



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

For Immediate Release:
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**FCC TO HOLD SECOND INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES
REGIONAL WORKSHOP AND ROUNDTABLE IN RAPID CITY, SD, MAY 26 AND 27**
National Tribal Telecommunications Association to Co-host

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will hold its second Indian Telecommunications Initiatives (ITI) Regional Workshop and Roundtable in Rapid City, SD, on May 26 and 27.

The event will be co-hosted by the National Tribal Telecommunications Association and will take place at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center all day the 26th and the morning of the 27th. After a successful ITI Regional Workshop and Roundtable event in Reno, NV last year, the FCC has chosen Rapid City as a site to bring Commission leadership and officials together with Tribal leaders to address telecommunications issues facing Indian Country with the goal of providing clear, practical information that Tribal decision-makers can use to prioritize their economic goals and telecommunications development agendas.

The FCC's ITI program seeks to promote understanding, cooperation and trust among American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and tribal organizations; the FCC and other governmental agencies; and the telecommunications industry. It is designed to build partnerships to target specific concerns, identify potential solutions, and bring affordable, quality telecommunications services to Indian Country.

Specifically, ITI seeks to increase the telephone penetration rate among tribal communities; facilitate the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure in Indian Country necessary to provide telecommunications services; and inform tribes and tribal consumers about financial support available through federal government programs, including Universal Service Fund programs.

The agenda for the ITI Rapid City event is attached.

Federal Communications Commission
Indian Telecommunications Initiatives

RAPID CITY REGIONAL WORKSHOP
AND ROUNDTABLE

Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Alpine/Ponderosa Rooms
Rapid City, South Dakota
May 26 - 27, 2004

May 26: Workshop Agenda

8:00 AM Registration

8:30 AM OPENING

Master of Ceremonies	Geoffrey C. Blackwell Senior Attorney and Liaison to Tribal Governments Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, FCC
Posting of the Colors	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Akicita Society Color Guard
Honor Song	Crazy Horse Singers Pine Ridge Agency
Opening Invocation	Mark White Bull Telecom Project Manager Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

8:45 AM WELCOMING REMARKS

Working with the FCC	K. Dane Snowden Chief Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, FCC
Working with the NTTA	J.D. Williams, President National Tribal Telecommunications Association

9:15 – 10:30

PANEL:
DEVELOPING TRIBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

- *Identifying technology solutions, developing infrastructure, and capital outlay*
- *Assessing the regulatory environment, requirements, and policy objectives*
- *Addressing tribal community and government utilities needs for economic growth*
- *Tribal telecommunications deployment and growth management*

Vernon James, General Manager, San Carlos Telecommunications Utilities, Inc.
Mark White Bull, Telecommunications Project Manager, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Tony Rodgers, Executive Director, Rosebud Sioux Tribal Utility Commission
J.D. Williams, President, National Tribal Telecommunications Association

10:45 – 11:30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission

11:30 AM LUNCH BREAK

Lunch On Your Own

12:30 – 1:30

PANEL:

TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPLICATIONS FOR INDIAN COUNTRY

- *Distance diagnosis programs and the provision of medicine through telecom*
- *Developing a tribal college “Ring around the Rez” wireless network*
- *Lessons from distance Learning technology programs across South Dakota*

Tony Stayner, Chief Clinical Engineer, Aberdeen area office of Indian Health Service
Leslie Todd Romero, CIO, Turtle Mountain Community College
Ted Hamilton, Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires) Education Consortium

1:30 – 3:00

PANEL:

EMERGING TELECOM TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- *Internet Protocol enabled Services and tribal emerging technology issues*
- *mechanisms to strengthen Tribal input on telecom policy development input*
- *Working with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, consultation and comment*
- *Accessing spectrum in Indian Country; options and policy developments*
- *Federal Universal Service and Tower Siting developments*

Valerie Fast Horse, Co-Chair, Telecommunications and Utilities Committee,
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
Kade Twist, Vice-President, Native Networking Policy Center
Sue McNeil, Chief, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, FCC
John Branscome, Legal Advisor, Office of the Bureau Chief,
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, FCC

3:00 – 3:15

BREAK

3:15 – 4:30

PANEL:

FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS AND FINANCING

- *Universal service fund high cost and low-income programs*
- *USDA rural utility service programs and tribal telecom development*
- *Technology opportunities program tribal projects*
- *Venture capital and telecom services deployment*

Irene Flannery, Vice-President, Universal Service Administrative Company
Wayne Ahlgren, General Field Representative, Rural Utilities Service,
United States Department of Agriculture
Judy Sparrow, Program Officer, Technology Opportunities Program, NTIA
Michael Brendzel, Vice President, Council Tree Communications

4:30

Workshop Wrap-Up and
Next Steps

K. Dane Snowden
Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, FCC

Federal Communications Commission
Indian Telecommunications Initiatives

RAPID CITY REGIONAL WORKSHOP
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Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Alpine/Ponderosa Rooms
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May 27: Roundtable Agenda

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| 9:00 am | Welcoming Remarks | Honorable Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission |
| 9:05 | Opening Address | Honorable Michael J. Copps
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission |
| 9:20 | Open Roundtable Dialogue: | All Participants |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Interactive, government-to-government consultation on tribal telecommunications priorities and objectives</i>▪ <i>How to work together to promote better understanding, cooperation and trust</i>▪ <i>Discussion of FCC rules, programs, and policies affecting telecommunications services to communities and consumers in Indian Country</i>▪ <i>How to establish working relationships with tribes and tribal organizations</i>▪ <i>How to further promote a strong trust relationship between the tribes and the FCC</i> |
| 12:00 | Roundtable Wrap-Up, Next Steps and Closing Remarks | J.D. Williams
President
National Tribal Telecommunications Association

K. Dane Snowden
Chief
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, FCC |
| 12:15 | ADJOURN | |