

Appendix M – Scoping Materials

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Agency Scoping Materials

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Public Scoping Materials

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 - Community Bulletin (published April 29, 2024)

Yukon River Fiber Optic Project Agency Pre-Application Meeting

April 6, 2023



Agenda for Today

Presentation goal: Establish a common baseline of project information of the proposed action for all parties. Details of the project and technical information needs will be provided in the Plan of Work.

- Tribal Broadband Program
- Introduce Project Team
- Introduce Yukon Project
 - Terrestrial Portion (Elliot and Dalton Highway ROW)
 - Yukon River Portion
- Project Schedule
- NTIA NEPA and Permitting
- Active Discussion with all Agencies on Project

NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

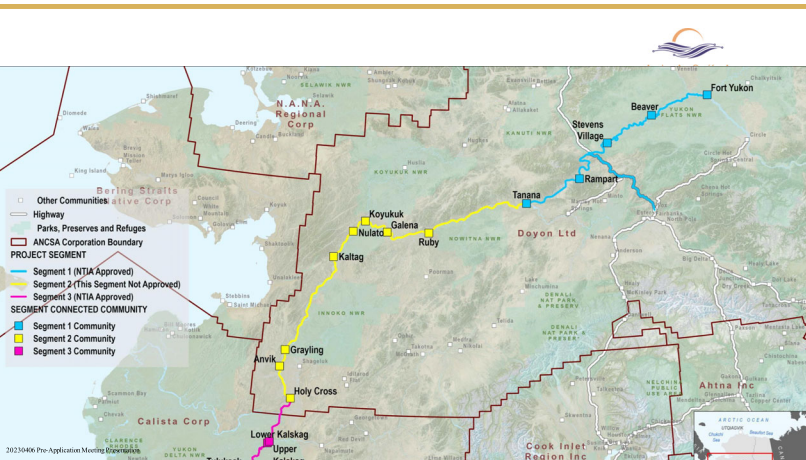
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

- A \$980 million program directed to tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion.
- This program will support Alaska communities with the technology needed to deliver healthcare, education and support economic development.



Yukon – Kuskokwim Broadband Projects

- Segment 1: Fort Yukon to Tanana – Funded
 - NEPA and Permitting for this project ONLY
- Segment 2: Tanana to Holy Cross – Not Funded – Application Submitted
- Segment 3: Napakiak to Holy Cross – Funded – Calista is Recipient of Grant
- Future Considerations – Not Funded

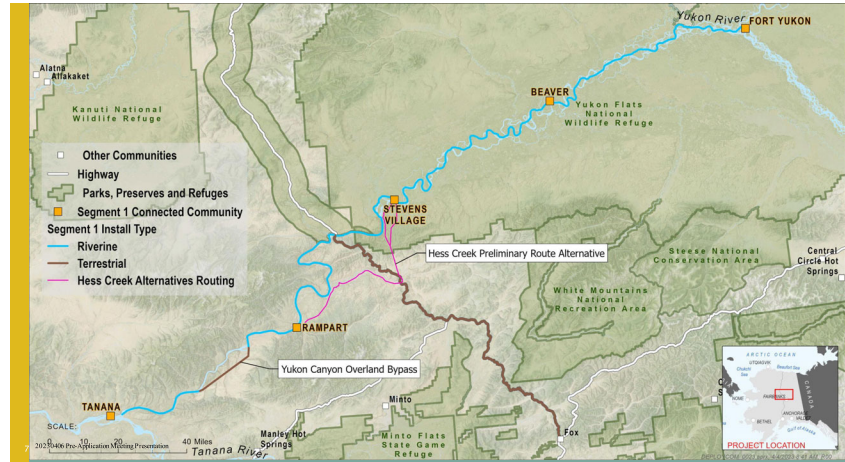
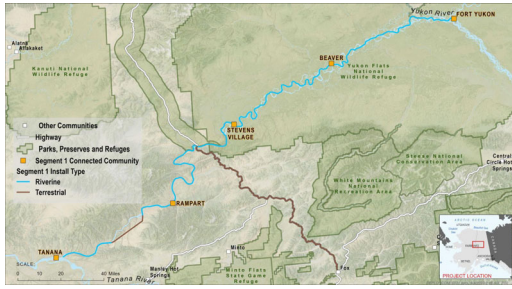


Segment 1 Project Team

- NTIA – Lead Federal Agency
- Doyon, Limited – Grant Recipient
- DeployCom – Contractor Responsible for Construction/Installation
- Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) – Operator of System after Installation
- Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc.
 - – Permitting Support to DeployCom and NEPA Support to NTIA

Project Overview

- Three distinct installations
 - Fox to Yukon River
 - Highway ROW Installation
 - River Installation
 - Fort Yukon to Tanana
 - River Installation
 - Canyon Bypass
 - Direct Lay Overland



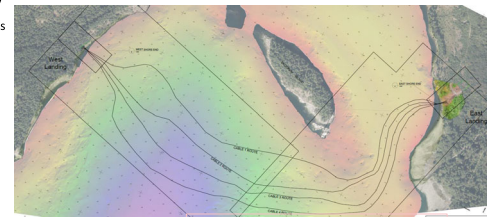
Highway ROW Construction - Elliott and Dalton Highways

- Installation in ADOT&PF Right-of-Way (ROW)
 - Existing Utilities in ROW
- Land Ownership/Management
 - ADOT&PF
 - ADNR-MLW
 - BLM
 - Private
- Installation Activities
 - Vegetation clearing, mulching
 - ROW Trenching per ADOT Guidance
 - HDD
- Summer 2024 Construction



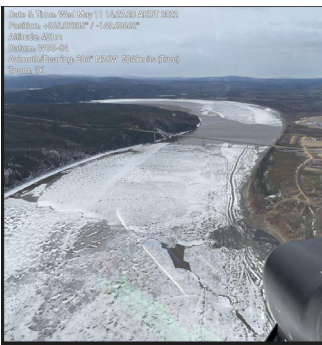
River Installation - Summary of Process and Timing

- Spring, Summer, & Fall 2023
 - Preliminary multibeam survey to pre-plan installation
 - Science studies and surveys as needed
 - Finalize Plan of Work
- Summer & Fall 2024
 - Repeat multibeam survey on mobilization to Fort Yukon
 - Complete HDD for shore connections
 - Install fiber optic from Fort Yukon downstream
 - Fiber to home on existing utility poles
 - Test cable
- Q1 2025
 - Final connections and testing
 - Service begins



Example output of Multibeam Survey

River Installation - Technical Evaluation To Date



- U.S. Geological Survey
 - Coordinated with Alaska River Forecast Center's River Watch team for ice jam history and forecasting
 - Participated in aerial ice survey and shared data
 - Reviewed ice jam history logs compiled by USGS
 - Reviewed flow data
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
 - Sedimentation studies have been conducted on other Alaska Rivers
 - Data and modeling may apply with modification
 - May require additional field studies in 2023
- Imagery Evaluation
 - Evaluation of river morphology, river migration
 - Village landing site land ownership and use evaluation
- Case Studies
 - Reviewed data of existing cable installations in high velocity installations
 - Demonstrate cable burial from natural systems
 - Demonstrate no hazard to navigation

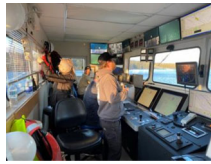
Ice Jams

- Coordinating with USGS for data and ice forecast
- Reviewed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data
- Conducted Local/Traditional Knowledge interviews
- Comfortable with the hazard analysis



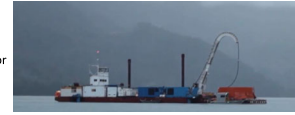
River Installation – Process

- Technologically Advanced Process
 - Hazards analysis
 - Cable deployed, slack, tension, location all monitored with advanced instrumentation and high accuracy
- Equipment and Cable Testing
 - All equipment will be tested to confirm manufacturer specifications
 - All cable will be tested via Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) to continuity and length per reel
- Cable Splicing
 - Splicing will be completed in controlled environment to increase cable integrity
 - Entire segments of cable will hold entire length of cable for each route
 - In-field connection will happen at community connection at above ground manhole
- Down Current Cable Lay
 - Increased down force on cable to maximize burial
 - Vortex induced vibration drives cable into riverbed



River Installation – Equipment and Crew

- Vessels – All Shallow Draft
 - 1 x Cable lay barge
 - 2 x Assist vessels/tugs
 - 1 x Dive support vessel
 - 3 x 18 ft cable skiffs
 - 1 x 30 ft crew transfer boat
 - 1 x Camp barge
- Crew
 - 14-person crew (not including camp management)
 - 5-person HDD crew (crew works separate and independent from cable crew)
- Local Labor and Camp Support
 - Contractor will be seeking local labor and contractors for support
- Vessel Positioning
 - Differential Positioning thrusting system
 - Anchors potentially used at shore landings – one upstream anchor



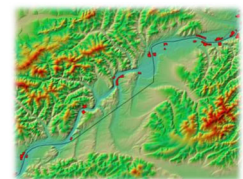
River Installation – Shore Landing

- Horizontal Directional Drilled (HDD) transition from riverbed to shore
- Drilled from existing gravel on shore to riverbed. Float/buoy marks the end of pipe for cable lay barge
- Beach manhole (BMH) is a concrete cellar approximately 4 ft x 4 ft
- Splice is on shore in BMH – easily accessed



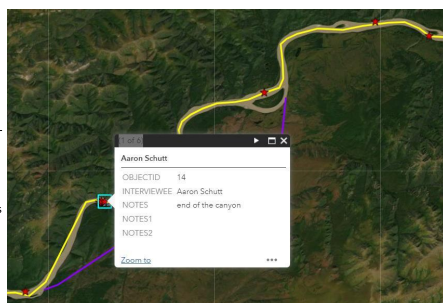
Canyon Bypass

- Discovered as design issue by local/traditional knowledge interview
 - High velocity current
 - Transports large material during high water
 - Potential to damage cable – high
 - Ability to install and repair fiber – difficult
- Ongoing route study
 - Desktop terrain analysis
 - Field verification and alternatives analysis
- Solution – overland direct lay bypass
 - Direct lay fiber
 - 5-person HDD Crew (crew works separate and independent from cable crew)



River Installation -Stakeholder Engagement and Local Knowledge

- Significant outreach conducted during development of NTIA application
 - Engagement with each village and Native Tribe resulting in letters of support or resolutions
 - Collection of Traditional Knowledge – understanding morphology, hydrology, and unique features to be integrated into the engineering design
 - TK identified Canyon section to bypass
 - Interviews with knowledgeable persons – riverboat captains
 - All data integrated into a GIS Web viewer program for use through entirety of project

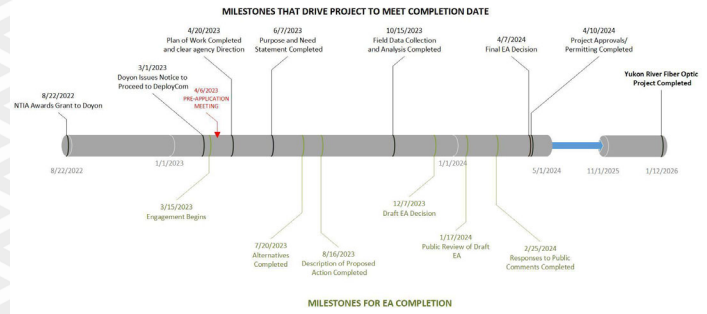


Example of Alaska Direct Cable Lay

- Fiber optic line works into the existing vegetation
 - Low impact to environment
- Stream Crossing Options
 - Pole installation
 - HDD
- Cable Lay Season Options
 - Will determine best season for cable lay
 - Potential winter installation with slack looping follow up in summer



Project Schedule



Questions and Discussion

YUKON RIVER FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

Project Overview

On August 26, 2022, the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA), under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, awarded Federal Award No. NT22TBC0290063 to Doyon, Limited (Doyon) to install Segment One of the Alaska Fiber Optic Project. Segment One extends from Fox, Alaska to the villages of Fort Yukon, Beaver, Stevens Village, Rampart, and Tanana. The project will consist of an armored cable containing a total of 48 fibers and will include the installation of 135 miles of cable along the Elliott and Dalton Highways, and 310 miles installed on the riverbed in the Yukon River. An approximate 10 mile section of the Yukon River, known locally as the “canyon,” may not be suitable for river installation and an overland bypass route will be reviewed in the summer of 2023. The bypass installation method would be a direct lay and is similar to other installations used in the state.

