

YUROK TRIBE

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S2358 SAT-AMD-20031118-00332
Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary LLC
MSV-1

IB2003002331

AMSC-1 SAT-MOD-20031118-00333
Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary LLC
AMSC-1

IB2003002332

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission The Portals 445 Twelfth Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:



The Yurok Tribe ("Tribe") requests that the Commission take action as soon as possible on the application of Mobile Satellite Ventures Subsidiary LLC ("MSV") to operate terrestrial base stations to supplement its Mobile Satellite Service ("MSS"). Obtaining this license is MSV's first step toward building its next generation system. Implementing a new system requires significant investment and improved system design and can take an appreciable amount of time. The Commission's expeditious action is critical to assure continuity of service to the Tribe. Granting the relief requested by MSV is consistent with the Commission's commitment to bringing telecommunications to Native American lands and to other remote and rural areas. MSV's application was filed some time ago and we understand that the technical issues have been fully briefed for much longer. We ask that you act as soon as possible on this application.

The Yurok Tribe has installed MSV's satellite dispatch service in various Tribal offices and vehicles, including the Tribal Department of Public Safety, Fisheries, Watershed Restoration, United Indian Health Service Health Clinic, and other Tribal offices. It was done so because there were no wireline or wireless telephone service or other communications service option available on most of the Yurok Reservation. The Yurok Tribe has chosen to use the MSV system to provide communications on and off the Reservation until such time as more traditional telephone service is available.

The Yurok Reservation follows the narrow and winding Klamath River canyon approximately 45 miles from the confluence of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers to the Pacific Ocean. The geography of the Reservation makes it extremely difficult for telephone service to be provided. Use of the MSV network has provided the Yurok Tribe with extensive and quality communications coverage without incurring the capital costs associated with a terrestrial based system.

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For these reasons, the Yurok Tribe supports Mobile Satellite Ventures petition before the FCC. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy O'Neill, Yurok Tribe Planning and Community Department Director, at (707) 482-1350.

Sincerely,

Howard McConnell

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Chairperson Yurok Tribe