

United Utilities, Inc.

Affiliate of Unicom



October 24, 1996

Joann Lee
COMSAT Customer Activation Specialist
22300 Comsat Drive
Clarksburg, MD 20871

Dear Ms Lee:

In response to your five questions:

- 1) The unit will not be used under a government contract.
- 2) The unit will be used in rural Alaska in various villages in an area that covers approximately 2/3 of the state. The only communication to these locations is via earth stations operated by AT&T and United Utilities, Inc. We are in need of having emergency communications when these earth stations experience failures so the technicians can communicate with the outside world. We serve 58 of these villages and the terminal will eventually be used in most of them.
- 3) We have tested an AMSC terminal but coverage is only guaranteed in half the state, of which only one of our villages lies.
- 4) We would expect to keep the terminal indefinitely.
- 5) Yes, we have applied with the FCC. We do have an immediate use for the terminal and have attached the STA application for your review.

If you have any further questions, please call (907) 273-5229.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Heimke".

Dave Heimke
Engineer

DH/bjm

Nancy J. Thompson
General Attorney

October 25, 1996

6560 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817
Telephone 301 214 3473
Fax 301 214 7145
Telex 197800VIA FACSIMILEKarl A. Kensinger
International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M St., N.W., Room 521
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Karl:

This letter is submitted in response to your request for additional information concerning the proposed usage of one Inmarsat-M terminal in the United States by United Utilities, Inc. ("UUI") for communications from remote locations where no alternative means of communications exist. As you recall, COMSAT Corporation ("COMSAT") has a request pending to provide domestic satellite communications service via the Inmarsat satellite system to UUI for this terminal. (See Letter to William F. Caton, from Neal Kilminster, dated September 26, 1996.) Most recently, the FCC, by letter dated October 24, 1996, deferred action on COMSAT's STA request for UUI. (See SRD-0264.)

As shown in the attached letter from UUI dated October 24, 1996, UUI provides the sole communications service to 58 rural Alaskan villages via earth stations operated by AT&T and UUI. UUI intends to use the Inmarsat-M terminal for emergency backup communications when one of these earth stations experiences a failure. UUI states that it has tested an AMSC terminal but has determined that AMSC's system can only provide reliable coverage to half of the state and that only one of the 58 villages that UUI services lies within that portion of the state. UUI further informs us that beginning on November 5, 1996, it will begin a scheduled program to replace equipment at each of these earth stations and that in doing so, it will have to take the stations out of service for a period of time.

Based on this additional information, COMSAT requests that the FCC grant COMSAT special temporary authorization to provide service to UUI for one Inmarsat-M terminal, consistent with our pending request dated September 26, 1996.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy J. Thompson".
Nancy J. Thompson

Attachment

cc: Sylvia Lam (via fax)
Carl Huie (via fax)