Permitting Process

NTIA is the lead federal agency responsible for completing the NEPA process. Ms. Amanda Peiria is the environmental lead for NTIA and will be present at the pre-application meeting.

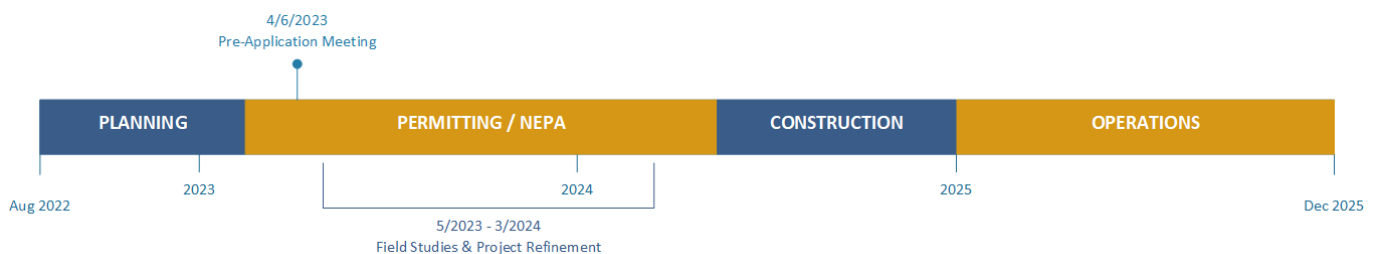
Doyon is the grant recipient.

Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) will be the

contracted operator of the system once installed through an IRU with Doyon. DeployCom is the construction arm of ACS’s parent company, ATNI, and is under contract with Doyon for the permitting and construction of the project.



This Pre-Application meeting kicks off the regulatory process. A refined Plan of Work that will accompany project scoping and permit applications is currently being prepared.





DEPLOYCOM YUKON FIBER PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

MEETING DATE | TIME *APRIL 6, 2023* | *1:00 PM* | MEETING LOCATION *FAIRBANKS*

CLIENT/PROJECT: DeployCom
SUBJECT: Pre-Application Meeting
FACILITATOR:

Attendees	Attendance Medium	Company	Email
Glenn Ruckhaus	In-person	ORNRC	glenn@owlridgenrc.com
Doug Hudson	In-person	DeployCom	dHUDSON@deploycom.com
Amanda Pereira	In-person	NTIA	apereira@ntia.gov
Keja Whiteman	In-person	NTIA	kwhiteman@ntia.gov
Paul Cartier	In-person	ORNRC	pcartier@owlridgenrc.com
Bill Morris	In-person	ORNRC	bmorris@owlridgenrc.com
Sarah Obed	In-person	Doyon, Limited	obeds@doyon.com
R. Bruce Sackinger	In-person	DNR-DMLW	Bruce.sackinger@alaska.gov
Austin Michels	In-person	DNR-DMLW	Austin.michels@alaska.gov
Melissa Head	In-person	DNR-DMLW	Melissa.head@alaska.gov
Tim LaMarr	In-person	BLM-CUFO	tlamarr@blm.gov
Sheri Wilson	In-person	BLM-CUFO	slwilson@blm.gov
Allen Todd	In-person	Doyon, Limited	todda@doyon.com
Garrett Carter	In-person	AK DOT	Garrett.carter@alaska.gov
Andrew Tunnell	In-person	Doyon, Limited	tunnella@doyon.com
Audra Brase	In-person	ADF&G Habitat	Audra.braser@alaska.gov
Angela Ludwick	In-person	Doyon, Limited	ludwicka@doyon.com
McKenzie Herring	Teams	DNR	Mckenzie.herring@alaska.gov
Craig Litteken	Teams	FPISC	Craig.litteken@fpisc.gov
Heather Cavanaugh	Teams	ACS	Heather.cavanaugh@acsalaska.com
Gary Mendivil	Teams	ADEC	Gary.mendivil@alaska.gov
Bob Henszey	Teams	FWS	Bob_henszay@fws.gov



Attendees	Attendance Medium	Company	Email
Hanna Thompson	Teams		
19076871922	Teams	Unknown	
Carolyn Farmer	Teams	USACE	Carolyn.h.farmer@usace.army.mil
Diana Biesanz	Teams	USFWS	
Nichole Bjornlie	Teams	USFWS	
James Rypkema	Teams	ADEC	
Dave Seris	Teams	USCG District 17	David.m.seris@uscg.mil
Joshua Standing Horse	Teams	NTIA	
Jimmy Fox	Teams	FWS	Jimmy_fox@fws.gov
Shondiin Mayo	Teams	Doyon, Limited	mayos@doyon.com
Shawna Sastamoinen	Teams	DOT Utilities	
Nicole Gustine	Teams	USFWS	
April Dent	Teams	FWS	April_dent@fws.gov
Gene McCabe	Teams	ADEC	
Kori Marchowsky	Teams		
Ben White	Teams	ADNR OPMP	Ben.white@alaska.gov
jkeeler	Teams		
Andrew Bielakowski	Teams	NTIA	Andrew.bielakowski@firstnet.gov
Natalie Vélez-Suarez	Teams		
Kayde Whiteside	Teams		
PoQueen Rivera	Teams	FPISC OED	Poqueen.rivera@fpisc.gov
Bryan Tenney	Teams	ACS	Bryan.tenney@acsalaska.com



Attendees	Attendance Medium	Company	Email

DOYON, LIMITED

BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2021-32

SUBJECT: NTIA BROADBAND GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Doyon, Limited (“Doyon”) is organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1601 *et seq.* (“ANCSA”). Under the provisions of ANCSA, Doyon will receive approximately 12.5 million acres of land across Interior Alaska. To date, Doyon has received title to just over 11.5 million acres; and

WHEREAS, Doyon, in conjunction with Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. and with the support of certain tribes in the Doyon region, intends to apply for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, to establish the infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service in the Doyon region; and

WHEREAS, Doyon is an eligible entity as a Native Corporation within the definition set forth in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. Section 905(a)(8) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (the “Act”) specifies that Alaska Native Corporations are eligible to receive grants pursuant to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. The proposed project is located within the Doyon region established pursuant to section 7(a) of ANCSA; and

WHEREAS, most of the villages in the Doyon region remain unserved as set forth in section 905(a) of the Act. Many communities in the Doyon region currently receive service through microwave and satellite middle-mile connections with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service. Such service is costly, slow and is often negatively impacted by weather; and

WHEREAS, broadband service in most of the rural and remote areas of Alaska has remained unattainable due to factors including high build-out costs in a geographically immense state and low population density that has not supported investment by commercial internet service providers. Alaska is last among the 50 states in terms of internet connectivity, with the rural areas of Alaska remaining underserved or not served at all; and

WHEREAS, the availability of internet access has critical implications for improved health care services, education, employment opportunities, business expansion, public safety and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fiber optic cable project would provide middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure to allow high-speed connection to the internet to villages on the Yukon River between Fort Yukon and Holy Cross and into the Calista Region and would set the conditions for the eventual deployment of high-speed broadband to villages throughout the Doyon region; and

WHEREAS, Doyon will serve as the grant applicant for a portion of the project, including a fiber-optic cable along the Steese and Elliott highways from Fairbanks to the Yukon River Bridge, then upriver to Fort Yukon and downriver to Tanana, where the project will continue through a second segment, sponsored by Gana-A’Yoo, Limited downriver from Tanana to Holy Cross.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Doyon, Limited hereby authorizes the application by Doyon, Limited for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and his designees are hereby authorized and empowered to take such actions as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

ADOPTED and DATED this 28th day of August 2021 at Fairbanks, Alaska.



Jennifer Fate, Secretary
Doyon, Limited

DELEGATION OF CORPORATE AUTHORITY

I, Aaron M. Schutt, being first duly sworn, say as follows:

1. I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of Doyon, Limited.
2. The Doyon, Limited Board of Directors, at a meeting properly held on August 28, 2021, by Board Resolution No. 2021-32, granted to me or my designee authority to take such actions as are necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of B.R. 2021-32.
3. The aforementioned resolution has not been amended and is still in full force and effect.
4. Based upon the authority granted to me by B.R. 2021-32, I hereby designate to Allen Todd, General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, the authority to act on behalf of Doyon, Limited with respect to carrying out the purposes of B.R. 2021-32 including executing relevant documents on behalf of Doyon, Limited for submission of a grant application for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Dated this 31st day of August 2021 at Anchorage, Alaska.




Aaron M. Schutt
President
Doyon, Limited

STATE OF ALASKA)
) : ss
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 31st day of August 2021 by Aaron M. Schutt.

NOTARY PUBLIC
Carol L. Hull
STATE OF ALASKA
My Commission Expires March 13, 2022



Notary Public for Alaska
My commission expires:



TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Health Services

Al Ketzler, Sr. Building

201 First Ave, Suite 300

Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 452-8251 Fax: 459-3950

Toll Free in Alaska 1-800-478-7822

August 27, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator Tribal Letter of support
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for Doyon Limited NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

This letter is to express our support for the grant application submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project.

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is the non-profit Tribal Consortium representing 37 federally recognized tribes in the interior of Alaska, providing health and social services to all community members in our remote villages, spread across an area the size of Texas. The vast majority of our communities are not connected to the road system and service delivery would significantly benefit from reliable, fast and affordable internet service.

Improved broadband would not only improve the delivery of health care services with opportunities to improve telehealth, but it would also allow for opportunities for telework for community members who could perform a lot of administrative functions in our health care system remotely; medical coding & billing; patient travel; nurse triage call center are just some examples of those functions.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite-based [or microwave-based] access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite [or microwave based] service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service.

Our Vision

Healthy People Across Generations

Our Mission

TCC Health Services, in partnership with those we serve, promotes and enhances spiritual, physical, mental and emotional wellness through education, prevention and the delivery of quality services.

Tanana Chiefs Conference Health Services supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Sincerely,

Tanana Chiefs Conference



Jacoline Bergstrom
Executive Director Health Services

Baan o yeel Kon Corporation
P.O. Box 74381
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-4381

August 27, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator Tribal Letter of support
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

This letter is to express Baan o yeel Kon Corporation's, the village corporation for Rampart, Alaska, support for the grant application submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project.

Rampart is a city in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Alaska, United States. With 57 people, Rampart is the 242nd most populated city in the state of Alaska out of 329 cities. In 2019, the median household income of Rampart households was \$51,250. However, 20.0% of Rampart families live in poverty. With fiberoptic broadband as proposed by this plan, this would greatly improve the chances of online employment, improvement to health services and educational online programs for our community.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite-based [or microwave-based] access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite [or microwave based] service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service.

Baan o yeel Kon Corporation supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Sincerely,

Janine Avner

President, Baan o yeel Kon Corporation Board of Directors

Danzhit Hanlaih Corporation
615 Bidwell St, Ste 407
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 452-2288

Resolution No. 2021-4

A resolution in support of the grant application for Broadband Infrastructure Funding for Yukon River Villages under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

WHEREAS, a grant submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project has proposed to develop and construct a fiber-optic cable from an internet connection in Fairbanks, Alaska to the Yukon River Bridge on the Dalton Highway and along the Yukon River to Yukon River villages within the region in order to provide high speed, affordable broadband; and

WHEREAS, broadband is the foundation for economic growth, job creation, successful education and is necessary for delivering health care, managing energy, ensuring public safety, engaging government, and organizing and disseminating knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Interior Alaska remains an internet desert with communities off the road system relying on microwave and satellite backhaul, which is costly and high-latency, that is severely constrained by the overall internet capacity; and

WHEREAS, A Blueprint for Alaska's Broadband Future - a study conducted by the Denali Commission, lists the area to the north of Fairbanks, the area contemplated by this grant request, as the area of highest priority for federal program funding support; and

WHEREAS, our community is remote and access to affordable, high-speed internet to our community members, schools, and businesses is likely only to be achieved with substantial federal investment through this opportunity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Danzhit Hanlaih Corporation (Circle, Alaska) supports the grant application for funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program with the goal of funding a fiber-optic cable network providing high-speed internet to our community.

