the local utilities, they are holding down the cost of local services. In reality, the costs for almost all local services have gone up substantially in the past year, except those where the utilities have competition; that is, Business Telephone Services. In effect, the commission allows local users to cross-subsidize business telephone expense.

Item 6: The State can dramatically improve its data transmission system. Competing sources of long-line transmission offer the State better networking capabilities. Simply unifying all "handshake" formats would have an immense benefit. The Department of Administration is presently attempting to find a way of insuring that all word processing, data processing, and data transmission systems are compatible.

Item 7: What kinds of new technology should the State be using? There is no one answer. The best system is a correct mixture of present and developing technologies based on the specific need of the project or the department. The risk is that the State will hire a consultant who is high on one technology and will make a decision based on too little input. Equally risky is the possibility that no short-term decisions will be made, while the State studies and studies its options, looking for one non-existent right decision.

Item 8: The Division of Telecommunications definition establishes State Policy on Telecommunications. Broad guidelines should first be set by the Legislature.

The Division of Telecommunications Systems; specifically is tasked with design, acquisition, and management of systems for agencies. In eleven years of working with the State in Systems Design, I've observed a four-phase developmental cycle in single task divisions:

- 1) The last-vendor-out-of-the-door phase.
- 2) The expert-consultant phase.
- 3) The don't-do-anything-until-we-clean-up-this-mess phase.
- 4) The active-solicitation-of-vendor-consulting phase.

If this Division can operate based on establishing very broad guidelines within which competition can offer choices, it will be successful. If it gets into actual specifications writing, two things will happen:

- 1) The State will begin buying technology that is challenging to the designers, whether or not it is right for the agencies applications or cost effective.

- 2) The State will pick a technology that it is comfortable with and stagnate with it.

There is no question that most agencies need some assistance in planning the office of the future. The new Division of Telecommunications systems can fill a vital role, if they actively encourage competition for the State's business and keep in mind there is no one answer.

Item 2: Below I've noted some provisions that we encourage be adopted as part of the State's Telecommunications Policy:

- 1) Competition is healthy for the industry.
- 2) The State of Alaska can create entire markets with its decisions.
- 3) The State has a responsibility to actively prosecute illegal efforts on the part of the Utility Monopoly to stifle competition.
- 4) The State should be a subscriber to services, not a provider of services.

Thank you.



# Anchorage Telephone Utility

600 EAST 38TH AVENUE, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503

TELEPHONE (907) 277-7561

Telex 090-25-100



Owned by the  
Municipality  
of Anchorage

George M. Sullivan,  
Mayor

September 21, 1981

Executone of Alaska, Inc.  
601 West 41st Avenue, #101  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Gentlemen:

The Anchorage Telephone Utility has received approval from the Alaska Public Utilities Commission to tariff an access charge to be assessed to nontoll users who have access to local exchange service of ATU, but are not physically located within the exchange area. We wish to take this opportunity to make you aware of this newly tariffed rate and explain the types of services to which the access charge will apply.

The charge will apply to Other Common Carriers who wish access to ATU exchange service for the purpose of offering toll equivalent service to their customers. The rate for Other Common Carrier access to local exchange service is \$265 per month.

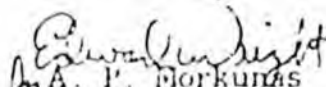
An access charge will also apply to services furnished to customers who wish nontoll access to the local exchange from an area beyond the local exchange boundaries. This type of service includes, but is not limited to: (A) Foreign Exchange Service (FX), (B) Off Premise Stations (OPX) when the stations are located in an exchange which is beyond the boundaries of the exchange in which the main station or PBX is located and the OPX has nontoll access to the local exchange network, (C) Tie Lines (TL) between a customer's Private Branch Exchanges when the PBX's are not located in the same exchange area, (D) Common Control Switching Arrangements (CCSA) when any point of the arrangement is located beyond local exchange boundaries and the system has nontoll access to the local exchange network.

The rate for exchange access for FX, OPX, TL, and CCSA services is \$99 per month.

We refer to the access rate as ESIS, Exchange System used by Interexchange Services. We are informing you of the ESIS charges, as some of your customers may currently have chargeable circuits and question you about their Utility statement. Any ESIS chargeable circuit arrangements should be reported to the Utility. We hope this information is useful to you and should you have any questions in reference to ESIS, please feel free to contact our office.

Cordially,

ANCHORAGE TELEPHONE UTILITY

  
A. P. Morkunas  
Manager-Customer Services

(2)

# E.D. & D., INC.

ELECTRONIC DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT, INC.  
P.O. BOX 454 - HAINES, ALASKA 99827 - (907) 766-2337

September 18, 1981

Rep. Terry Martin  
Chairman, Labor & Commerce  
Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
House Labor & Commerce Committee  
221 West 6TH Avenue  
Suite 250  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Martin,

We are writing to you regarding your memo of 8/16/81. We would like to thank you for your interest in letting us know about the Telecommunications business.

We probably won't be able to attend but are certainly interested and have some input.

We would like to identify ourselves and give you some background. We currently own and operate Two (2) small Cable Systems. 1 in Haines, Alaska and 1 in Skagway, Alaska. Both systems are capable of 5 channel operation, except Ch. 3 & 9 in Haines which are inoperable because of State Translator's and Channel 13 in Skagway. E. D. & D. Inc., is a Design Company and these Cable Systems were purchased in part as a Test Bed for various systems. We are also a Communications Company. Land Mobile, Marine, Security, Consumer Products, TVRO Systems, Cable TV Components, Custom Electronic Systems, Sales & Service of all items. We do the Engineering and Maintenance for CHNS FM 102.3 Radio Station in Haines and handle Alternate Energy Systems.

We would like to address all items from your memo.

- 1) Yes. Though it is difficult to assess loss of revenue due to the many factors involved (people moving, general economic conditions, etc.) we appear to be down \$1500-4000 per year or 50% of seasonal people we know come to town every summer and hook up to Cable, but now have Antennas on Travel Trailers and can pick up State Programming out of the air. Residents disconnect and buy TV

Antennas and this is enough to slow down the development of these Two (2) Cable Systems. The rate in Haines recently increased approximately 18% over the price which has been charged for approximately the last 10 years. The increase is due in part to the competition imposed by the State of Alaska. This is a modest increase in that the hours of Programming have increased 3 times what it was 10 years ago. It will be impossible to continue to provide service and upgrade systems at the current rate if the State insists on competing with us. In addition to the hard subscriber loss count we can not calculate potential loss of Advertising Revenue (lower subscriber counts - less viewers for advertising - less attractive for the advertiser.). We plan to upgrade the system for minimum of 12 TV Channels and other two way services. The state operates two (2) translators one on Channel 3 and one on Channel 9, rendering these channels unusable by us on our Cable and we understand they (The State) are planning on additional translators.

We don't know who the States TV Project is funded by but if from Oil Revenues, how is the TV Project going to be supported when the Oil Revenue is ended? What is current cost, per site and total and what is projected cost of completed system and yearly upkeep? In our opinion the State of Alaska has no business whatsoever in the Commercial TV Business. State television should be used for NEWS, Two-way Video Teleconferences for Education, Emergencies and to make Government more accessible and subjects of interest to Alaska - other than Commercial Programming could be provided. As a Taxpayer I would be willing for my taxes to be spent in this manner, not for Commercial TV, especially where this service is already provided by Private Enterprise at less cost and higher quality and volume.

- 2) Not to get involved or as little involvement as possible.
- 3) Yes. First the Small Cable systems are hit with a loss of revenue, then they have to raise their rates to compensate. People don't like the higher rates and a percentage disconnect, then the rate again must go up to compensate and a dangerous cycle is started and consumers end up with lower quantity and quality of Entertainment. This ensures that they will never gain the benefits possible over a Two-way Cable system.

- 4) The Villages should own and maintain their own Systems. A TVRO site, requires virtually no maintenance unless a physical trip by a qualified Technician is made to each site per month and the sole purpose of the trip is TVRO Maintenance. The cost should be more like \$1000.00 per year plus parts for each site. (1 trip per year) A single frequency Agile Receiver, 6 Meter TVRO Antenna System with Modulator and Mini Two-Way Cable System can be purchased for \$30,000.00-\$40,000.00 depending on size of Village. Every set would have a quality picture and no mini-transmitter would be required. The system would also have potential use as intercom and Signaling system as well as all Two-way Cable Services, up to 12 Channels can be added. The State could make the Village a loan for equipment and installation. The State would have no say in programming. (It would be decided by the Village).
- 5) Yes. While we have the money. Improve the Phone System.
- 6) As we don't know anything about how they do it now, we can not offer an opinion for improved Data Transmitting.
- 7) Without knowing the particular needs of the State we can't pick any technology unless you have a given need. However, Digital Transmission can be used for Two-way TV Transmission, but would suggest letting the very newest systems be tried and tested a year or two before purchasing.
- 8) N/A
- 9) The State should not encourage any Commercial Programming on State television. This is strictly an expense and has no possibility of generating a return on our (The Taxpayers) investment.

A word about "BUSH". We moved down from Barrow, Alaska which is probably classified "BUSH". We engineered the Cable System in Barrow during our 3 years in business on the Slope. This Cable System supplies 12 Channels of programming and Services to Barrow, Proverville and the Naval Arctic Research Lab. The Translator there is redundant, can only be picked up by a few people, and is a waste of Alaskans money. It (The Translator) only causes interference to the Cable. This Cable System has built-in two-way capabilities. Similar situations exist in many "BUSH" communities. This has all been done totally without State help at lower cost than the State's TV Project. Is this an example of responsible spending of our Oil Revenue by our State Government. According to the Juneau Paper for Week of 9/14/81 Headlines read: "Oil Revenues Shrink-State spends \$1 billion to much" How much of this is for State TV Project?

If the State insists on trying to put us (Cable Systems) out of business, We feel it is only fair we be reimbursed for each and every channel we can not use because of the State.

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you after the hearings.

Yours Truly,

*Larry E. Blackin*

Larry E. Blackin president

*Patty A. Blackin*

Patty A. Blackin Sec/Vpres.

