

D2003 8.105
P.O. Box 1061
Baker, MT
(406) 778-7139
Fax (406) 778-7176
clee@midrivers.com

RECEIVED BY
0004 OCT 22
10:07 AM '04

.....

Fallon County Dispatch Center

October 20, 2004

Montana Public Service Commission
1701 Prospect Avenue
Vista Building
P.O. Box 202601
Helena, MT. 59620-2601

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is being sent to request that Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative be designated as a competitive ETC. This designation would be instrumental in helping Mid-Rivers meet the Federal requirement of the implementation of Phase II Wireless.

I run a PSAP for 4 counties (Fallon, Wibaux, Carter, & Prairie) with the responsibility of providing 911 coverage. A large part of this requirement has been shifted to the use of wireless phone appliances throughout the United States, and more importantly Southeastern Montana. As it sits now, I would just have to inform Mid-Rivers that my PSAP was Phase II ready, and Mid-Rivers would have 6 months to comply. I am led to believe that Mid-Rivers could not meet this schedule (Due to Logistic & Financial Reasons), and that my request would lead to Mid-Rivers having to discontinue cellular service. I am not sure if this is a fact, but my understanding is that a carrier must comply within 6 months of receiving a request for Phase II compliance.

I support Mid-Rivers in their effort, and have found them to be a reliable, helpful, and knowledgeable partner. Mid-Rivers provides cellular service to an area that others have abandoned, since the population base is small. The larger companies can not reap the financial rewards available to them in larger areas, so they do not exist for practical purposes in our rural area. We have many miles of dirt between the light posts, and Mid-Rivers provides excellent service to an area in need. The financial hardship of new towers, digital transmission, land acquisition, and other considerations would be great if no help is provided. If Phase II is to become a reality in ALL of the States, then designation for Mid-Rivers as an ETC is critical.

Sincerely,



Chuck Lee
PSAP Manager (Fallon, Carter, Wibaux, Prairie Counties)
911 Coordinator (Fallon, Carter, Wibaux, Prairie Counties)

.....