ADOPTED by the 24th day of August, 2021.

Angela M. Ludwick
(Print Name)
Angela M. Ludwick
(Signature)
President
(Title)



Interior Regional Housing Authority
828 27th Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

August 27, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator Tribal Letter of Support
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

This letter is to express Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) support for the grant application submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project.

IRHA serves the tribes of the Doyon Region, encompassing remote traditional villages, and Alaska's second largest city, Fairbanks. Employing local residents whenever possible, IRHA contributes to village economies, and provides valuable job training and experience. With fiberoptic broadband as proposed by this plan, this would greatly improve the chances of online employment, improvement to health services and educational online programs for our communities.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite-based [or microwave-based] access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite [or microwave based] service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service.

IRHA supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Sincerely,

INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ori Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ori" being more prominent than the last name "Williams".

Orie Williams, CEO

cc: Doyon, Limited
Gana-A'Yoo, Limited

August 23, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Proposed by Doyon, Limited in partnership with Alaska Communications Services, Inc.

To Whom It May Concern,

Dinyea Corporation, the village corporation established under the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act of 1971 for Stevens Village, supports the proposed fiber optic project proposed by Doyon, Limited in partnership with ACS. This project would provide internet access to more than ten villages in Interior Alaska.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Stevens Village is located on the Yukon River in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our tribal members, and limited, expensive satellite-based [or microwave-based] access for clinics and schools as well as to enhance business opportunity. The community currently receives service through satellite [or microwave based] service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service.

Dinyea Corporation supports the application by Doyon, Limited and ACS for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Respectfully,

Signature: *Randy Mayo*

Title: *President*

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186
Phone (907) 465-2327
Fax: (907) 465-5241
Toll Free: (800)336-7383



Interim:

1292 Sadler Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: (907) 456-8161
Fax: (907) 456-8163
Toll Free: (800)336-7383

Senator Click Bishop

August 30, 2021

Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Letter of support for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Alaska Application, Funding Opportunity Number NTIA-TBC-TBDPO-2021-2006948

Dear Mr. Kinkoph:

Thank you for the opportunity to deploy high-speed internet in some of the nation's most remote, unserved communities through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. I'm writing to support a fiber optic project in partnership with Doyon Limited, Calista Corporation, Gana'-A Yoo Limited and Alaska Communications (ACS), which, if deployed, would positively change nearly 12,000 lives in Alaska, 78 percent of which are Alaska Native.

As you know, reliable, affordable, high-speed internet is required to enable quality healthcare, education, economic development, business, and quality of life. We learned that high-speed internet became life changing when our entire nation, and the world, shifted to a virtual environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those without it were left behind.

Many of Alaska's residents lack access to the internet. Many of these residents are Alaska Natives in remote communities that do not have fiber connectivity. The Doyon, Calista, Gana'-A Yoo and ACS project, if funded, would not only close the digital divide so prevalent in our state, but also deploy a 100percent fiber solution that is scalable and has the ability to support and integrate evolving technologies of the future. Given that this a once in a generation funding opportunity it is imperative that we adopt proposals that are "future proof."

This project proposes to connect 23 communities along the Yukon River with high-speed fiber-optic cable. Alaska Communications is the broadband provider that would lead the construction and deployment in partnership with Alaska Native Corporations and tribes. Together, these entities have hundreds of years of experience serving Alaskans and

E-Mail: Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.org
Website: www.alaskasenate.org/bishop/

working in Alaska's unique environment. Alaska Communications has a positive reputation in the state and has served Alaskans for more than 100 years. It is a leading provider of broadband and managed IT services statewide, from Alaska's North Slope to its southern most communities like Ketchikan in Southeast. It serves residents, schools, hospitals, government agencies, and our state's largest businesses. It is well-placed to complete such a large, important broadband infrastructure project in our state.

I am impressed by the manner in which Alaska's Native Corporations, villages and a local broadband provider have come together to develop a vision and have worked together to create a project that will benefit more than 12,000 Alaskans and more than 9,000 Alaska Natives for many years to come. Therefore, I extend my full support to the joint project as proposed by Doyon Limited, Calista Corporation, Gana'-A Yoo Limited and Alaska Communications.

Thank you and I welcome your support of this important project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Click Bishop". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Senator Click Bishop
Alaska State Legislature



August 10, 2021

National Telecommunication and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Ave
NW Washington, DC 20230

Re: Letter of Support for Doyon Limited Application to the NTIA Tribal Broadband Opportunity

To Whom It May Concern:

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is the non-profit, Tribal consortium representing 37 federally recognized tribes in Alaska's interior. Our organizational vision is "Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes." TCC works toward this vision in many ways, from operating health services in our remote clinics to assisting with the construction of roads and remote power plants.

Tanana Chiefs Conference applauds Doyon Limited's (Doyon) plan to provide middle mile and last mile connectivity to communities along the Yukon River that we jointly represent. TCC is supportive of the Doyon proposal to the NTIA Tribal Broadband opportunity provided:

1. There is full consultation on all potential environmental impacts with all TCC member tribes, including impacts related to subsistence salmon species;
2. All environmental laws, regulations, and processes are followed and all environmental impacts are properly considered ; and
3. Doyon is contractually guaranteed that the operator of the fiber will keep monthly household internet costs at rates comparable to those paid in Fairbanks and Anchorage, as noted in their proposal.

Tanana Chiefs Conference works at the direction of our tribes. Presently, the cost of broadband access for our remote village are some of the highest in the nation. This creates a substantial economic and communication disadvantage for our communities. The main cause is a lack of access to cost effective middle mile fiber. Provided the project meets the above requirements, TCC is supportive of this application for funding.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important project,

Chief Pollack "PJ" Simon, Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference

Tozitna, Limited

P.O Box 129, Tanana, AK 99777 ♦ Telephone 907-366-7255

August 25, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

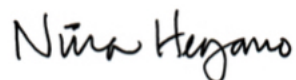
This letter is to express our support for the grant application submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project.

Tozitna, Limited is the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) village corporation for the community of Tanana. We have over 700 shareholders and our office is based in Tanana. Currently we cannot confidently or reliably conduct business via the internet due to inadequate service. This has been especially problematic during the Pandemic. We are supporting this broadband project to increase connectivity and reliability and to decrease costs of operations.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite-based [or microwave-based] access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite [or microwave based] service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service.

Tozitna, Limited supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Sincerely,



Nina Heyano, President



Yukon Flats School District

P. O. Box 350
Fort Yukon, AK 99740
P: (907) 662-2515 or 1.800.322.2515
F: (907) 662-3094 or 2519

www.yfsd.org

Arctic Village
Beaver
Chalkyitsik
Circle
Fort Yukon
Rampart
Venetie

August 25, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator Tribal Letter of support
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

The Yukon Flats School District enthusiastically supports the Fiberoptic project proposed by Doyon, Limited in partnership with ACS. This project would provide internet access to more than a dozen communities in rural Interior Alaska, one of the most remote areas in Alaska.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality, and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite-based (or microwave-based) access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite (or microwave based) service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service. This is a disadvantage to our students who are learning to find their place as global citizens.

Again, Yukon Flats School District supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary to provide broadband service.

Sincerely,

Dr. Debbe Lancaster, Superintendent
(907)662-2515 x 24

Native Village of Minto P.O. Box 26 Minto, Alaska 99758 ph (907)798-7112 fax (907) 798-7627

mintovillagecouncil@hotmail.com

keith.charlie@tananachiefs.org

Ch'echalyu



Bedzeyh Ti Xwt' ana



Tonidra Ghetslina



Tsiyhyu



Artwork by Knowland Silas

August 17, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator Tribal Letter of support

1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887

Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

This letter is to express our support for the grant application submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project.

Native Village of Minto (DBA Minto Village Council)

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet

"In the old days everybody belonged to a clan. In Minto there are four clans:

Caribou – (Bedzeyh Ti Xwt' ana) Fishtail (Ch'echalyu) Paint – (Tsiyhyu) Middle (Tonidra Gheltslina)" - Chief Peter John

Council Members: 1st Chief Joeseph Alexander, 2nd Chief Johnathan David, Sec./Tres. Lori Baker,

Member Lindberg Charlie, Member Eilleen Charlie

Native Village of Minto P.O. Box 26 Minto, Alaska 99758 ph (907)798-7112 fax (907) 798-7627

mintovillagecouncil@hotmail.com

keith.charlie@tananachiefs.org

service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite-based [or microwave-based] access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite [or microwave based] service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service.

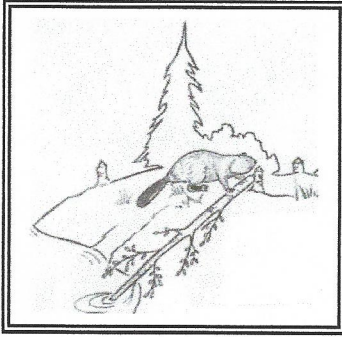
Minto Village Council supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Sincerely,



1st chief Joseph Alexander

“In the old days everybody belonged to a clan. In Minto there are four clans:
Caribou – (Bedzeyh Ti Xwt’ana) Fishtail (Ch’echalyu) Paint – (Tsiyhyu) Middle (Tonidra Gheltslina)” - Chief Peter John
Council Members: 1st Chief Joseph Alexander, 2nd Chief Johnathan David, Sec./Tres. Lori Baker,
Member Lindberg Charlie, Member Eilleen Charlie



BEAVER VILLAGE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 24029
Beaver, Alaska 99724

PHONE (907)628-6126 FAX 628-6815

Resolution No. 21-11

A resolution in support of the grant application for the Doyon-ACS Broadband Yukon River Villages for Broadband Infrastructure Funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

WHEREAS, Beaver Village, or 'the tribe', is a federally recognized tribe listed in the Secretary of the Interior's annual list of federally recognized Tribes issued in accordance with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-454, see 86 Fed. Reg. 7554 (January 29, 2021); and

WHEREAS, Doyon, Limited (Doyon) is the Alaska Native regional corporation established pursuant to the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Pub. L. 92-203 for those Alaska Natives enrolled to the Doyon region, and is eligible to apply for funding under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Programs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. (ACS) is a provider of advanced broadband and managed IT services for businesses and consumers in Alaska, operating a highly reliable, advanced statewide data network with the latest technology and the most diverse undersea fiber optic system connecting Alaska to the contiguous U.S.

WHEREAS, Doyon and ACS have proposed to develop and construct a fiber-optic cable from an internet connection in Fairbanks, Alaska to the Yukon River Bridge on the Dalton Highway and along the Yukon River to Yukon River villages within the Doyon region in order to provide high speed, affordable broadband; and

WHEREAS, the tribe has acknowledged through various regional plans and surveys that access to affordable, high speed internet is one of the most important factors toward improving economic conditions, educational opportunities and access to healthcare for our tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the tribe has had a successful working relationship with Doyon on past projects and looks forward to working collaboratively with Doyon and ACS on this project; and

WHEREAS, our community is remote and access to affordable, high-speed internet to our tribal members and tribal offices is likely only to be achieved with substantial federal investment through this opportunity.

Rhonda Pitka, Chief
Arlene Pitka., 2nd Chief
Selina Petruska , Secretary
Aaron Petruska, Birdie Billy, Nelly Winer, and Kody Vanderpool

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Beaver Village authorizes Doyon to apply for funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program with the goal of funding a fiber-optic cable network providing high-speed internet to our community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tribe authorizes Doyon and its agents and subcontractors to be the technical point of contact for negotiations involving this project.

ADOPTED by the Beaver Village Tribe at a regular meeting of the Council held on the 20 day of August, 2021.