LG:pc

CC:

Governor Hammond

Lt. Governor, Terry Miller

Deputy Commissioner, Alex Hills

Commissioner, Hudson

Congressman, Don Young

Senator, Ted Stevens

President, Alaska Cable Assoc., Mr. Bob Whatell

Society of Cable Television Engineers

F.C.C.

Alaska Public Utilities Commission

Alaska Cablevision

Alaska Television Productions

Alaskan Cable Network

Barrow Cable Television

B. C. Cable Co.

Rethel Cablevision

Frontier Color Cable

McFaw Communications

Multivisions, Ltd.

Port Lions Cable

Spectrum

Vision, Ltd.

Air Alaska

Alaska Business Newsletter

Alaska Construction & Oil

Alaska Post

Alaska Magazine

Alaska Today Report

Alaska Bulletin

Alaska Review of Social & Economic Conditions

Alaska Weekly

Anchorage Daily News

Anchorage Times

Bering Straights

Chukchi-Bering River Star

Copper Valley Views

Cordeva Times

Daily Sitka Sentinel

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CC:

Delta Paper  
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Greater Anchorage Today  
Homer News  
Juneau Empire  
Kodiak Times  
Kenai Peninsula Cheshako News  
Ketchikan Daily News  
Kodiak Daily Mirror  
Lynn Canal News  
Mukluk News  
Petersburg Pilot  
Polar Star  
Sourdough Sentinel  
Southeastern Log  
Take Me Away  
This Month in Fairbanks  
Tundra Drum  
Tundra Times  
TV Viewer  
Valdez Vanguard  
Valley Sun  
Weekly Dial  
Wrangell Sentinel  
KABN-AM  
KANI-AM  
KRAF-AM  
KFSK-FM  
KGOT-FM  
KHNS-FM  
KINY-AM  
KJEP-FM  
KJLP-AM  
KKEI-FM  
KNOV-AM  
KUAL-FM

# E.D. & D., INC.

ELECTRONIC DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT, INC.  
P.O. BOX 454 · HAINES, ALASKA 99827 · (907) 766-2337

OCTOBER 15, 1981

MR. WILLIAM J. TRICARICO  
SECRETARY, F.C.C.  
1919 M STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

RE: LOW BAND MINI-TV TRANSMITTER LICENSING

DEAR MR. TRICARICO,

THIS LETTER IS IN REGARDS TO FILES NUMBER

RPTVL810303EJ

CHANNEL 11, SKAGWAY, ALASKA 99840  
K11QE

KPTVL810303IJ

CHANNEL 7, HAINES, ALASKA 99827  
K07RF

AS PER MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MRS. PEGGY REED OF THE F.C.C., SHE ADVISED US THE LICENSING DEPARTMENT OF THE F.C.C. HAS NOT GRANTED THE ABOVE LICENSES. WE WOULD LIKE FOR YOU TO TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO READ THE ATTACHED LETTERS OF CONCERN FROM US AND DENY LOW BAND MINI-TV TRANSMITTERS IN HAINES AND SKAGWAY, ALASKA, OR FOR HAINES HAVE THE EXISTING TRANSLATOR SHUT DOWN AND MOVED ACROSS THE HILL SO THAT LUTAK INLET CAN RECEIVE THE SIGNAL AND IF ITS EDUCATIONAL LET US CONNECT DIRECT TO IT AND WE WILL SUPPLY IT FROM OUR CABLE TO THE TRANSMITTER TO THE PEOPLE OF HAINES AND SKAGWAY, ALASKA FOR FREE.

PLEASE DO NOT GET US WRONG, WE ARE FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING, ALASKAN NEWS, ALASKA PRODUCED PROGRAMS OR SPORTING EVENTS THAT WE DO NOT CARRY ON OUR SATELLITE, BUT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE STATE CAN COMPETE WITH US OR ANY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

WE FEEL THE STATE CAN REMOVE COMMERCIAL PROGRAMMING ON THE TRANSLATOR ALREADY RUNNING AND ADD THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. FOR EVERY CHANNEL THAT IS ADDED BY THE STATE ON LOW BAND MINI-TV TRANSMITTERS OVER THE VHF AIRWAYS RENDERS EACH CHANNEL UNUSABLE BY US OR ANY CABLE SYSTEM AND FOR EVERY CHANNEL THE STATE BROADCASTS ON AND WE REBROADCAST, WE HAVE TO BROADCAST ON A DIFFERENT CHANNEL ON OUR SYSTEM BECAUSE OF THE INTERFERENCE ON THE CHANNEL THEY BROADCAST ON WHICH CAUSES US TO PROVIDE LESS SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS, COSTS US MONEY EVERY MONTH, CAUSES OUR RATES TO GO UP DUE IN PART FROM LOSS OF REVENUE AND COMPETITION FROM THE STATE AND THIS AMOUNTS TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS FOOTING THE BILL FOR PROGRAMMING THAT WE ALREADY SUPPLY ON OUR CHANNELS, AND THE STATE CHANNEL RUNS TIL THE EARLY MORNING HOURS WHILE THE PEOPLE ARE SLEEPING AND THIS IS A WASTE OF ALASKANS MONEY. ALL WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS HELP OUR COMMUNITY AND IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE WE NEED TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT.

WE HAVE STARTED A PETITION IN OUR TOWNS AND WILL FORWARD TO YOU IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

YOURS TRULY,

*Patty A. Glackin*  
PATTY A. GLACKIN

PG

CC: MR. JERRY MARTIN, REPRESENTATIVE ✓  
MR. ALEX HILLS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
GOVERNOR HAMMOND

PAGE 3 CONTINUED

MR. TED STEVENS, SENATOR

MR. BILL RAY, SENATOR

MR. JIM DUNCAN, REPRESENTATIVE

MR. MIKE MILLER, REPRESENTATIVE

MR. JAMES E. SUTHERLAND, F.C.C. FIELD OFFICE

MR. WILLIARD R. NICHOLS, F.C.C. CHIEF OF CABLE TV

MRS. MARJORIE S. REED, GENERAL COUNCIL FOR F.C.C.

MR. MARK FOWLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE F.C.C.

MR. JON HALLIWILL, MAYOR, HAINES, ALASKA (CITY)

MR. BOB HENDERSON, MAYOR, HAINES, ALASKA (BOROUGH)

Terry, This is a draft policy for your info.

*Alex Hills*

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

POUCH C  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

POLICY STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

The State of Alaska presently operates low power television transmitters in a large number of Alaskan communities. These "mini-TV" transmitters are, in many cases, a part of the Satellite TV project, which carries commercial entertainment programming. Recently, we have installed a number of mini-TV transmitters in connection with the LEARN ALASKA educational television project. Thus, a community may have two mini-TV transmitters, one for entertainment and one for education.

*What happens when Private provides satellite*

Some of the State's mini-TV transmitters operate in communities that are also served by cable television (CATV) systems. Although CATV systems are supposed to be closed systems and not susceptible to interference, signals from mini-TV transmitters sometimes penetrate the CATV systems and cause interference. This interference is not generally caused by any defect in the mini-TV signal, and, from a legal perspective, the State has no obligation to remedy such interference.

POLICY

Although there is <sup>?</sup> *ethical* no legal obligation to do so, the Department of Administration will endeavor to take necessary steps to eliminate or reduce interference wherever it is both possible and practical to do so. The Department will cooperate with CATV companies where there is the potential for television interference and will strive for solutions as detailed below.

Where no CATV system exists in a community, both entertainment and educational television will be delivered on VHF\* channels wherever possible.

In communities which are served by CATV, entertainment television will be delivered on VHF channels wherever possible, with CATV distribution of the same signal on the same VHF channels. Delivery of education will be by the following options, listed in order of decreasing preference:

- 1) Mini-TV on VHF channel, CATV on same VHF channel
- 2) Mini-TV on UHF\* channel, CATV on same UHF channel
- 3) Mini-TV on UHF channel, CATV on mid-band\* channel

In each community, the most preferable (lowest numbered) option which is compatible with both the capability and usage of the CATV system will be used.

W. R. HUDSON, COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

October 23, 1981

\* NOTE:

