

EXHIBIT 1

The instant application requests Commission authority to modify the attached experimental license so as to increase the number of units from one (1) to two (2). No other changes are proposed. In support United Utilities, Inc. ("United") submits the following:

United is an Alaskan local exchange carrier certificated by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission ("APUC") to provide telephone service to 59 Villages in the Alaskan Bush. United's service area is one of the largest of any independent local exchange carrier ("LEC") in the United States; it covers approximately 70,000 square miles primarily in the far western regions of Alaska. Service in United's communities is among the most challenging on earth. Its territory is characterized by long and bitterly cold winters; its communities are isolated and extremely remote. Access to its villages is by air alone during most of the year; for a couple of months during the summer, certain of United's communities can be supplied by boats and barges from the Bering Sea.

United previously advised the staff that it needed authority for a total of two terminals: One to be utilized for the eastern part of its service area and one for the western region. The eastern region maintenance crews are based in Anchorage and one terminal would be kept at that location for their use in that region. The western region maintenance crew is based in Bethel and the second terminal would be kept at this location for use by western region personnel. United does not anticipate a need for more than these two terminals.

The additional terminal would be used for the same purpose as the first, namely, to provide backup service in remote Alaskan locations in connection with repair and refurbishment of

Fixed Satellite Service terminals interconnected with the Public Switched Network. See Letter of January 17, 1997 from Thomas S. Tycz, Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division, International Bureau to Neal T. Kilminster, Assistant General Counsel, COMSAT.

Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons the public interest would be served by a grant of this application.