Rhonda Pitka
(Print Name)


(Signature)

First Chief of Beaver
(Title)

Resolution No. 2021

A resolution in support of the grant application for the Doyon-ACS Broadband Yukon River Villages for Broadband Infrastructure Funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

WHEREAS, Rampart Village Council, or 'the tribe', is a federally recognized tribe listed in the Secretary of the Interior's annual list of federally recognized Tribes issued in accordance with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-454, see 86 Fed. Reg. 7554 (January 29, 2021); and

WHEREAS, Doyon, Limited (Doyon) is the Alaska Native regional corporation established pursuant to the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Pub. L. 92-203 for those Alaska Natives enrolled to the Doyon region, and is eligible to apply for funding under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Programs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. (ACS) is a provider of advanced broadband and managed IT services for businesses and consumers in Alaska, operating a highly reliable, advanced statewide data network with the latest technology and the most diverse undersea fiber optic system connecting Alaska to the contiguous U.S.

WHEREAS, Doyon and ACS have proposed to develop and construct a fiber-optic cable from an internet connection in Fairbanks, Alaska to the Yukon River Bridge on the Dalton Highway and along the Yukon River to Yukon River villages within the Doyon region in order to provide high speed, affordable broadband; and

WHEREAS, the tribe has acknowledged through various regional plans and surveys that access to affordable, high speed internet is one of the most important factors toward improving economic conditions, educational opportunities and access to healthcare for our tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the tribe has had a successful working relationship with Doyon on past projects and looks forward to working collaboratively with Doyon and ACS on this project; and

WHEREAS, our community is remote and access to affordable, high-speed internet to our tribal members and tribal offices is likely only to be achieved with substantial federal investment through this opportunity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Rampart Village Council authorizes Doyon to apply for funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program with the goal of funding a fiber-optic cable network providing high-speed internet to our community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tribe authorizes Doyon and its agents and subcontractors to be the technical point of contact for negotiations involving this project.

ADOPTED by the Rampart Village Council _____ at a regular meeting of the Council held on the
30th day of August, 2021.

Michael Wich

(Print Name)
Michael Wich

(Signature)
1st Chief

(Title)



Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government

(Formerly known as the Native Village of Fort Yukon, IRA)

P.O. Box 126 Third & Alder Street

Fort Yukon, AK 99740-0126

www.fortyukon.org

Phone: (907) 662-2581 Fax: (907) 662-2222

Resolution No. 21-18

A resolution in support of the grant application for the Doyon-ACS Broadband Yukon River Villages for Broadband Infrastructure Funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

WHEREAS; Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government or 'the tribe', is a federally recognized tribe listed in the Secretary of the Interior's annual list of federally recognized Tribes issued in accordance with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-454, see 86 Fed. Reg. 7554 (January 29, 2021); and

WHEREAS; The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Tribal Council is duly elected Governing body of the Tribe authorized to act by and on behalf of its members; and

WHEREAS; Doyon, Limited (Doyon) is the Alaska Native regional corporation established pursuant to the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Pub. L. 92-203 for those Alaska Natives enrolled to the Doyon region, and is eligible to apply for funding under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Programs; and

WHEREAS; Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. (ACS) is a provider of advanced broadband and managed IT services for businesses and consumers in Alaska, operating a highly reliable, advanced statewide data network with the latest technology and the most diverse undersea fiber optic system connecting Alaska to the contiguous U.S.

WHEREAS; Doyon and ACS have proposed to develop and construct a fiber-optic cable from an internet connection in Fairbanks, Alaska to the Yukon River Bridge on the Dalton Highway and along the Yukon River to Yukon River villages within the Doyon region in order to provide high speed, affordable broadband; and

WHEREAS; the tribe has acknowledged through various regional plans and surveys that access to affordable, high speed internet is one of the most important factors toward improving economic conditions, educational opportunities and access to healthcare for our tribal members; and

WHEREAS; the tribe has had a successful working relationship with Doyon on past projects and looks forward to working collaboratively with Doyon and ACS on this project; and

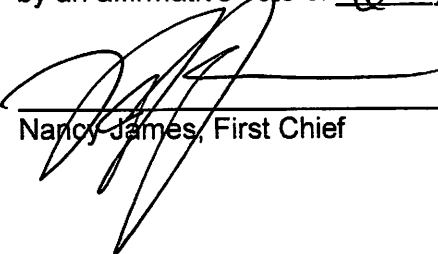
WHEREAS; our community is remote and access to affordable, high-speed internet to our tribal members and tribal offices is likely only to be achieved with substantial federal investment through this opportunity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government authorizes Doyon to apply for funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program with the goal of funding a fiber-optic cable network providing high-speed internet to our community.

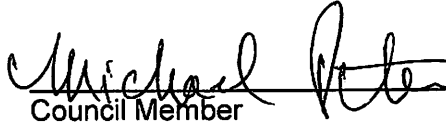
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tribe authorizes Doyon and its agents and subcontractors to be the technical point of contact for negotiations involving this project.

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government in a regular meeting convened this 24 day of August, 2021 at which a quorum was present and approved this resolution by an affirmative vote of 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining and 1 absent



Nancy James, First Chief



Michael Peter
Council Member

Resolution No. 21-02

A resolution in support of the grant application for Broadband Infrastructure Funding for Yukon River Villages under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

WHEREAS, a grant submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project has proposed to develop and construct a fiber-optic cable from an internet connection in Fairbanks, Alaska to the Yukon River Bridge on the Dalton Highway and along the Yukon River to Yukon River villages within the region in order to provide high speed, affordable broadband; and

WHEREAS, broadband is the foundation for economic growth, job creation, successful education and is necessary for delivering health care, managing energy, ensuring public safety, engaging government, and organizing and disseminating knowledge; and

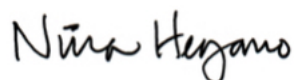
WHEREAS, Interior Alaska remains an internet desert with communities off the road system relying on microwave and satellite backhaul, which is costly and high-latency, that is severely constrained by the overall internet capacity; and

WHEREAS, A Blueprint for Alaska's Broadband Future - a study conducted by the Denali Commission, lists the area to the north of Fairbanks, the area contemplated by this grant request, as the area of highest priority for federal program funding support; and

WHEREAS, our community is remote and access to affordable, high-speed internet to our community members, schools, and businesses is likely only to be achieved with substantial federal investment through this opportunity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Tozitna, Limited supports the grant application for funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program with the goal of funding a fiber-optic cable network providing high-speed internet to our community.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Tozitna, Limited through an email poll on the 25th day of August, 2021.



Nina Heyano, President
Tozitna, Limited



"WHERE THE TWO RIVERS MEET"

TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL
PO Box 130, Tanana, AK 99777
Phone: (907) 366-7160 or 7170 Fax: (907) 366-7402

Resolution 2021-11

A resolution in support of the grant application for the Doyon-ACS Broadband Yukon River Villages for Broadband Infrastructure Funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Whereas, The Tanana Tribal Council is the governing body for the Native Village of Tanana, a federally recognized tribe, and is listed on the United States list of Federally Recognized Tribes under the Tribal List Act of 1994, reserving sovereign and aboriginal rights in perpetuity; and

Whereas, Article VIII of the Tribal Constitution Section 1. Powers. The Tribal Council shall exercise the following powers by appropriate motion, resolution, or ordinance subject to any limitations imposed by the Constitution or applicable laws of the United States: b. To promote and protect the health, education, and general welfare of the members of the Tribe, and to administer charity and such other services as may contribute to the social economic development of the Village and its members; and

WHEREAS, Doyon, Limited (Doyon) is the Alaska Native regional corporation established pursuant to the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Pub. L. 92-203 for those Alaska Natives enrolled to the Doyon region, and is eligible to apply for funding under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Programs; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Communications Systems Group, Inc. (ACS) is a provider of advanced broadband and managed IT services for businesses and consumers in Alaska, operating a highly reliable, advanced statewide data network with the latest technology and the most diverse undersea fiber optic system connecting Alaska to the contiguous U.S.

WHEREAS, Doyon and ACS have proposed to develop and construct a fiber-optic cable from an internet connection in Fairbanks, Alaska to the Yukon River Bridge on the Dalton Highway and along the Yukon River to Yukon River villages within the Doyon region in order to provide high speed, affordable broadband; and

WHEREAS, the tribe has acknowledged through various regional plans and surveys that access to affordable, high speed internet is one of the most important factors toward improving economic conditions, educational opportunities and access to healthcare for our tribal members; and

WHEREAS, the tribe has had a successful working relationship with Doyon on past projects and looks forward to working collaboratively with Doyon and ACS on this project; and

WHEREAS, our community is remote and access to affordable, high-speed internet to our tribal members and tribal offices is likely only to be achieved with substantial federal investment through this opportunity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that _____ authorizes Doyon to apply for funding under the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program with the goal of funding a fiber-optic cable network providing high-speed internet to our community.



"WHERE THE TWO RIVERS MEET"

TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL
PO Box 130, Tanana, AK 99777
Phone: (907) 366-7160 or 7170 Fax: (907) 366-7402

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tribe authorizes Doyon and its agents and subcontractors to be the technical point of contact for negotiations involving this project.

Duly Adopted 24 day of Aug, 2021

First Chief

Attest:



Yukon Koyukuk School District
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent
kboyd@yksd.com

Telephone: (907) 374-9400
Fax: (907) 374-9440

August 27, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator Tribal Letter of support
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230
RE: Support for NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

This letter is to express Yukon-Koyukuk School District support for the grant application submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project.

The Yukon Koyukuk School District is a school district in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Alaska, United States. With 5,377 people, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area is the 18th most populated area in the state of Alaska out of 29 census areas. In 2019, the median household income of Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area households was \$41,413. However, 20.5% of Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area families live in poverty. With fiberoptic broadband as proposed by this plan, this would greatly improve the chances of online employment and improvement to health services and educational online programs for our communities.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality, and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite- or microwave-based access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite- or microwave-based service with speeds well under the 25/3 Mbps definition of qualifying broadband service.

Yukon-Koyukuk School District supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Sincerely,

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent

August 31, 2021

Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Letter of support for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Alaska Application, Funding Opportunity Number NTIA-TBC-TBDPO-2021-2006948

Dear Mr. Kinkoph:

Thank you for the opportunity to deploy high-speed internet in some of the nation's most remote, unserved communities through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. I'm writing to support a fiber optic project in partnership with Doyon Limited, Calista Corporation, Gana'-A Yoo Limited and Alaska Communications (ACS), which, if deployed, would positively change nearly 12,000 lives in Alaska, 78 percent of which are Alaska Native.

As you know, reliable, affordable, high-speed internet is required to enable quality healthcare, education, economic development, business, and quality of life. We learned that high-speed internet became life changing when our entire nation, and the world, shifted to a virtual environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those without it were left behind.

Many of Alaska's residents lack access to the internet. Many of these residents are Alaska Natives in remote communities that do not have fiber connectivity. The Doyon, Calista, Gana'-A Yoo and ACS project, if funded, would not only close the digital divide so prevalent in our state, but also deploy a 100percent fiber solution that is scalable and has the ability to support and integrate evolving technologies of the future. Given that this is a once in a generation funding opportunity it is imperative that we adopt proposals that are "future proof."

This project proposes to connect 23 communities along the Yukon River with high-speed fiber-optic cable. Alaska Communications is the broadband provider that would lead the construction and deployment in partnership with Alaska Native Corporations and tribes. Together, these entities have hundreds of years of experience serving Alaskans and working in Alaska's unique environment. Alaska Communications has a positive reputation in the state and has served Alaskans for more than 100 years. It is a leading provider of broadband and managed IT services statewide, from Alaska's North Slope to its southern most communities like Ketchikan in Southeast. It serves residents, schools, hospitals, government agencies, and our state's largest businesses. It is well-placed to complete such a large, important broadband infrastructure project in our state.

I am impressed by the manner in which Alaska's Native Corporations, villages and a local broadband provider have come together to develop a vision and have worked together to create a project that will benefit more than 12,000 Alaskans and more than 9,000 Alaska Natives for many years to come. Therefore, I extend my full support to the joint project as proposed by Doyon Limited, Calista Corporation, Gana'-A Yoo Limited and Alaska Communications.

Thank you and I welcome your support of this important project.