VHF Channels: channels numbered 2 thru 13

VHF Channels: channels numbered 14 thru 83

Mid-band channels: channels lettered A thru I



# INTERIOR REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.



P. O. BOX 2120 • FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707  
PHONE (907) 456-3978

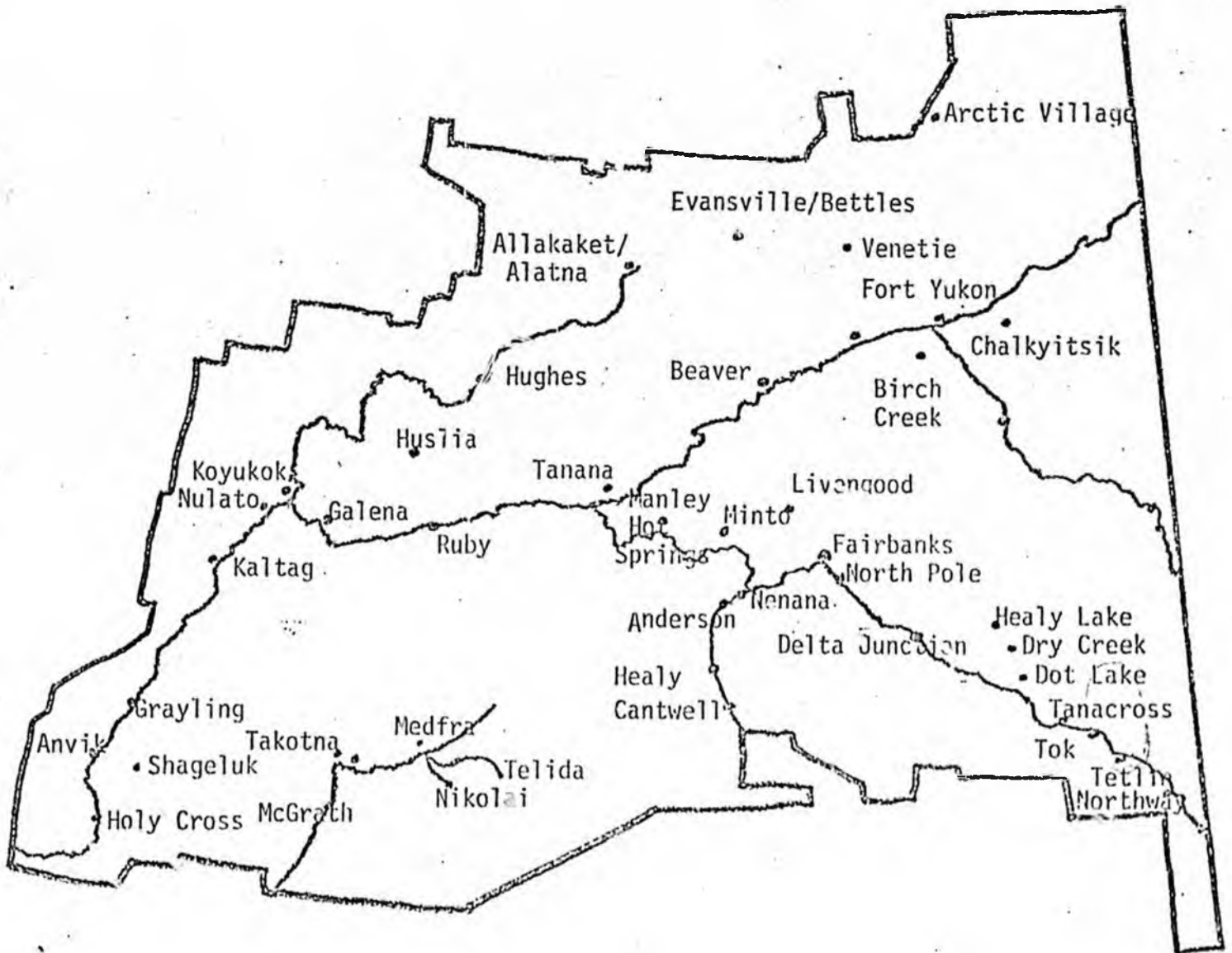
October 28, 1981

## COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES \*

1. Expansion of the microwave system along the Parks Highway to complete the Anchorage to Fairbanks system.
2. Placing a base station on Reindeer Hill site near Cantwell for 155.160 State IMS Communication.
3. Identify and acquire a site for a microwave link between Delta and Paxson.
4. Priority to complete the microwave system between Harding Lake and the Border.
5. Extending communications along the pipeline haul road, including 155.160.
6. Expand dispatch capabilities in Tok to ensure 24 hour coverage.
7. Assist communities within the region with the development or expansion of central dispatch capabilities.
8. Ensure back-up power source for communications in communities.
9. Explore the feasibility of no-charge emergency phone use on pay phones. Explore with A.P.U.C. the possibility of expansion of 911 system.
10. Expansion of console at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, to include Civil Defense, outlying subregional clinics.
11. Develop telemetry capability from outlying clinics and ambulances to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

\* These are not numbered in priority.

INTERIOR REGION



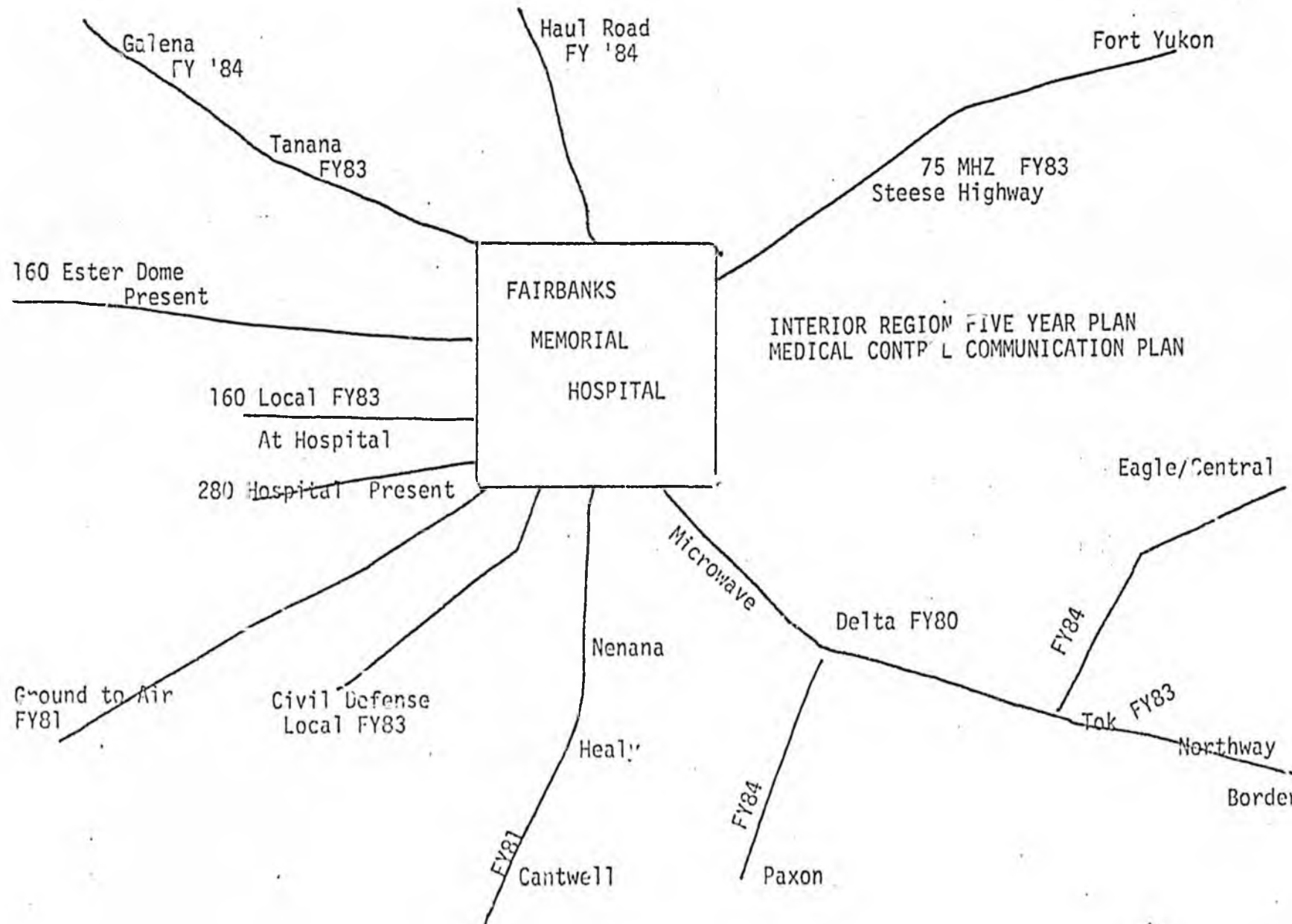
100 MILES

Scale

Five year Medical Control Plan  
for Interior Region

Once emergency access and response is assured, the most important goal that the communications system can meet is that of providing medical control for prehospital patient care when needed.

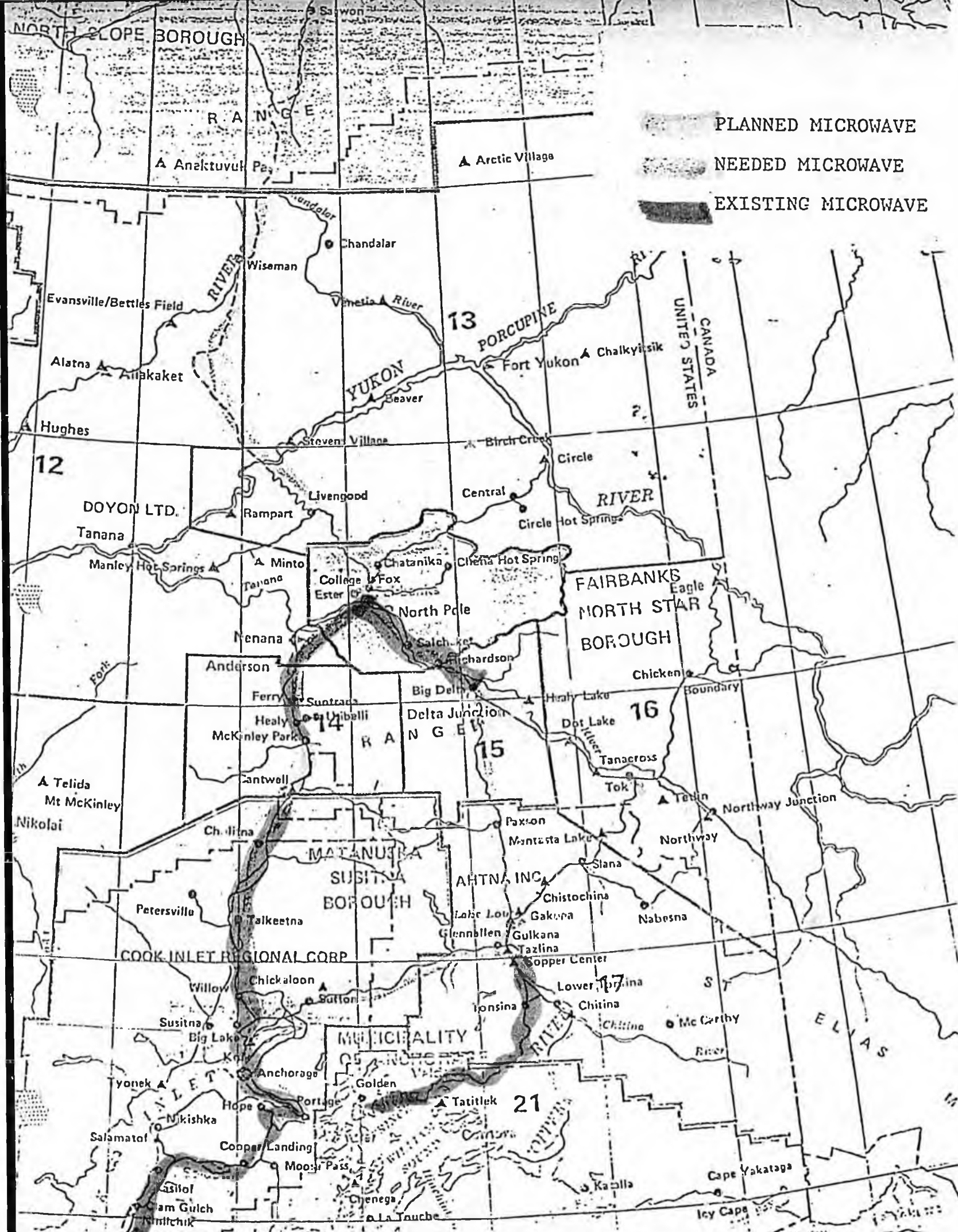
On the following diagram, the status of the Interior Region EMS Council's five year plan to improve medical control throughout the region, and the proposed implementation plan for the segments not yet in place are shown.



