

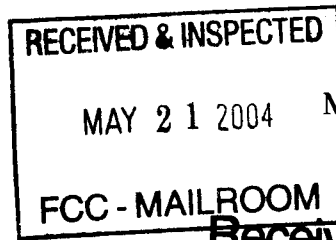
Alaska Telephone Association

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Greg Berberich
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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554



May 12, 2004

RE: contactMEO Communications, LLC
File No. SAT-AMD-20040322-0057

JUN 01 2004

Policy Branch
International Bureau

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Alaska Telephone Association¹ supports the application of contactMEO Communications, LLC for authority to launch and operate satellites as described in File No. SAT-AMD-20040322-0057.

All the members of this association are rural local exchange carriers. Among them they serve the most remote communities in the continental United States and most of those communities are physically accessible only by air or water and by communications, only over satellite. The contactMEO application, if approved, will permit placement of a satellite at 121 degrees West Longitude. That location will provide good coverage of Alaska and will allow rural Alaskans access to affordable broadband services conspicuously lacking at this time. We look forward to enjoying the promises of Section 254(b)(3) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which guaranteed that customers in rural, insular and high cost areas would have access to telecommunications and information services reasonably comparable to those in urban areas and that they would be available at reasonably comparable rates. Granting this application will facilitate that goal.

Sincerely,

James Rowe

cc: Donald Abelson
Thomas S. Tycz

¹ The Alaska Telephone Association is a trade association comprised of rural Alaska local exchange telephone companies. Its active members are Alaska Telephone Company; Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative; Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Bush-Tell, Inc.; Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; Cordova Telephone Cooperative; KPU Telecommunications; Matanuska Telephone Association; Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.; OTZ Telephone Cooperative; Summit Telephone Company, Inc.; TelAlaska, Inc.; United Utilities, Inc.; and Yukon Telephone Company, Inc.