Representative Mike Cronk
House District 6
rep.mike.cronk@akleg.gov

Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation
PO Box 329
Ft. Yukon, Alaska 99740

August 26, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator Tribal Letter of support
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4887
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Support for NTIA Grant submission: Broadband Yukon River Fiberoptic Project

Dear Mr. Kinkoph,

This letter is to express Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation, the village corporation for Fort Yukon, Alaska support for the grant application submitted for a Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project.

Fort Yukon is a city in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Alaska, United States. With 561 people, Fort Yukon is the 108th most populated city in the state of Alaska out of 329 cities. In 2019, the median household income of Fort Yukon households was \$32,708. However, 20.4% of Fort Yukon families live in poverty. With fiberoptic broadband as proposed by this plan, this would greatly improve the chances of online employment, improvement to health services and educational online programs for our community.

Alaska ranked 49th out of all 50 states in broadband adoption, network quality and economic structure according to the 2012 State Broadband Index developed by Technet. Communities along the Yukon River are in an underserved area of Alaska without affordable access to broadband internet service for our community members, and limited, expensive satellite-based [or microwave-based] access for clinics and schools. All communities currently receive service through satellite [or microwave based] service with speeds well under the 25/3 definition of qualifying broadband service.

Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation supports the application for a tribal broadband connectivity grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for a Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Project, in order to establish the middle mile and last mile infrastructure necessary for providing broadband service.

Sincerely,



Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation, CEO
P.O. Box 329
Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740



DOYON
Limited



DOYON, *Limited*

ALASKA FIBEROPTIC *project*

PROJECT UPDATE

On August 8, 2022, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded Doyon, Limited a competitive grant to install a fiber-optic network connecting five villages in the Doyon region to affordable broadband service. NTIA representatives made the announcement in Tanana.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE PROJECT?

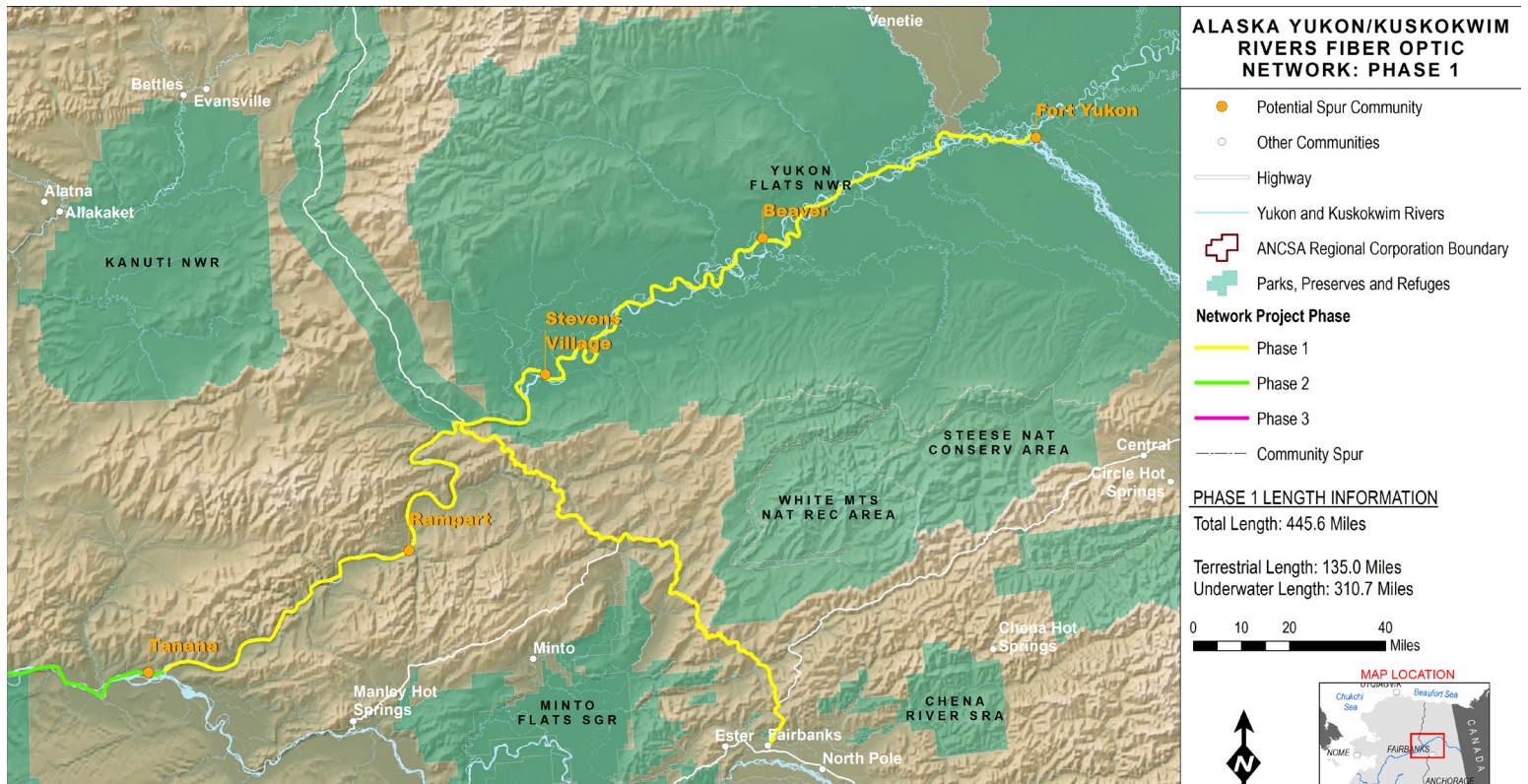
Doyon is currently evaluating the project permitting and construction timeline, and will share more information in the months ahead.

WHAT IS THE FIBEROPTIC PROJECT?

The project will install a new fiber-optic line from Fairbanks up the Elliott and Dalton Highways to the Yukon River Bridge, then upstream to Stevens Village, Beaver, and Fort Yukon, as well as downstream to Rampart and Tanana. The fiber-optic cable will be installed in the riverbed.

The Doyon project is part of the Alaska FiberOptic Project, a larger collaboration between Calista Corporation, Doyon, Gana-A 'Yoo Limited, and Alaska Communications to connect up to 20 communities along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers with fiber-optic cable. This segment is the first of three segments to get funding.

In each of the five villages, the project will install fiber to each home and community building.



WHO IS ON THE TEAM?

The project team includes Doyon, Alaska Communications, and several subcontractors to Alaska Communications. The project team has worked closely with Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and tribes on the grant application and will continue to coordinate.

Doyon, TCC, and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Villages have worked together for the past few years to explore ways to bring high-speed broadband to our region. TCC developed the Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Broadband Plan envisioning broadband for every community in the region. This project is a major step toward realizing that vision.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact:

Sarah E. Obed, Senior VP External Affairs, Doyon, Limited

Email: obeds@doyon.com

Phone: 907-459-2092, 888-478-4755 ext. 2092 (toll free)

Heather Cavanaugh, APR, Alaska Communications
Senior Director, External Affairs and Corporate Communications

Email: heather.cavanaugh@acsalaska.com

Phone: 907-564-7722

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

Fiber-optic cable will be installed to each home in Fort Yukon, Beaver, Stevens Village, Rampart, and Tanana. Community institutions such as schools, clinics, tribal and village corporation offices, stores, and businesses will also be connected.

Alaska Communications will provide internet service to community customers at the same prices they offer Fairbanks and Anchorage residents. Rates for healthcare clinics, schools, and tribal offices will also be lower than current rates. Actual rates will be announced closer to project completion.

Alaska Communications will also offer a \$75/month discount for households on qualifying tribal lands through the Affordable Connectivity Program. Customers can learn more about the program and enroll at acpbenefit.org.



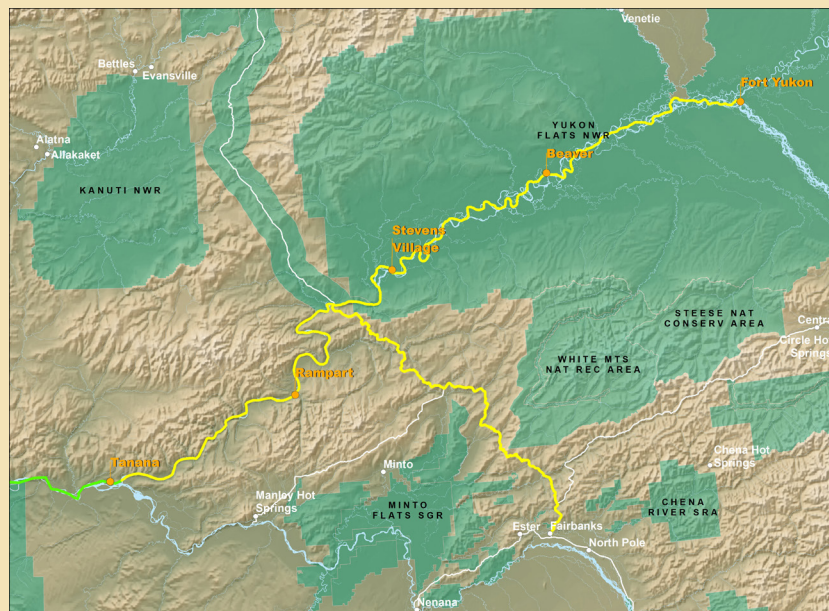
ALASKA FIBEROPTIC PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

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ALASKA YUKON/KUSKOKWIM RIVERS FIBER OPTIC NETWORK: PHASE 1

- Potential Spur Community
- Other Communities
- Highway
- Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers
- ANCSA Regional Corporation Boundary
- Parks, Preserves and Refuges

Network Project Phase

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Community Spur

PHASE 1 LENGTH INFORMATION

Total Length: 445.6 Miles

Terrestrial Length: 135.0 Miles
Underwater Length: 310.7 Miles

0 10 20 40 Miles

MAP LOCATION

DEPLOYMENT_0008.indd 850201 4:37:54 PM '21

INTRODUCING THE NEW LOGO AND BRAND

Our four partners created the Alaska FiberOptic Project logo. It evokes a sun rising over a flowing current, the river's symbolism of connection and transference, and the fiberoptic cable that will connect our region.

EXPECTED PERMITTING TIMEFRAME

Fall 2022	Grant Awarded
Winter 2023 - Spring 2024	Federal and State Permits
Summer 2023	Field Planning and Community Engagement
Spring 2024 - Winter 2025	Construction and Community Engagement
Winter 2025	Project Complete, Home Installation Begins

WHAT TO EXPECT: VILLAGE VISITS IN MAY 2023

Representatives from Doyon, Alaska Communications, and the Alaska FiberOptic Team will visit Fort Yukon, Beaver, Stevens Village, Rampart, and Tanana in May 2023. The purpose of these visits will be to hold community meetings, answer questions, and begin survey work for project permitting.



ALASKA FIBEROPTIC PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS NTIA?

NTIA stands for National Telecommunications and Information Association.

2. WHAT IS THE TRIBAL BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM?

It provides new federal funding for grants to eligible entities to expand access to and adopt broadband services on Tribal Lands. It is administered through NTIA.

3. WHEN WILL SERVICE BE AVAILABLE?

Our goal is to start installing service by the end of 2025, assuming permitting goes as planned and we don't run into supply chain delays.

4. HOW CAN I SIGN UP FOR BROADBAND SERVICE?

Alaska Communications and the Alaska FiberOptic Team will launch a website in the summer of 2023 for customers to tell us about your interest in getting service and continue receiving information about the project. We will also let you know when service is available in your area. We will also host community events where you can sign up for service.

5. WHAT WILL THE SERVICE COST?

Alaska Communications will provide Home Internet at the same prices they offer Fairbanks and Anchorage residents. Rates for healthcare clinics, schools, and tribal offices will also be lower than current rates. Actual rates will be announced closer to project completion.