173

COMMUNICATIONS

THIS REQUEST WOULD ALLOW BACK BONE  
SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AS SHOWN IN THE  
~~BLACK~~ <sup>BLUE</sup> COLOR. THIS WOULD COMPLETE THE  
MICROWAVE SYSTEM FROM FAIRBANKS TO  
ANCHORAGE AND POINTS SOUTH AS WELL  
AS FROM DELTA TO THE BORDER. THESE  
ARE THE MOST TRAVELED ROADS.



[Dotted Pattern] PLANNED MICROWAVE  
 [Stippled Pattern] NEEDED MICROWAVE  
 [Solid Black] EXISTING MICROWAVE

NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

R. A. N. G. E.

▲ Anaktuvuk Pass

▲ Arctic Village

13

PORCUPINE RIVER

YUKON RIVER

CANADA  
UNITED STATES

Evansville/Bettles Field

Alatna ▲ Atiakaket

▲ Hughes

12

DOYON LTD.

Tanana

Manley Hot Springs ▲

▲ Minto

College of Fox

Chatanika

Chena Hot Spring

FAIRBANKS

NORTH STAR

BOROUGH

North Pole

Menana

Anderson

Ferry

Healy

McKinley Park

14

R. A. N. G. E.

15

Big Delta

Delta Junction

16

TANACROSS

▲ Telida  
Mt McKinley

Nikolai

Chitina

MATANUSKA

SUSITNA

BOROUGH

AHTNA INC.

Lake Lou

Glennallen

Gulkana

Tazlina

Sopper Center

Paxson

Mantasta Lake

Slana

Chistochina

Gakara

Nabesna

COOK INLET REGIONAL CORP

Petersville

Talkeetna

Willow

Susitna

Big Lake

Yonek ▲

Nikishka

Salamatof

Castro

Sam Gulch

Anchoraga

Hope

Copper Landing

Moosi Pass

Chenega

MUNICIPALITY

ANCHORAGE

Golden

Portage

Tatitlek

Chena

La Touche

21

Lower Chitina

Chitina

Chitina River

Lower Chitina

Chitina

Chitina River

McCarthy

Chitina

Chitina

Chitina

Chitina

Chitina

Cape Yakataga

Icy Cape

ELIAS

00258

VHF/MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

ALASKA HIGHWAY

1977  
Costs + 1982  
inflated  
costs at  
10% per  
year = 1982  
Total

DELTA (Junction of Alaska and Richardson Highways)

1 Microwave terminal, 2 GHz, Hot stby	21,800 +	10,900 =	32,700
1 Multiplex, 2 channels	2,000 +	1,000 =	3,000
1 Baseband bridge	800 +	400 =	1,200
1 Antenna, Microwave 6'	800 +	400 =	1,200
1 Transmission line and connectors	300 +	150 =	450
1 Installation hardware	500 +	250 =	750
	<u>26,200</u>	<u>13,100</u>	<u>39,300</u>

DOT LAKE (40 miles northwest of Tok)

1 Microwave repeater, 2 GHz, Hot stby	43,600 +	21,800 =	65,400
1 Multiplex, 6 channels	6,000 +	3,000 =	9,000
1 Alarm reporting encoder	1,700 +	850 =	2,550
1 Antenna, Microwave 8'	1,600 +	800 =	2,400
1 Antenna, Microwave 6'	800 +	400 =	1,200
1 Transmission line and connectors	600 +	300 =	900
1 Batteries and charger	4,600 +	2,300 =	6,900
1 Tower 30'	3,500 +	1,750 =	5,250
1 Installation hardware	900 +	450 =	1,350
	<u>63,300</u>	<u>31,650</u>	<u>94,950</u>

CATHEDRAL ELUFFS (12 miles west of Tanacross)

1 Microwave repeater, 2 GHz, Hot stby	43,600 +	21,800 =	65,400
1 Alarm reporting encoder	1,700 +	850 =	2,550
2 Antenna, Microwave 6'	1,600 +	800 =	2,400
1 Transmission line and connectors	600 +	300 =	900
1 Tower, 30'	3,500 +	1,750 =	5,250
1 Equipment building (10 x 12)	6,000 +	3,000 =	9,000
1 Batteries and charger	4,600 +	2,300 =	6,900
1 Installation hardware	700 +	350 =	1,050
	<u>62,300</u>	<u>31,150</u>	<u>93,450</u>

PROJECT TITLE VHF Microwave CATEGORY ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

FY 82

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

AGENCY DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY Page 3 of 10

FROM: 35b

Revised Date

PROGRAM CRIME IDENT. & APPREHENSION

VHF/MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

ALASKA HIGHWAY

69200

1977  
Costs + 1982  
inflated  
costs at  
10% per  
year = 1982  
Total

TOK (Junction of Alaska and Glenn Highways)

1 Microwave repeater, 2 GHz, Hot stby	43,500 +	21,800 =	65,400
1 Multiplex, 12 channels	12,000 +	6,000 =	18,000
1 Alarm reporting encoder	1,700 +	850 =	2,550
1 Antenna, Microwave 6'	800 +	400 =	1,200
1 Antenna, Microwave 8'	1,600 +	800 =	2,400
1 Transmission line and connector	2,600 +	2,300 =	4,900
1 Tower, 150'	6,800 +	3,400 =	10,200
1 Equipment building (10 x 12)	6,000 +	3,000 =	9,000
1 Batteries and charger	4,600 +	2,300 =	6,900
1 Installation hardware	1,800 +	900 =	2,700
	<u>81,500 +</u>	<u>41,750 =</u>	<u>123,250</u>

BEAVER CREEK (3.5 miles north of Northway Junction)

1 Microwave terminal, 2 GHz, Hot stby	21,800 +	10,900 =	32,700
1 Multiplex, 6 channels	6,000 +	3,000 =	9,000
1 Alarm reporting encoder	1,700 +	850 =	2,550
1 Antenna, Microwave 8'	1,600 +	800 =	2,400
1 Transmission line and connectors	400 +	200 =	600
1 Tower, 30'	3,500 +	1,750 =	5,250
1 Equipment building (10 x 12)	6,000 +	3,000 =	9,000
1 Batteries and charger	4,600 +	2,300 =	6,900
1 Installation hardware	700 +	350 =	1,050
	<u>46,300 +</u>	<u>23,150 =</u>	<u>69,450</u>

VHF

PROJECT TITLE VHF Microwave  
Communications Equipment

CATEGORY ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

FY 82

CONTINUATION

AGENCY DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Page 4 of 10

FROM: 35b

PROGRAM CRIME IDENT. & APPREHENSION Revised Date

COMMUNICATIONS

THIS REQUEST WOULD ALLOW BACK BONE  
SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AS SHOWN IN THE  
PINK COLOR.



Project Title: **HAUL ROAD COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**      Location(s): **INTERIOR REGION**      Election Districts Served: **3**      Start Date: **4/1/81**      Completion Date: **6/30/82**

AGENCY REQUEST		Operational Cost & No. Personnel Increase -- (Decrease)	First Operating Year	Ultimate Annual Year	GOVERNOR'S REQUEST				
					Approval	Deferred	Disapproved		
1002	Federal Receipts						1002	Federal Receipts	
1003	G/F Match						1003	G/F Match	
1004	General Fund	4,800.0					1004	General Fund	
1005	I/A Receipts						1005	I/A Receipts	
	G.O. Bonds							G.O. Bonds	
Total		4,800.0					Total		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** Plans for the public use and development of the North Slope Haul Road/Utility Corridor region of Alaska are currently underway by BLM and the state of Alaska. In anticipation of these actions, the standard services supplied by various government agencies such as road maintenance, law enforcement and emergency medical services which exist in other areas of the state must be extended to meet the public needs and demands in this area.

The situation at present has allowed the various affected agencies to plan for their future needs in this undeveloped area and work with other agencies which share similar needs in order to consolidate services and prevent the proliferation of redundant systems.

The system would establish a multitude of communication facilities on mountain tops scattered along the corridor to service the needs of the many inter-agency users.

The agencies' requirements are quite similar: 1) The extension of their existing mobile communication system to allow the continuation of agency standards, 2) The existence of and access to a highly reliable telephone system at the nodal camp facilities. The use of a telephone would allow communication for general emergency purposes and would permit temporary and transit personnel access to home offices for check in and or message follow up.

Many agencies are experiencing communication needs now and feel that are both jeopardizing the safety of their personnel in this area and compromising their efforts because of this. In many instances the efficiencies of the operations could be improved dramatically by the existence and use of a reliable communication system. For these reasons the Division of Maintenance and Operations within DOT/PF, which is responsible for maintenance of the state facilities along the Haul Road/Utility Corridor submitted this request for \$4,800. in their FY 82 operating budget to establish a communication network.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBER'S SIGNATURE:

CATEGORY **9** TRANSPORTATION

AGENCY DOT/PF

PROGRAM INTERIOR REGION HIGHWAYS

Page 1 of 1  
 Revised Date

FY 82

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST  
 PROPOSED CAPITAL  
 PROJECT

COMMUNICATIONS

THIS REQUEST WOULD ALLOW COMMUNITY  
HOOK-UP TO THE BACK BONE SYSTEM

Project Title: **(1) EMS COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT** Location(s): **(2) STATEWIDE** Election Districts Served: **(3)** Start Date: **(4) 7/1/81** Completion Date: **(5) 6/30/82**

AGENCY REQUEST		Operational Cost & No. Personnel Increase -- (Decrease)	First Operating Year	Ultimate Annual Year	GOVERNOR'S REQUEST		
					Approved	Deferred	Disapproved
1002	Federal Receipts	823.5	n/a	n/a	1002	Federal Receipts	
1003	G/T Match				1003	G/T Match	
1004	General Fund				1004	General Fund	
1005	I/A Receipts				1005	I/A Receipts	
	G.O. Bonds					G.O. Bonds	
Total		823.5			Total		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION **(8)**

This project will provide for design, purchase, and installation of essential Emergency Medical Services Communication equipment necessary to furnish the communications backbone between the EMT and a Physician or clinic/Hospital. There is a lack of appropriate EMS communication equipment along major transportation corridors, thus creating whole areas with minimal or no coverage. This project will fund equipment compatible with the current statewide EMS communication frequency (155.160) and provide for uniform statewide services.

SOUTHEAST REGION	88.0
SOUTHERN REGION	620.0
NORTHERN REGION	115.5
TOTAL	823.5

LEGISLATIVE MEMBER'S SIGNATURE:

CATEGORY **(9)** HEALTH  
 AGENCY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES  
 PROGRAM PUBLIC HEALTH (EMS)

Page 1 of 1  
 Revised Date

BY **882**

35 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST  
 PROPOSED CAPITAL  
 PROJECT



ALLEN  
BLUME  
SERVICES, INC.

P.O. Box 1608 • 211 Assembly Bldg. • Juneau, AK 99802 • (907) 586-9685

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before your committee. For the record, my name is Allen Blume, President of Allen Blume Services, Inc. and representing Mr. Stuart Browne, President of TELELINK Communications, Inc.

TELELINK Communications, Inc. was formed in May to provide Alaskan customers with several telecommunications services which include:

- ° Customized audio teleconferencing through TELELINK's Conference Message Exchange (CMX) service
- ° Telecom systems analysis, design and planning consultation
- ° The supply of automated office components such as sub-minute facsimile equipment, data communications terminals and electronic mail

TELELINK is in the unique position of being an end user of common carrier supplied services at the same time providing end-point "add ons" for our customers. This means we will be actively stimulating the increased use of the state's local and long distance telephone network, creating revenues for the telco's and long lines carrier. We are advising our clients that through the use of modern, comprehensive telecommunications systems such as our Conference Message Exchange, in conjunction with existing networks; new levels of productivity, substantial dollar savings, and reductions in travel costs can be realized.

The fact that America's GNP is tied to productivity and that increased productivity is possible through the use of telecommunications is becoming more and more apparent. Major industrial strides have been made in the automation of factories and in streamlining the production process. Today, with a majority of the national economy based on information flow, retrieval and storage, its important to streamline and automate Alaskan offices and business procedures.

TELELINK hopes that we can stimulate business users of telecommunications to take advantage of new office oriented services: teleconferencing, word processing, electronic mail and other telecommunications based services. With 60% percent of our National GNP related to "knowledge workers", TELELINK's products and services are available to help executives and knowledge managers achieve the efficiencies possible through telecommunications.

In Alaska, there are several areas where the State Legislature can help stimulate the telecommunications industry and the efficiencies that are inherent in this media. I believe we need:

1. Permissive legislation that will encourage the performance of ministerial, executorial and problem solving functions of state government and via legally established audio, video and computer teleconferencing services.
2. Greater emphasis by State government (and particularly this committee) on the use of telecommunications and particularly teleconferencing as an adjunct and alternative to high cost, time consuming travel; and the attendant loss of personnel productivity due to fatigue, lost office time, etc.

*Less travel  
stay at home.*

*could we have shorter and steeper session times*

I would like to note for the record that these hearings have created a substantial loss of my time and revenues, as well as TELELINK's, simply because they were not teleconferenced. Originally we had not planned to testify before the committee, but rather sought to "listen in" to see what was transpiring.

However, when public issues are dealt with in a relative information vacuum, it becomes necessary to "jump in".

For the length of time and dollar cost that I have expended for:

- a. Round-trip air fare from Juneau to Anchorage
- b. Two day car rental
- c. One day of hotel charges
- d. Meals;

plus my absence from my desk, I could have otherwise walked across the street (or driven across town) to monitor these proceedings.

I am sure there are others who have been likewise affected.

Finally, we would like to endorse the beginning efforts of the principals in the new Division of Telecommunications Services for their accessibility and energy.

The provisions of Executive Order 50 have established firm grounds for the expansion and improvement of telecommunications services in Alaska. We look forward to a productive relationship with the Division and this committee.

Allen D. Blume  
President  
Marketing Associate for  
Telelink Communications, Inc.

5

TELECOMMUNICATION ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE: They are:

- 1.) Is there a danger of government "crowding out" private businessmen by becoming involved in telecommunications?
- 2.) What should be the state's policy regarding telecommunications?
- 3.) Is there a danger of a telecommunications monopoly developing in Alaska?
- 4.) Who should own the satellite T.V. "dishes" in the villages? The state does now and it pays Alascom \$582 per month to maintain them.
- 5.) Should the state set up a loan program for telephone co-ops to replace the 5 percent federal loan fund which is being phased out?
- 6.) Can the state improve on its present system for transmitting computer data from all of the various departments?
- 7.) What new kinds of technology in telecommunications can give the state "the most bang for its buck?" The big technological developments now relate to digital transmission and packet contention, and two way television.
- 8.) The Governor (Executive Order 50) recently centralized all telecommunications programs in the Department of Administration. The Committee may want to do some oversight on the establishment of two new telecommunications divisions which were established.
- 9.) Should the state encourage more in-state programming and more Bush programming, or should it stay away from being involved in what plays on state-funded satellite television?
- 10.) There is a little bit of work being done on what social impact the introduction of television has on rural villages. You may be interested in these sorts of social impacts.
- 11.) Other concerns expressed by public or private enterprise.

# United Utilities, Inc.

NATIVE OWNED CORPORATION

5400 A STREET ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

PHONE: (907) 276-1959

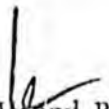
September 24, 1981

Representative Terry Martin  
Chairman, Labor & Commerce Committee  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Martin:

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE POLICY ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1. State government should encourage and support reliable and quality universal service at affordable rates. We feel that a realistic goal of basic telephone and television service for communities over 25 residents by 1984 is achievable and is desirable.
2. Delivery of telecommunication services should be through private enterprise in a fully competitive but regulated environment. Local control should be preferred in owning, operating and maintaining these systems.
3. Artificial regulatory and government barriers for growth and development of new and innovative services should be removed.
4. No company through sheer market power and size should be allowed to manipulate state policies and objectives of universal service at reasonable rates.
5. Companies owned and operated by Alaskan residents and based in Alaska should be given competitive edge over outside interests.
6. Any revenue shortfalls that cannot be met through rate design, rate integration and revenue pooling concepts should be supported through direct appropriations in forms of grants and loans to the providers of these services.
7. Long term and short term capital needs of the telecommunications industry should be supported by loans and grants at reasonable interest rates under reasonable terms, available to all providers of these services in the ratio of their ability to pay back such loans and based on genuine need when alternate sources of financing are unavailable.

  
Vinod Batra  
President  
VB:pa



*Please  
make 5 copies.*

**NORTHERN TELEVISION, INC.**  
**THE BROADCAST CENTER**

P.O. BOX 2200 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510  
KTVA-TV/KBYR-AM/KNJK-FM/MUZAK  
(907) 272-3456

P.O. BOX 950 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701  
KTVF-TV/KFRB-AM  
(907) 452-5121

September 22, 1981

Representative Terry Martin  
Chairman of Labor and Commerce Committee  
921 West Sixth Avenue Suite 250  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Martin:

Although Northern Television, Inc. will certainly try to have a representative at the Anchorage meetings September 23 and 24 regarding telecommunications, neither Mr. Hiebert nor I will be able to attend, so we are submitting our comments in writing. As President of the Anchorage Associated Broadcasters, many of these same questions continue to come up each session, so we are grateful for this opportunity to make comments.

Question 1: We see a definite danger of government "crowding out" private businessmen by the sheer magnitude of the state's involvement already in telecommunications. The state should only involve itself when the private sector is unable to provide service or determines it is not economically viable. In a situation where the state does provide telecommunications service, it is the opinion of both the Anchorage Associated Broadcasters and Northern Television, Inc. that the services should be contracted or subcontracted to the private sector.

Question 2: Responding to what the state's policy regarding telecommunications should be could take several pages, but my response above to Question 1 certainly relates to policy. Also very important is the concern those of us have over the state's involvement in distribution of program signals that those of us who are network affiliates in Anchorage are responsible for to our networks. Even in the recent legislature, legislation was introduced without any consultation whatever with any of the commercial broadcasters, let alone determining whether the network programming would be made available to the state for distribution. The entire state television project could quickly be discontinued if the networks pulled our authorization to the state due to concern over the lack of proper controls in distribution of their programming.

Question 3: There definitely is a great danger of a telecommunications monopoly in Alaska.

Question 4: The villages should have the opportunity to own their own satellite earth stations if they have the expertise to operate and manage them. Otherwise they should be owned by Alascom, a local telephone utility, or some other common carrier; not the state.

Representative Terry Martin  
September 22, 1981  
Page Two

Question 5: A state loan program to telephone co-ops would be beneficial if this would enhance improved service to the general public. However, since there is considerable danger of fiscal abuse, the loaning of money must go hand-in-hand with continued oversight and regulation by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission.