Alaska Communications will also offer a \$75/month discount for households on qualifying tribal lands through the Affordable Connectivity Program. All the villages in the project service area are considered qualifying tribal lands. Customers can learn more about the program and enroll at acpbenefit.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Sarah E. Obed,
Senior VP External Affairs
Doyon, Limited
obeds@doyon.com
907-459-2092
888-478-4755 ext. 2092 (toll-free)

Heather Cavanaugh,
Senior Director, External Affairs and
Corporate Communications
APR, Alaska Communications
heather.cavanaugh@acsalaska.com
907-564-7722

May 24th and 25th Travel to Tanana and Rampart

TEAM 1

Tuesday, May 23 & Wednesday May 24 th	
ALL DAY(s)	Arrive from Anchorage/Florida (ACS, DC, Owl Ridge)
3:30 pm	Briefing in the 3 rd Floor Doyon Board Room & Zoom
Wednesday, May 24 th	
9:00 am	Check in at Wrights
10:00 am	Depart to Tanana (129 miles)
11:00 am	Arrive in Tanana & Get set up for the presentation
12:00 pm	Lunch & Introductions
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Community Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review Overall Project and timeline 2) Review Permitting Process and Timeline 3) Local Knowledge 4) Q&A <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
3:00 pm	Break/Get Settled
4 - 6 pm	Community tour
4 - 6 pm	Photos, mapping, surveying
7:00 pm	Dinner together
Thursday, May 25 th	
8:00 am	Breakfast (<i>on your own</i>)
9:00 am	More pictures or follow up if needed
10:00 am	Depart to Rampart (60 air miles)
10:30 am	Arrive in Rampart
11:00 am	Get set up for the presentation
11:30 am	Lunch & Introductions
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Community Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review Overall Project and timeline 2) Review Permitting Process and Timeline 3) Local Knowledge 4) Q&A <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
2 – 4 pm	Community tour; Photos, mapping, surveying
4:30 pm	Depart to Fairbanks (83 miles)
5:30 pm	Arrive in Fairbanks

May 24th and 25th Travel to Fort Yukon, Beaver and Stevens Village

TEAM 2

Tuesday, May 23 & Wednesday May 24 th	
ALL DAY(s)	Arrive from Anchorage/Florida (ACS, DC, Owl Ridge)
3:30 pm	Briefing in the 3 rd Floor Doyon Board Room & Zoom
Wednesday, May 24 th	
9:00 am	Check in at Wrights
10:00 am	Depart to Fort Yukon (138 miles)
11:00 am	Arrive in Ft Yukon & Get set up for the presentation
12:00 pm	Lunch & Introductions
12:30- 2 pm	Community Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review Overall Project and timeline 2) Review Permitting Process and Timeline 3) Local Knowledge 4) Q&A <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
2:00 pm	Break/Get Settled
3 – 5 pm	Community tour
3 – 5 pm	Photos, mapping, surveying
6:30 pm	Dinner together
Thursday, May 25 th	
7:30 am	Breakfast (<i>on your own</i>)
9:00 am	Depart to Beaver (60 air miles)
9:30 am	Arrive in Beaver
10:00 am	Get set up for the presentation
11:00 am	Lunch & Introductions
11:15 am	Community Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review Overall Project and timeline 2) Review Permitting Process and Timeline 3) Local Knowledge 4) Q&A <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
1:30 pm	Depart to Stevens Village (45 miles)
2:00 pm	Arrive in Stevens
3-5 pm	Presentations, timelines and local knowledge, pictures/tour <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
5:00 pm	Depart to Fairbanks – Arrive in Fairbanks at 5:45 pm (89.5 miles)

Team 1	Team 2
Arrive from Anchorage – May 23	Arrive from Anchorage – May 23
Depart to Tanana – May 24	Depart to Fort Yukon – May 24
Community Meeting Tanana May 24	Community Meeting Fort Yukon – May 24
Overnight Tanana – May 24	Overnight Fort Yukon – May 24
Depart to Rampart – May 25	Depart to Beaver – May 25
Community Meeting Rampart – May 25	Community Meeting Beaver – May 25
Depart to Fairbanks – May 25	Depart to Stevens Village – May 25
Optional Overnight Fairbanks/Depart to Anchorage – May 25	Community Meeting Stevens Village – May 25
	Depart to Fairbanks – May 25
	Overnight Fairbanks – May 25
	Arrive Anchorage – May 26

Rampart/Tanana - Overnight in Tanana – Team 1

1. Mark Carlson, Director, Network Planning – Technical Expert
2. Kathleen Redmond, Vice President, Strategy and Operations – General Community Outreach
3. Shondiin Mayo, Doyon
4. Michelle Andon, Doyon
5. Sarah Obed, Doyon
6. Glenn Ruckhaus, Owl Ridge
7. Bryan Tenney, Senior Program Manager – Project Management
8. Open

Stevens Village/Beaver/Fort Yukon – Overnight in Fort Yukon – Team 2

1. Doug Hudson, President, DeployCom – Technical Expert
2. Morgan Bender, Fisheries Biologist, Owl Ridge
3. Heather Cavanaugh, Vice President, External Affairs and Corporate Communications – General Community Outreach
4. Allen Todd, Doyon
5. Angela Ludwick, Doyon
6. Kristi Williams, ACS
7. Jordan Breshears - Doyon
8. Paul Cartier, Owl Ridge



Project Overview

May 2023

CURRENT PARTNERS

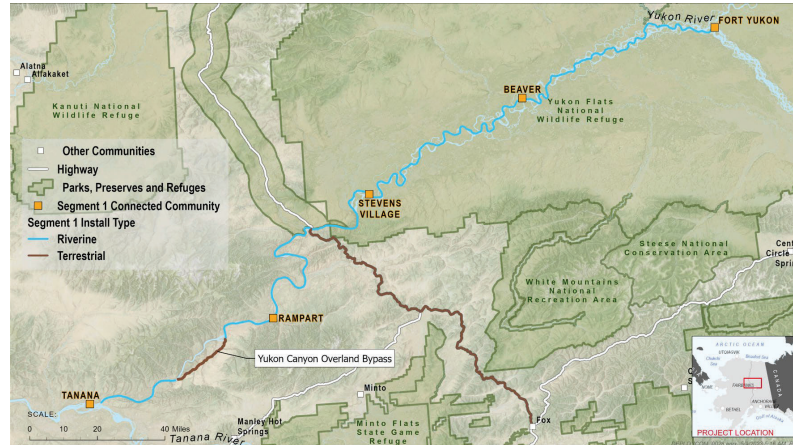


OUR GOAL



- Provide reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband in

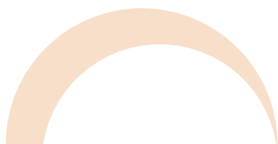
Fort Yukon
 Beaver
 Stevens Village
 Rampart
 Tanana



TECHNOLOGY



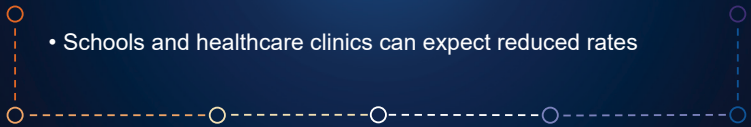
- Fiber optic cable, delivering up to Gigabit speeds
- Fiber to the home, school, healthcare clinics and all major facilities
- Most reliable and fastest technology available



AFFORDABILITY



- Alaska Communications will offer Home Internet at the same prices offered in Anchorage and Fairbanks
- \$75 discount for households on tribal lands through the Affordable Connectivity Program
- Schools and healthcare clinics can expect reduced rates



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW



- Project will undergo standard environmental and permitting process
- Major permits and authorization include:
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act
 - National Marine Fisheries Service – Consultation for Essential Fish Habitat
 - U.S. Coast Guard – Address any hazards to navigation
 - Alaska Department of Natural Resources Utility Easement
 - Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Fish Habitat Permit
- Fiber will lay in the middle of the river, at the bottom, away from the banks

RIVER INSTALLATION



SHORE LANDING



- Concrete beach manhole
- 4 feet x 4 feet
- Directional drill from riverbed to shore

ICE JAMS



- Coordinating with USGS for data and ice forecast
- Reviewed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data
- Conducted Local/Traditional Knowledge interviews
- Comfortable with the hazard analysis



FUNDING



National Telecommunications and Information Administration Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Funding provided by the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act passed by Congress in 2021

DRAFT TIMELINE



2023	Applications and Surveying
2024	Construction (next summer/fall)
2025	Service Available (Dec. 31, 2025)

PROJECT TEAM



- NTIA – Federal Agency
- Doyon, Limited – Grant Recipient
- DeployCom – Construction Contractor
- Alaska Communications – Service Provider and Operator
- Owl Ridge – Permitting Support



WEBSITE



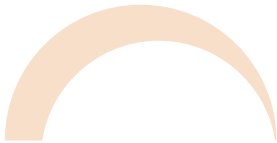
www.AKFiberOpticProject.com



SIGN UP



- Paper Form with Location/Address
- Sign Up Online



THANK YOU!

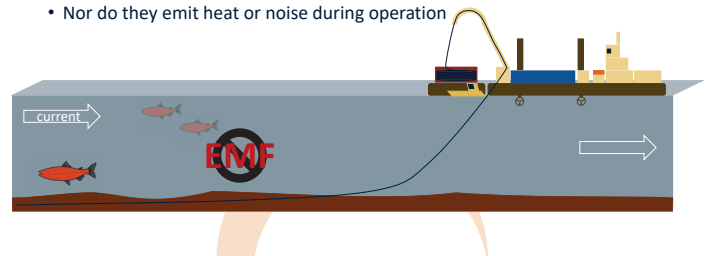


**SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION**

SALMON-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS



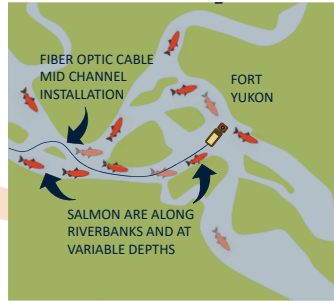
- Fiber optic cables do NOT emit any electromagnetic fields (EMF)
 - Nor do they emit heat or noise during operation



SALMON-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS



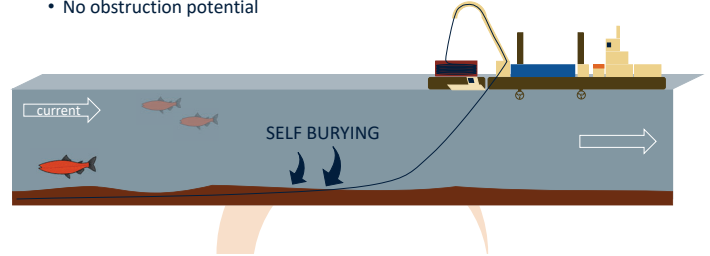
- Salmon spawning migration does not typically occur mid-channel where vessel traffic during installation will be the greatest
- Salmon tend to use slower current areas along riverbanks and at variable depths for out-migration and spawning migrations



SALMON-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS



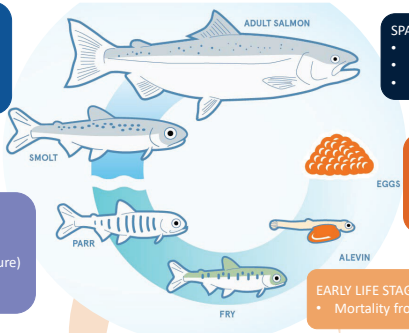
- Self-burying by natural river sedimentation will minimize the change to riverbed topography
 - No obstruction potential



CURRENT HYPOTHESIZED DRIVERS OF YUKON SALMON DECLINE



- OCEANIC STAGE**
- Changing ocean climate
 - Poor nutrition
 - Competition from hatchery fish
 - Bycatch in other fisheries



- SPAWNING STAGE**
- Disease
 - Temperature Stress
 - Poor escapement quality

- EMBRYO STAGE**
- Fewer eggs-in-gravel than estimated
 - Poor egg quality from parental stress

- OUTMIGRATION STAGE**
- Changing freshwater environment (flow, breakup, and temperature)
 - Poor condition
 - Poor nutrition

- EARLY LIFE STAGES**
- Mortality from predation



Meeting Agenda and Minutes			
Client/Project	DeployCom	Date	May 24, 2023
Subject	Fiber Optic Project Introduction	Location	Tanana
Attachments	Sign-in Sheet, Presentation		

Attendees			
Name	Company/Email	Name	Company/Email
See Attached Sign-in Sheet			

Agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See presentation

Minutes - Questions
<p>I. How will you avoid issues with ice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted an analysis of risks from ice jams and ice, no definitive prediction available to identify specific locations to avoid. • Fiber will be installed in the deepest level of the river, no evidence that ice scours the bottom of the river. <p>II. Will there be jobs available to support construction?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes there will be temporary jobs available through our subcontractors conducting the work. • Camp helpers and equipment operators. • Long term employment opportunities will be available to communities after the fiber is installed based on e-commerce, as well as other opportunities . <p>III. How will you deal with loss of service if there is a damage in the line?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily looking to prevent damage to the fiber from proper installation. • Could be up to a month of lost service depending on the time of year when the disruption occurs. • When the line is complete with Segments 2 and 3, redundancy will be in place and should be no loss of signal for mid river communities. <p>IV. Will the activities associated with installation affect migration of salmon?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation will be in the deepest channel of the river, which is avoided by salmon during upstream migration. They tend to travel in the slower shallower waters near the shore. • The installation is temporary and is moving, not expected to inhibit movement of any aquatic species in the river.

Action Items			
Item	Action	Person Responsible	Due Date
1	Charlie Campbell has a fish camp in the “canyon” and hikes the area frequently. He is willing and desires to help the field crew find the best route. Phone: 907-366-7111 <ul style="list-style-type: none">KIAM Nenana 907-832-5426; Mukluk Messages is the best way to contact him when he is at camp. He will come back to Nenana to contact field crew.		
2			
3			

Alaska FiberOptic Project

Tanana

Sign-In Sheet

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023

Tanana School Gym at 12pm

	Name (Print)	Contact (optional)
1	John Huntington	
2	Don Eller	
3	Florence D. Folger	florence.folger@gmail.com
4	Datsy Starv	907 538-4014
5	Kayla Albert	kaylaalbert-07@hotmail.com
6	DARWIN GEORGE	
7	Fred Nicholia Sr	
8	Jeff Sharley	
9	Cliff Wiehl	
10	Christopher Grant	907-366-1090
11	Phyllis Erhart	(907) 366-1038
12	Jeanette Scannell	(907) 366-1366
13	Faith M Peters	(907) 366-1030
14	Becky Erhart	(907) 366-1233
15	Arnold Marks Jr	
16	Theresa Marks	
17	PEYTON MARKS	907 366-1014
18	CHARLES ROBERTS	(907) 366-1096
19	MATSON EDWARDSON	(907) 366-1130
20	Delaney Edwin	(907) 460-6252
21	Brooklyn Folger	(907) 460-6257
22	Breanna J Folger	
23	Madden Martinez	
24	Cuppy Agnes	907 366 1042
25	Bitsy Huntington	907 799 5123
26	Layla Martinez	907 891 1488
27	Drew Martinez	907 366 1366
28	PELLE EDWARD MASEN	907 366 1107
29	TROY EDWIN JR	
30	Trevor	
31	Dusk Switzer	(907) 366-1112
32	MIRANDA WIEHL	
33	MARY MOSES EDWIN	(907) 366-7189 or 366-1037
34	Milton Moses Jr	Tanana Elders Residence
35	Henry Martinez	907-744-2203 larahenrym@yachoo.com
36	Lara Martinez	480-229-6983 laramartin07@yahoo.com
37	Gladys Erhart	9073661076

38	Christine Erhart	(907) 366-1063
39	John Erhart	(907) 366-1158
40	Jeanette Scannell	(907) 366-1366
41	Juwan Moore	(907) 371-9003
42	Patti Sam	(907) 687-3322
43	Linda Nicholas	907 338 9935
44	Lifora Edwardsen	907 371 6237
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Meeting Agenda and Minutes			
Client/Project	DeployCom	Date	May 25, 2023
Subject	Fiber Optic Project Introduction	Location	Rampart, Alaska
Attachments	Sign-in Sheet, Presentation		

Attendees			
Name	Company/Email	Name	Company/Email
See Attached Sign-in Sheet			

Agenda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See presentation

Minutes - Questions
<p>I. How will you avoid issues with ice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted an analysis of risks from ice jams and ice, no definitive prediction available to identify specific locations to avoid. • Fiber will be installed in the deepest level of the river, no evidence that ice scours the bottom of the river.

Action Items			
Item	Action	Person Responsible	Due Date
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments requiring action 		
2			
3			

Alaska FiberOptic Project

Rampart

Sign-In Sheet

Thursday, May 25th, 2023

Tribal Office/Hall at 11 am

	Name (Print)	Contact (optional)
1	Kim Andon	
2	Mary Jane Wiehl	wiehlmaryjane@gmail.com
3	Ada Jordan	907-358-3572
4	Margaret Moses	margaret.moses99767@gmail.com
5	Forest Johnson	FJohnson@YKSD.com
6	Rosemary "Dee" Wiehl	dee-wiehl@outlook.com
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August 1st & 2nd
Travel to Fort Yukon, Beaver and Stevens Village

Tuesday, August 1st, 2023	
9:00 am	Check in at Wrights
10:00 am	Depart to Fort Yukon (138 miles)
11:00 am	Arrive in Ft Yukon & Get set up for the presentation
12:00 pm	Lunch & Introductions
12:30- 2 pm	Community Meeting 1) Review Overall Project and timeline 2) Review Permitting Process and Timeline 3) Local Knowledge 4) Q&A a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
2:00 pm	Break/Get Settled
3 – 5 pm	Community tour
3 – 5 pm	Photos, mapping, surveying
6:30 pm	Dinner together
Wednesday, August 2nd	
7:30 am	Breakfast (<i>on your own</i>)
9:00 am	Depart to Beaver (60 air miles)
9:30 am	Arrive in Beaver
10:00 am	Get set up for the presentation
11:00 am	Lunch & Introductions
11:15 am	Community Meeting 1) Review Overall Project and timeline 2) Review Permitting Process and Timeline 3) Local Knowledge 4) Q&A a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
1:30 pm	Depart to Stevens Village (45 miles)
2:00 pm	Arrive in Stevens
3-5 pm	Presentations, timelines and local knowledge, pictures/tour a) Jobs b) Service c) Maps d) Website
5:00 pm	Depart to Fairbanks – Arrive in Fairbanks at 5:45 pm (89.5 miles)

Itinerary
Arrive from Anchorage – July 31
Depart to Fort Yukon – August 1
Community Meeting Fort Yukon – August 1
Overnight Fort Yukon – August 1
Depart to Beaver – August 2
Community Meeting Beaver – August 2
Depart to Stevens Village – August 2
Community Meeting Stevens Village – August 2
Depart to Fairbanks – August 2
Overnight Fairbanks – August 2
Arrive Anchorage – August 2 or 3

Stevens Village/Beaver/Fort Yukon – Overnight in Fort Yukon

1. Doug Hudson, President, DeployCom – Technical Expert
2. Paul Cartier, Owl Ridge
3. Allen Todd, Doyon
4. Bryan Tenney, ACS
5. Sarah Obed, Doyon
6. Heather Cavanaugh, ACS VP, External Affairs and Corporate Communications – General Community Outreach
7. Kathleen Redmond, ACS VP, Strategy & Operations
8. Angela Ludwick, Doyon
9. Vacant



Project Overview

July 2023

CURRENT PARTNERS



OUR GOAL



- Provide reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband in

Fort Yukon
 Beaver
 Stevens Village
 Rampart
 Tanana



TECHNOLOGY



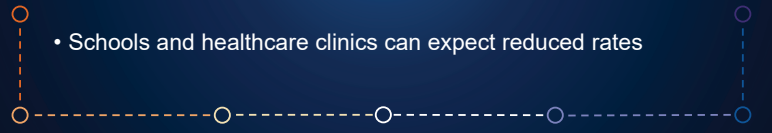
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- Fiber to the home, school, healthcare clinics and all major facilities
- Most reliable and fastest technology available



AFFORDABILITY



- Alaska Communications will offer Home Internet at the same prices offered in Anchorage and Fairbanks
- \$75 discount for households on tribal lands through the Affordable Connectivity Program
- Schools and healthcare clinics can expect reduced rates



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW



- Project will undergo standard environmental and permitting process
- Major permits and authorization include:
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 - National Marine Fisheries Service – Consultation for Essential Fish Habitat
 - U.S. Coast Guard – Address any hazards to navigation
 - Alaska Department of Natural Resources Utility Easement
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- Fiber will lay in the middle of the river, at the bottom, away from the banks

RIVER INSTALLATION



SHORE LANDING



- Concrete beach manhole
- 4 feet x 4 feet
- Directional drill from riverbed to shore

ICE JAMS



- Coordinating with USGS for data and ice forecast
- Reviewed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data
- Conducted Local/Traditional Knowledge interviews
- Comfortable with the hazard analysis



FUNDING



National Telecommunications and Information Administration Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Funding provided by the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act passed by Congress in 2021

DRAFT TIMELINE



2023	Applications and Surveying
2024	Construction (next summer/fall)
2025	Service Available (Dec. 31, 2025)

PROJECT TEAM



- NTIA – Federal Agency
- Doyon, Limited – Grant Recipient
- DeployCom – Construction Contractor
- Alaska Communications – Service Provider and Operator
- Owl Ridge – Permitting Support



WEBSITE



www.AKFiberOpticProject.com



SIGN UP



- Paper Form with Location/Address
- Sign Up Online



THANK YOU!



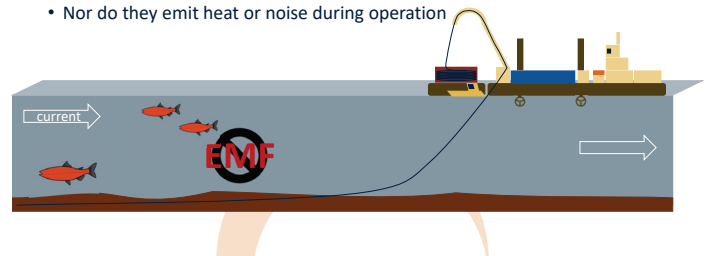
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION



SALMON-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS



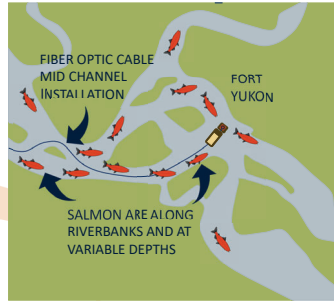
- Fiber optic cables do NOT emit any electromagnetic fields (EMF)
 - Nor do they emit heat or noise during operation



SALMON-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS



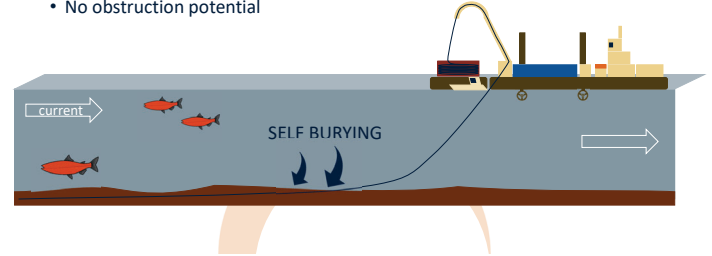
- Salmon spawning migration does not typically occur mid-channel where vessel traffic during installation will be the greatest
- Salmon tend to use slower current areas along riverbanks and at variable depths for out-migration and spawning migrations



SALMON-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS



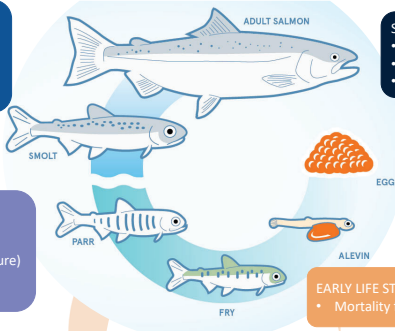
- Self-burying by natural river sedimentation will minimize the change to riverbed topography
 - No obstruction potential



CURRENT HYPOTHESIZED DRIVERS OF YUKON SALMON DECLINE



- OCEANIC STAGE**
- Changing ocean climate
 - Poor nutrition
 - Competition from hatchery fish
 - Bycatch in other fisheries



- SPAWNING STAGE**
- Disease
 - Temperature Stress
 - Poor escapement quality

- EMBRYO STAGE**
- Fewer eggs-in-gravel than estimated
 - Poor egg quality from parental stress