Question 6: We are not privy to how efficient or effective the present method of data transmission for state agencies happens to be. If there is a serious question, then an unbiased, competent third party firm should be engaged to make a comprehensive study so that an intelligent course can be followed in the future. The transmitting of computer data for the various state departments is another service that should be provided by the private sector.

Question 7: There are dozens of state-of-the-art technology developments which will provide the state with the best service in a cost-effective manner. Alascom's commitment to own a satellite within the next two year time frame is a basic example of how the potential of present and future new technologies can be implemented, consistent with the growing and expanding needs of the state. Alascom's proposed satellite is to be situated at an ideal orbital slot to provide a perfect "footprint" over Alaska, and at the same time will be able to cover adequate (and necessary) locations in the South 48 states, Hawaii, and the Pacific Rim. This is especially significant considering Alaska's growing economic ties to the Pacific. Capabilities of satellite transmission are such that new and emerging technologies (such as digital) can be perfected and used as they become cost-effective and required, and with no concern as to whether or not the satellite is capable of transmitting these new techniques. Satellites are capable of handling any new technologies that are likely to be developed during the life of the bird.

Question 8: Lt. Governor Terry Miller approached the Anchorage Associated Broadcasters and the commercial stations individually prior to the final draft of Executive Order 50, and our largest concern was again the distribution of programming by the state as authorized by the affiliated stations on behalf of their respective networks. We assured that this would never happen, and twice since Executive Order 50, to my knowledge, the problem has surfaced. As we mentioned in responding to Question 2, legislation was introduced in the last session that did not address or request the rights to distribute programming, and most recently plans were well underway to take network programming signals "off the air" from monitors at the state's communications center rather than have the programming recorded by the network affiliates, delivered to the state, and then returned to the affiliated station for the tape to be erased as required by the network's authorization conditions.

There is also concern by Northern Television, Inc. that any commercial broadcaster, including us, utilizes the state satellite system for "commercial" purposes. We have purposely stayed clear of any inference whatsoever that advertising can reach any of the areas of the state via the state satellite system so that state or taxpayer money was not being used to our benefit. However, there are examples of stations using the state satellite system to their own commercial advantage and the telecommunications division responsible for this area should be especially aware of this practice.

Representative Terry Martin  
September 22, 1981  
Page Three

Question 9: In-state programming or Bush programming can be beneficial to many sectors of the Alaskan community. However, the Division of Telecommunications should make sure all projects are cost-effective and that regardless of the cost to produce this programming, it should be monitored as to its effectiveness. I believe the state should always try to make the production of this programming available on a contract or bid basis from the private sector.

Again I thank you for the opportunity to respond, and if the legislature and the Administration "before the fact" both stay in touch with the broadcasters who are deeply obligated to our respective networks, it will save a lot of headaches and avoid jeopardizing the state satellite project in the future.

Sincerely,

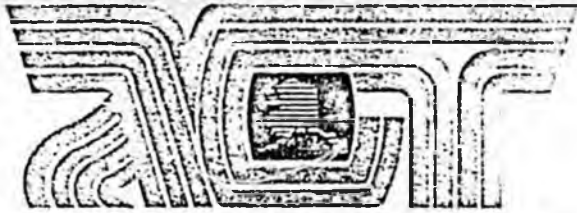


Ron L. Moore  
President  
Northern Television, Inc.

cc: A. G. Hiebert, Chairman

RLM/AGH:cag

5 copies



The Alaska Cable Television Association has the ability to bring state government much closer to the people of Alaska. As President of ACTA, I am writing to propose the creation of a system to place full coverage of proceedings in the House and Senate, plus elected committee meetings, on cable television throughout Alaska. The system ACTA proposes would also make it possible for individual legislators to report to their constituents regularly via cable TV without leaving the Capitol, and provide a phone-in link to receive questions and input from home districts.

We are calling the proposed system A-SPAN (for Alaska Satellite Public Affairs Network). The basic idea is borrowed from C-SPAN (Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network), the non-profit, cooperative effort of the nation's cable TV industry, which now brings live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the U.S. House of Representatives into more than eight million homes in all 50 states. C-SPAN also airs phone-in programs to allow Representatives to talk directly with constituents, and covers both House and Senate hearings. A bill to allow C-SPAN's cameras into the U.S. Senate is currently pending. I have enclosed a copy of a C-SPAN ad for your information.

The proposed A-SPAN system would do much to improve the accessibility of state government to the average citizen. Your support for A-SPAN does not necessarily imply any feelings one way or another on the Capitol move issue, and we at ACTA believe it will have a positive effect on all persuasions. If we move the Capitol, this is a good interim measure while we wait. If we don't move it, it may prove to be a very viable alternative. Either way, this form of communications has and will continue to greatly improve the dialogue and understanding between constituents and representatives. The potential for implementing a more effective system is greatly enhanced by the use of this medium.

Once the MultiVisions system is completed in Anchorage (by the end of 1984), 90% of Alaska's citizens will have access to cable television. By providing cable service in schools and libraries, A-SPAN can be made readily available even for people who don't subscribe to cable TV. This would give Alaska the most open and responsive State government of all the fifty states.

A-SPAN would interpose no editor between government and the people and would only inform the audience of who the speaker is and what the referenced bill is about. A brief suggested format is attached for your perusal.

A-SPAN would not be an expensive project, considering the enormous benefits it would bring to the State of Alaska and its people, and the Alaska Cable Television Association is very committed to making A-SPAN a reality as a public service project. However, the overall cost of the program will exceed our means, and the project's benefits to the statewide public lead us to hope that state funding might be made available to help us create the system. Perhaps, like C-SPAN, A-SPAN could be organized as a private, non-profit corporation and receive funding both from the State, the ACTA, the ABA and other interested parties. If there is substantial support for our concept among legislators, ACTA will develop a detailed proposal and budget by November.

I hope you will want to help ACTA turn this drama into a reality. I believe that A-SPAN would be the most positive step the legislature could take to provide Alaskans with freer access to their state government. I hope to speak with you about A-SPAN, in person or by telephone, before ACTA's next bi-annual meeting this November. At that time, I will report to the Association's members on the response of Alaska's elected representatives to the A-SPAN concept. I look forward to discussing this idea with you.

## POSSIBLE PRODUCTION FORMAT -- A-SPAN

### House and Senate Chambers

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Hours will lengthen as session progresses)

Description: "Live" television coverage of House and Senate session in progress (two separate channels). Through the use of remotely operated TV Color cameras, legislators, Speakers, and voting machine display boards of both chambers will be covered. A technical director, one assigned to each chamber/channel, will switch between cameras located in each chamber to keep up with the activities. Each director will have access to a title generator to identify who is speaking.

### Committee Hearings

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Hours may vary as session progresses)

Description: "Live" television coverage of one (1) House and one (1) Senate Committee Hearing will be covered daily when in progress, using two separate TV channels (these would be the same channels earlier designated for coverage of the House and Senate sessions). The schedule of what committee hearings will be covered will be announced the day before on the "Electronic Information Center" channel. Each hearing will be assigned a technical director who will run and switch remote TV color cameras to cover the event. A title generator will be used to identify those speaking.

### Electronic Information Center

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Description: This channel will run continuous listings of current and upcoming legislative events using a sophisticated character generator (television typewriter) which can be updated daily or as often as needed. Items will include House, Senate, and Committee Hearing calendars, schedule for the "Legislator Access" channel, times and places for special community hearings - statewide, and other timely announcements.

## Legislator Access

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Description: This channel will be open for scheduling by legislators for short (10-15 min.) presentations on any topic they feel would be of interest to their constituents (regional or statewide). The public will be given a chance to react or to ask questions of the legislator via a direct call-in telephone line. The frequency of activity on this channel will be dependent on legislator usage, therefore the hours of operation will vary. However, a requirement will be that legislators must give adequate notice of topics and times so that notice may be given to the public via the "Electronic Information Center" ahead of time.

# CABLEVISION

10512 N.E. 68TH STREET — KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON 98033  
(206) 822-0252

April 10, 1981

Ms. Jane Demmert  
Director of Telecommunications  
221 Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Ms. Demmert,

I am writing to you as a result of conversations I have had with several other people involved in the Low Power Transmitter applications that have been filed by the State of Alaska with the FCC.

First let me quickly introduce ourselves. Alaska Cablevision, Inc. operates Cable Television systems in seven Alaskan communities: Petersburg, Wrangell, Valdez, Cordova, Kodiak, Kotzebue and Nome. We acquired these properties in the fall of 1980. Since then we have assumed a very aggressive posture in terms of technically upgrading these facilities and introducing new satellite delivered programming. In addition, the principals of Alaska Cablevision own and operate several Cable TV systems in the "Lower 48". Four of the five principal partners have been very "hands on" involved in the Cable TV industry since the mid Sixties.

Our concerns over the pending LPT applications stem from the following:

- 1) The Cable Television industry has 12 VHF channels available to deliver its programming (channels 2 thru 13). To expand beyond that requires devices (converters) be placed at each subscribers set. In view of the multitude of programming available via satellite this is precious space to us and we must be able to use all of it without handicap.
- 2) The State of Alaska currently has in our communities a VHF transmitter for the State channel. The State transmitters cause us technical problems. The Cable TV subscriber now has 2 transmissions of the same channel arriving at his set: one via coaxial cable and one via the State transmitter. The result is a picture with an interference problem, called co-channel interference.
- 3) There are certain things a Cable operator must do to help protect his customers when this situation arises.

A technique known as phase locking is used to reduce the viewing problem from one of co-channel (very objectionable) to one of a ghosting problem (less objectionable). Also, the Cable operator must maintain the ingress/egress integrity of the Cable facilities to prevent off-air signals from entering the Cable system at a point and being carried along, the cable, again causing co-channel interference.

These things having been done, we have reduced, but not eliminated the problems at the customers set. However, the built in tuner and/or the built in antenna within the customer set, can with varying degrees of effectiveness, receive the off-air signal and add it to the one being delivered via the Cable system coaxial cable causing interference. The type of television, sensitivity of the built in antenna, distance from the transmitter, type and direction of the transmitting antenna, quantity of signal delivered by the Cable TV company all are factors in determining the degree of significance of the problem. Our problems vary from community to community but they do exist; and naturally the people turn to the Cable company, not the State for answers.

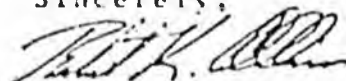
Yet, you can eliminate this problem. It is our hope that you would amend the applications for Wrangell, Petersburg, Cordova, Valdez, Kodiak, Kotzebue and Nome such that the transmitter would be at a UHF frequency. At UHF all of the above mentioned problems for the subscriber would vanish. Virtually all of the sets have UHF tuners as well as VHF tuners, so the customer could simultaneously use UHF for State programming and VHF for Cable programming.

Some re-engineering of your application would be necessary, however, there would be some duplication in the seven applications that would diminish the size of that project. I am sure that time is of the essence for you in this project, however, I feel that amending the applications would create no slow down in your time table, since the LPT affair is moving somewhat slowly at the FCC.


I hope you consider this request with an appreciation for our deepest concern. We have a limited space to do business. One channel is already troubled and if nothing is done, another will soon be also. Please appreciate our absolute need to deliver signals to our customers of the very highest quality.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Robert Allison,  
Vice President




April 16, 1981

Ms. Jane Demmert  
Director of Telecommunications  
221 Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Ms. Demmert:

I received a copy of Bob Allison's recent letter to you regarding VHF/UHF transmitters. Before the ACTA makes certain assumptions, I wonder if you would be able to take some time to write me and tell me the main goals and objectives of your license filings and how you see our member companies interfacing and/or complementing your needs and those of the rural areas of Alaska. Obviously, it is of great interest and concern to the ACTA since we have a substantial investment in most communities within the State of Alaska. Your time and consideration would be most appreciated.

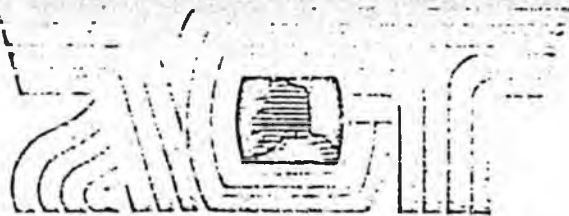
Sincerely,



Robert N. Uchitl  
President

cc: R. Allison

RNU:gh



May 14, 1981

RE: Work session report between R.N. Uchitel and Jane Demmert, Director of the University of Alaska Instructional Telecommunications Consortium, and Bill McCaughan, Director of the Operations Center of the University of Alaska Instructional Telecommunications Consortium, and Tom McNulty, Director of Marketing for MultiVisions.

Gentlemen:

Getting to the crux of your concerns, more specifically, the concerns expressed in the enclosed letter from Bob Allison to Jane Demmert, I wanted to explore with Jane what it is that she does, why she is doing it, where she's going with it, and how, if possible, it can benefit all of us without hurting any one of us. I believe, that both she and Bill are friendly, aware, and understanding of our position and our concerns about the State competing with, rather than complimenting, our service. I throw out for your consideration and quick response to me, several ideas which came from the meeting.

In those areas where cable does exist, the State of Alaska need not put up any kind of transmitter of their own, but instead, transmit their programming on one cable channel in the following fashion:

The cable operators would commit to hardwiring all the homes, or the very vast majority of the homes, in their community.

The State would purchase all the necessary trapping hardware, so that if people simply wanted to see the "Learn Alaska Channel" and nothing else on the cable, the subscriber would be prevented from seeing the cable channels if they chose not to pay for it; therefore, the cable would be in their home without charge to them for watching that one State subsidized channel fourteen hours a day.

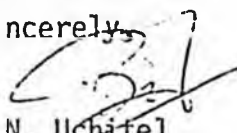
The State in turn, on their channel, would thank the cable operator in his community for participating in the project and recommend that the viewer look at other cable channels that are being trapped out, if indeed they are being trapped out, because of the good programming on those channels that they are missing. Thusly, the State would be marketing on their channel, for free, the use of and advantages of the other channels on the cable system.

In those communities where there is no cable, the Alaska Cable Television Association would go along with the concept of allowing various cherry-picked programming from the satellite, that has traditionally been the programming source of the Cable Operator, and help them to show that programming in those communities until cable became a viable alternative. I see this as being potentially a great plus for us, because, it would finally show us to be the

conduit and broker that we prefer to be. Eventually, depending on regulation and proven costs, perhaps we could charge the State and other groups for the use of that cable channel.

Free marketing on the part of the State is a unique, and I believe, positive concept that can only lead to maximizing penetration in all markets. If we don't go along with the things that I have just suggested or other things that have been discussed, I believe that the relationship between the two organizations is still a healthy and viable one and that we haven't lost anything or given up anything and, of course, neither have they. Right now, they are willing to cooperate and will put up money to that end on our behalf. Let me know your thinking so that I may pursue it further or drop the whole issue. Thank you for your consideration, and I again hope to see you all during our Preview Presentation for Alaska 1984 in the first week of June.

Most sincerely,



Robert N. Uchitel  
President

P.S. In a subsequent conversation with Augie Hiebert, he suggested and I concurred in our common alliance to protect ourselves from certain bills now before the House that potentially compete with us on a more serious basis than the above legislation. I would like to hear your feedback on that because the Broadcasters Association will be meeting shortly and would like our help on the pending problem. In addition, Augie would like to expand the idea to Satellite broadcasting of KBYR to Bethel and would like to have the participation of all cable systems throughout the State. He's indicated that he's gotten positive feedback from many of you and any thoughts I can pass along to him for you or you directly to him, I think he'd appreciate. Thanks again.

RNU:gh

encls:

① Put into Legislation - per John Lindauer

A Bill to get the state out of competing with private business and to stop state officials from using their offices and influence to control the news should have the following parts:

- OK 1. No advertising or acknowledgements or name mentions shall be provided for any business product by public radio stations, public television stations, or public networks in response to money payments, grants, or donations.
- OK 2. No commercial advertisements shall be carried in state funded or state subsidized programs or in programs transmitted by state funded or state subsidized satellite channels.
- OK 3. No corporation doing business in Alaska shall charge higher prices to Alaska private broadcasters than it charges an Alaskan public broadcaster.
- OK 4. The production of all news and other programming that would otherwise be provided by the Alaska Public Radio Network or any other similar organization shall be put out to competitive bid and awarded to the lowest qualified bidder. The cost of having the Public Radio Network or any other state-funded group provide the service shall be revealed in the bid request so that private bidders will know what price they have to beat in order to get the contract.
5. The state's public radio stations may buy any programming service they desire and no programming shall be pre-funded by the state in order to preempt their choices. Said programming services so desired will be put out to competitive bid and awarded to the lowest qualified bidder.
- OK 6. It shall be felony bribery for an employee of the state or a public radio or television station to solicit any payment for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing a public official or the content of any newscast or program carried by public stations or any commercial newscast carried by satellite at state expense.
7. <sup>as private competition develops,</sup> ~~the~~ public radio stations in cities with populations in excess of 1800 people ~~may~~ be sold to the highest bidder who will contract to maintain or increase the current level of service and the proceeds will be used to increase services in communities not now served by public radio.

Chairman Martin, Members of the Committee:

Alaska is currently first in revenue per capita of the 50 states.

Alaska is 50th in television reception. Alaska is the only state that does not have full time "live or real time" TV broadcast of the three major networks and the public broadcast system.

The loss to the people in education, health, information opportunities, reaction to current events, and entertainment is enormous - and uncalculable.

The loss to our rural citizens is even greater as they do not as a whole have daily newspaper coverage.

Currently the major networks are going more and more to special events and special commentations by top reporters, rather than carrying the story on the news. In most cases Alaska misses these specials.

During the last session, HB 517 was introduced by Representative Oral Freeman and was originally co-sponsored by 24 members of the House - to correct this deplorable situation.

The Freeman bill would bring 4 channels of "real time" television to 94% of the state's residents. It is designed to give Alaska citizens equal programming on major networks with all the people in the other 49 states.

Thousands of Alaskans would be receiving 4 channels live on real time television for the first time in the history of Alaska.

2)

This program could be installed with the very latest in technical equipment at a cost of \$50 per person statewide and an operation cost of \$1.25 per person per month. Total cost for hardware was estimated at \$25.5 million - operation \$5 million.

The greatest benefit to live real time TV is its educational and informational value. It is without a doubt that TV is the greatest method to reach the people with information available today. Yet thousands of Alaskans have no television or delayed programs and our bush communities have no freedom of choice, receive only one channel. We in the major cities miss important news programs of vital events because a two-week delay makes the event no longer news.

And then the station must fill that gap by reruns of much older programs having received nothing from the Networks.

In the proposed project the private TV stations would indeed be benefitted as all programs would necessarily be channeled through the licensed network franchise and their individual advertising would be carried into a larger area by satellite.

This program while providing real time coverage of major network TV will not interfere with cable or pay TV. Every city in the other 49 states has live network TV and the cable business is flourishing.

3)

At this point I might add that although I do represent one telecommunication company their only request is to have an equal opportunity to bid on the various elements of this program and to encourage free competition in telecommunications in Alaska.

The question of state versus private enterprise in the case of telecommunications the answer is quite obvious. Even in the largest cities it is not economically feasible for private business to pay the transmission charges to Alaska. It is reasonable to assume that in smaller cities and rural areas it will perhaps never be feasible.

It is extremely beneficial to the state that the people be well informed. The costs are minimal when spread over the entire population.

The earth stations should be owned by local private telephone companies where one exists and by non-profit local co-ops where no telephone company exists.

Under this proposal the state would not be involved in programming as the four channels would give each household their individual choice of major network programs.

It is my hope that thru this committee that the state will provide this great service to all its people. The costs are small and each and every citizen, rich or poor, can benefit equally from this state expenditure.

Russ Me Vins

(4)

Robert Wold Company of Alaska, Inc. testimony on Telecommunications  
before:

Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Labor and Commerce Committee

September 23, 1981

Chairman Martin and Members:

I am Gene Deck, Vice-President and Associate Director for Robert Wold Company of Alaska. Mr. Wold, due to other commitments, is unable to attend and has asked me to relay his apologies. We thank you for this opportunity to appear before this committee on such an important issue as Alaska's telecommunications future.

Recently, we have seen Alaska's executive and legislative branches take the much-needed step to increase the efficiency of telecommunications functions in state government. We are in agreement with this step and laud you for it. We are encouraged by the intent to develop in this new organization policies which will:

- facilitate and develop basic and advanced telecommunications services and facilities.
- minimize the size and influence of state government by promoting private ownership and control of telecommunications facilities.
- recognizes the state's dependence upon innovative use of new telecommunications services and techniques.

We believe these policies will permit growth of telecommunications services and facilities, only if, competitive forces are allowed to thrive in Alaska's marketplace.

2)

It is well known that Alaska's telecommunications atmosphere has been a monopoly since 1970 when private enterprise took over the Alaska Communications System. Monopolies are well known for exclusive control of a commodity or service in given markets which makes possible the fixing of prices and virtual elimination of free competition.

Additionally, monopolies have no incentive or motivation to keep prices down or introduce innovative services and new techniques.

The other forty-nine states are presently benefitting from the government's well-established policies of promoting competition in terrestrial and satellite communications. While the established providers of these services and facilities understandably resisted such policies at the outset, there is almost unanimous agreement in the communication industry and in all other sectors that competition fosters efficient, economic, and well-directed communication services and that it has not adversely affected any group or segment in the society.

New technologies offered by new entrants into the telecommunications field are here and Alaska should take advantage of these technologies by making them available to its citizens. For instance:

- Digital television transmission techniques which permit a multiple number of TV channels in a single satellite transponder.
- Time Division Multiple Access techniques which permit a multiple number of users to access the same facilities for message telephone and data services.

3)

These are only two of many which are available.

Open market competitive policies can make these technologies available to Alaska's citizens.

In summary, I would like to leave this message with you.

"It should be the policy of Alaska's state government to rely wherever and whenever possible on marketplace competition and on the private sector to provide all telecommunications services. Marketplace competition will result in technological innovation, operating efficiencies, and availability of a wide variety of telecommunications techniques that are now or may become available in the future, and will promote the equitable and efficient use of such technologies to provide services to all geographical areas of Alaska."

Thank you.


Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> - Hbs hearing - State-Telecommunications.

Rep. Fred Brown

Dick Edg - FCC - Wash. D.C. specialist SB 898

Timothy Wirth - U.S. House - "Universal Services"

Get back to basics - ~~Plan~~ -

"Compelling Interest" of State - 

Do you see the day - out side of basic needs  
Alascom - buyout the small rural companies - Anti-trust <sup>Law</sup>

Cable T.V. + FCC. thru A.P.O.C.

\* Consider sending telegram to Sen. Stevens + F.C.C.

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Jeannie O'Neil - E.M. telecom

See planned program for addition to FY 83 Budget.

See state funding 911 State wide - meet cost for local  
Needs more <sup>continuous</sup> education for E.M.'s <sup>state companies.</sup>

---

Dennis Standley - consultant

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75 hrs - Learn AB. -

\* [credit courses] reinvent the wheel. -

production - cost of equip - covers

Use of PB system +

" " Cable ? +

---

Mr. Brad Brooks. E.M. \$700,000 FY 82

USPMS, State Troopers -

BIA

\* Military etc.

Radio relay.

Annie - Moderator

Welcome to FCC Telecomm Hearings - -  
Beautiful day in Wash. -

Great participation in  
Sept. hearings we look for  
same in ~~the~~ today

Rep Brown -

state people are not here but you can be assured that  
as your reps. we will strongly

Is on state demonstration  
Kootenai - Miss T.V. Demonstration - K.O.T.V. Channel 9 <sup>several 9 to 10 hours</sup>

Dave Thompson - Bill Glenn - Compelling interest?  
Is there unfair competition? How many people served as  
witnesses  
Feels that Public Broadcast is now on a strong good path.

Sam Deonelli - Port Lewis owner

Bill Glenn - Interference fears of cable T.V. people.  
[Problems were eliminated when FTV switch to  
another channel  
stealing channel

Juneau - Alex Hill - <sup>compelling interest.</sup> state Sat. - "out of business" ?  
"no legal obligation" ethical procedures  
strict letter of the law? production  
alternatives ↔  
New? -  
40 employees

Peterberg -

Kotzebue - \$40 M's in loan for T.V.

How can we heat your  
system in truck

Barrow - Thank for your very frank report +  
Tom Saxton - Barrow Cable T.V. <sup>Great need for  
all involved to  
communicate.</sup>

Drowth Policy report - State should avoid  
state - will send his written report.

\* make use of local maintenance + services not i.g send  
out own employees or

Bob Allison - Peterberg - ITV - Learn ap.  
Problem is with delivery method choosing channels.

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And - David Hammett. - good sensitive pts. -  
wants to allow rural outlets to develop on private bases  
What about electrical power for villages - basic needs.  
Much to think about -


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Legislature meeting + Board meeting - <sup>astronomical</sup> legal questions.

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Patley  
Larry D. Jackson - Haines -  
New policy of Mr. Hills

RAT-NET



---

Harver Dallain - Peterberg -  
Channel ? interference problems -

---

David Morzib - Peterberg  
Exec. Order 50  $\longleftrightarrow$  Thanks for positive note.  
need input on programming.

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Betty - Ab. Conf. Conf.  
Lack of communication with private + State

Trinidad Guest

Alex Hill -

This whole ~~pro~~ <sup>Div.</sup> is kind of on a tight rope!!!  
New Div. of Telecom - problem is that next year  
a new Governor may dissolve the Div. - Leg. may  
not approve appropriations - only in law is there  
a permanent status -  
Cart before the horse - hardware + staff before <sup>state policy</sup> development.  
Private vs Public development -  
Daidwood  
Kenai  
Soldotna

Everything and anything -

What is future staff coming to -  
Hero's or Villains

---

Mr. Russ Meekins Sr. -

HB 517 - 24 sponsors ????

Letter of intent by Commerce Comm. ??

\$50<sup>00</sup> per person -

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Mr. Gene Deek - Vice Pres. Robert W. Ltd Co. -

Tele. in AB is a monopoly -

Other states establish incentive for  
maximum competition

? In other states + AB. "monopoly" - utilities  
need for protection. - water, telephone

Mr. John Lindauer - State should spend fewer dollars and allow private dollars to do the job -

No more need for State expenditures.

State is influencing public news and concepts.  
Massive political abuses in the bank.

Alascom. was ordered twice by gov's office to announce supposed news releases - this is against the FCC regulations. -

Direct broadcasting is coming - most of what is developing now under State may be out of date - too late - too costly -

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Maro Weatherly - A PVE. the election of AK.

Our future is to be determined by Wash D.C. - F.C.C.  
the Fed. give monies to many areas in need, but Alaska is conceived as having enough \$\$\$.

ISS SB 098 - attempts to set state policies -

Do we need RPOC to monitor cable T.V.

Draw us total of procedures & policies for certification

HB 606 - \$40,000,000 loan bill - move this for develop.

of rural telephone - will = REA Fed loan to loans.

need interim financing to take place of R.E.A.

AS 42:05 - cable T.V.

Why then U's having their own systems.

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Mr. Robert Blodgett - Is interested in private sector feels public

Mukluk Tel. Comm - has gotten financing through REA - \$3M's for 35 yrs.

Loans - not limited to co-ops - allow independents op. also. - Decrease regs to enable

Mr. Bloodgett. - uses data to order groceries w/ Götstein.  
improve on data etc.

State VMA type - 35 mil. too limited  
Data can greatly reduce mail.  
Safety Comm Network - OK.

State programming - individual choice -

Social impact to villages - good in decreasing  
alcohol use - Villages do have council that  
have entertainment authority - movies etc. T.V  
will allow more at home!

T.V evaluation 80% entertainment 20% edup. and  
other

Bloodgett is going to build his cable network -  
equip in this field is decreasing in cost.

Competition with state is cost him in need  
for more equip. and double equip in some areas.

Micro-processor will greatly change all lives in  
comm. and social being -

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ab. cable Tell. 2

Sam Evans - 6,000 families - 7 stations

Kat, Nom, Wald, Lardo, Wrang,

84 employees - 36 in AK.


Have switch from 4 channel to 11 channels.

Impair not being over regulated through APVE

Enthused with state cable openness -

Fears competition with state giving full  
what they are now paying for.

Conflict with VofA - learn ab prog. - VofA  
wants to use channel 4 that his company  
now has. This is can give better quality  
and free service but VofA is persistent and  
has asked FCC to adjudicate the problem.  
They feel VofA is now commercial not I.T.V.

V of 11. in Oct. —  
Public Safety 

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Allen Blum - Juneau. —

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Charlie Northrup —

Reporter service is smaller communities —  
will this decrease many small staff in every  
small area or is there insistence that each area has their  
own local people for local interest — everyone gets their  
own name or zip on air waves —

appropriation? Line itemed out by Gov. last yr.  
this yr. put before Gov's signature

Why Feb. for develop. policy —

§ 50 - prohibits direct production —

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Frank Price - Meteor Data Inc.

FCC now limits use of meteor data - state did  
put his firm somewhat out of business do to establish  
its own system - however leg. did change direction  
through RSP - request fr. — proposers — — — —  
Alascom - Meteor Inc. competed for bid.

Owner of local satellite disc. —

private - state put up for bid — ?? one may pay  
high for long range purpose.

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Bob Herron —

Owner of Bethel table - Feels there is a  
crowding out of local business.

State is spreading out too much. —

Learn Al said they will use Channel 2 when  
local station has been using this " " for  
four years. over &

Bethel TV is investing \$1 million for satellite.

F-TV and Learn Alaska.

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Bot Allison - Alaska cablevision

I'm jealous of what you are doing - an investment here or there.