- OUTMIGRATION STAGE**
- Changing freshwater environment (flow, breakup, and temperature)
 - Poor condition
 - Poor nutrition

- EARLY LIFE STAGES**
- Mortality from predation

ANNOUNCEMENT

ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

AT 12PM AT THE FORT YUKON TRIBAL HALL

**DOYON, LIMITED, ACS ALASKA AND DEPLOYCOM
WILL BE IN FORT YUKON TO SHARE INFORMATION
ON THE BROADBAND PROJECT THAT WILL LAY
FIBER FROM FORT YUKON TO TANANA.**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND DOOR PRIZES
AND LEARN ABOUT THIS EXCITING PROJECT.**

**THEY WILL ALSO BE TRAVELING TO BEAVER AND
STEVENS VILLAGE ON AUGUST 2 TO PROVIDE
THEM THE INFORMATION TOO.**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



A L A S K A
FIBEROPTIC
P R O J E C T

Fort Yukon

**Fort Yukon Tribal Hall
Tuesday, August 1st
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The purpose of this visit is to hold a community meeting, answer questions, and begin survey work for project permitting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sarah E. Obed
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
Doyon, Limited
obeds@doyon.com
907-459-2092
888-478-4755 ext. 2092 (toll-free)

Heather Cavanaugh, APR
Vice President, External Affairs and
Corporate Communications
Alaska Communications
heather.cavanaugh@acsalaska.com
907-564-7722



A L A S K A
FIBEROPTIC
P R O J E C T

Stevens Village

**Stevens Village Tribal Hall
Wednesday, August 2nd
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

The purpose of this visit is to hold a community meeting, answer questions, and begin survey work for project permitting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sarah E. Obed
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
Doyon, Limited
obeds@doyon.com
907-459-2092
888-478-4755 ext. 2092 (toll-free)

Heather Cavanaugh, APR
Vice President, External Affairs and
Corporate Communications
Alaska Communications
heather.cavanaugh@acsalaska.com
907-564-7722



A L A S K A
FIBEROPTIC
P R O J E C T

Beaver

Beaver Tribal Hall
Wednesday, August 2nd
11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The purpose of this visit is to hold a community meeting, answer questions, and begin survey work for project permitting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sarah E. Obed
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
Doyon, Limited
obeds@doyon.com
907-459-2092
888-478-4755 ext. 2092 (toll-free)

Heather Cavanaugh, APR
Vice President, External Affairs and
Corporate Communications
Alaska Communications
heather.cavanaugh@acsalaska.com
907-564-7722

AFFP
PN AK Fiberoption Project

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF ALASKA }
COUNTY OF FAIRBANKS } SS
NORTH STAR BOROUGH }

Kaira Lum, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Affidavit Clerk of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Fairbanks, Fairbanks North Star Borough County, Alaska; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on

April 28, 2024

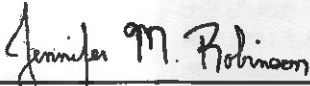
That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Affidavit Clerk

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 28th day of April 2024.



Jennifer M Robinson, Notary Public, Fairbanks North Star Borough County, Alaska

My commission expires: February 11, 2026

00074745
PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
ADMINISTRATION
REQUESTS COMMENTS FROM THE
PUBLIC FOR THE ALASKA FIBEROPTIC PROJECT

Doyon, Limited (Doyon) proposes to construct and operate the Alaska FiberOptic Project (Project). The Project proposes to install approximately 468 miles of fiber optic cable from a connection with an existing fiber optic network near Fairbanks, Alaska to five underserved communities on the Yukon River in the central Interior region of Alaska: Fort Yukon, Beaver, Stevens Village, Rampart, and Tanana.

Funding for the Alaska FiberOptic Project is provided through a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, to provide hard-wired broadband service to approximately 600 households in these five underserved, predominantly Alaska Native communities within Doyon's Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary. As a result, Doyon is required to submit an Environmental Assessment (EA) for NTIA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

Information discussing the proposed Project, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, as well as instructions for public participation are located at <https://broadband.usa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/documentation-and-reporting>. All members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments, suggestions, and questions related to potential Project impacts, the need for further information on the proposed Project, or any specific concerns that need to be considered. Comments, suggestions, and questions on the Proposed Project will be received from April 29, 2024, to May 29, 2024, and can be emailed to NEPA Comments@ntia.gov, or mailed to Attn: Amanda Pereira, Environmental Program Officer, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 4878, Washington, DC 20230.
Publish: 4-28-2024

00008945 00074745

Brooke Therrien
Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc.
4060 B Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503

STATE OF ALASKA
NOTARY PUBLIC

Jennifer M. Robinson
My Commission Expires February 11, 2026



From: [Pereira, Amanda](#)
To: [Brooke Therrien](#); [Allen Todd](#); [Doug Hudson](#); [Craig Litteken](#); [PoQueen Rivera](#); [Brueggeman, Louis C](#); [Angela Ludwick](#); [Andrew Bielakowski](#); [Glenn Ruckhaus](#); [Paul Cartier](#); [Farmer, Carolyn H CIV USARMY CEPOA \(USA\)](#); [Head, Melissa M](#); [Rasmussen, Diann M](#); [lucas.byker](#); [Dale Youngkin - NOAA Federal](#); [Fitzpatrick, Joshua](#); [Nunez, Juan](#)
Subject: Alaska FiberOptic Network (Doyon, Ltd) - Draft EA available for public comment
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 8:13:29 AM

[External]

Good morning all -

The Draft Environmental Assessment for the AK FiberOptic Network (Doyon, Ltd.) project is available for public comment ([Funding Program Documentation and Reporting | BroadbandUSA \(ntia.gov\)](#)). Many thanks to everyone for their hard work and collaboration on this vital project, your dedication and contributions have enabled us to publish more than a week ahead of schedule! The comment period will close on May 29, 2024. Thank you and I look forward to discussing next steps with you all on Friday,

Sincerely,

Amanda

Amanda Pereira (she/her)
Environmental Program Officer
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth

Email: apereira@ntia.gov
Phone: 202.834.4016

From: [Brooke Therrien](#)
To: cglassburn@blm.gov; mhead@blm.gov; slwilson@blm.gov; whedman@blm.gov; [Hammond, Tim O](#); sringer@blm.gov; sara_boario@fws.gov; jimmy_fox@fws.gov; Ryan.H.Winn@usace.army.mil; Carolyn.H.Farmer@usace.army.mil; judy.bittner@alaska.gov; mckenzie.herring@alaska.gov; oha.revcomp@alaska.gov; douglas.vincent-lang@alaska.gov; audra.braser@alaska.gov; john.boyle@alaska.gov; robert.sackinger@alaska.gov; dot.commissioner@alaska.gov; kerri.martin@alaska.gov; boyk@mosquitonet.com; doreendeatonbkc@gmail.com; randyamayo@gmail.com; josh@gzcorporation.org; cameron@sethcorporation.com; president@tozitna.com; manager@tozitna.com; rpitka@beavercouncil.org; melanie.herbert@fortyukon.org; tribaladministrator@villageofminto.org; margaret.moses99767@gmail.com; margaret.matthew@tananachiefs.org; svs.ira.council@gmail.com; executivedirector@tananatribe.org; mayor@fairbanks.us; citymanager@fortyukon.us; charliecampbell6060@gmail.com; melissa.kellner@fnsb.gov; realty_dept@tananachiefs.org; dorothea.adams@catg.org; sginnis@fairbanksnative.org; jreuther@alaska.edu; tyhs@alaska.net; [Karchut, Jeremy M](#)
Cc: [Amanda Pereira \(apereira@ntia.gov\)](mailto:Amanda.Pereira@ntia.gov); [Andrew Bielakowski \(Andrew.Bielakowski@firstnet.gov\)](mailto:Andrew.Bielakowski@firstnet.gov); TODDA@doyon.com; [Angela Ludwick](#); [Doug Hudson](#); [Glenn Ruckhaus](#); [Paul Cartier](#)
Subject: Alaska FiberOptic Network (Doyon, Ltd) - Draft EA available for public comment
Date: Monday, April 29, 2024 1:51:00 PM

Hello,

On behalf of Doyon, Limited, and the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA), Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc., is notifying you that the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Alaska FiberOptic Project (Project) is available for public review and comment. The draft EA is available for download at the following website:
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/documentation-and-reporting>.

The project is proposing to provide broadband internet service to five currently underserved communities along the Yukon River: Fort Yukon, Beaver, Stevens Village, Rampart, and Tanana. The Project would install approximately 468 miles of fiber optic cable from a connection with an existing fiber optic network near Fairbanks, Alaska to the central interior region of the Yukon River.

If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Pereira, with the NTIA, via phone at (202) 834-4016, or via email at apereira@ntia.gov. Alternatively, you can reply to this email or contact me directly via phone at (907) 759-3013.

Sincerely,

Brooke Therrien | Senior Scientist
Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc.
4060 B Street, Suite 200 | Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Main 907.344.3448 | Direct 907.759.3013
btherrien@owlrnrc.com | www.owlrnrc.com
[Confidentiality Notice](#)

00074745

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NATIONAL TELECOM-
MUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION
ADMINISTRATION
REQUESTS COM-
MENTS FROM THE
PUBLIC FOR THE
ALASKA FIBEROPTIC
PROJECT**

Doyon, Limited (Doyon) proposes to construct and operate the Alaska FiberOptic Project (Project). The Project proposes to install approximately 468 miles of fiber optic cable from a connection with an existing fiber optic network near Fairbanks, Alaska to five underserved communities on the Yukon River in the central Interior region of Alaska: Fort Yukon, Beaver, Stevens Village, Ram-

part, and Tanana.

Funding for the Alaska FiberOptic Project is provided through a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, to provide hard-wired broadband service to approximately 600 households in these five underserved, predominantly Alaska Native communities within Doyon's Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary. As a result, Doyon is required to submit an Environmental Assessment (EA) for NTIA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

Information discussing the proposed Project, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, as well as instructions for public participation are located at <https://broadband.usa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/documentation-and-reporting>. All members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments, suggestions, and questions related to potential Project impacts, the need for further information on the proposed Project, or any specific concerns that need to be considered. Comments, suggestions, and questions on the Proposed Project will be received from **April 29, 2024, to May 29, 2024**, and can be emailed to NEPAComments@ntia.gov, or mailed to Attn: Amanda Pereira, Environmental Program Officer, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 4878, Washington, DC 20230.
Publish: 4-28-2024



BroadbandUSA

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National Telecommunications and Information Administration

[Home](#)

Draft Environmental Assessment for the Alaska FiberOptic Network (Doyon, Ltd.)

Comments, suggestions, and questions on the Proposed Project will be received from April 29, 2024, to May 29, 2024, and can be emailed to NEPAComments@ntia.gov, or mailed to **Attn: Amanda Pereira, Environmental Program Officer, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 4878, Washington, DC 20230.**

Date of Publication to BroadbandUSA

04-29-2024

State/Territory

[Alaska](#)

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Funding Programs

Type of Document

Environmental Assessment

Link to Documentation

[Draft Environmental Assessment \(PDF\)](#)

[Draft Environmental Assessment - Figures \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix A - Terrestrial Corridor \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix B - River Corridor \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix C - BLM Stipulations \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix D - Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix E - Soils \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix F - Floodplains \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix G - IPaC Resource List \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix H - Essential Fish Habitat \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix I - Section 404 Consultation \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix J - Land Use \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix K - ANILCA Section 810 \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix L - Section 106 Consultation \(PDF\)](#)

[Appendix M - Agency and Public Scoping \(PDF\)](#)

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Contact Us

Website owner: Office of Public Affairs, please contact press@ntia.gov

Media Inquiries: (202) 482-7002

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1401 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20230

(202) 482-2048

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR THE ALASKA FIBEROPTIC PROJECT

Doyon, Limited (Doyon) proposes to construct and operate the Alaska FiberOptic Project (Project). The Project proposes to install approximately 468 miles of fiber optic cable from a connection with an existing fiber optic network near Fairbanks, Alaska to five underserved communities on the Yukon River in the central Interior region of Alaska: Fort Yukon, Beaver, Stevens Village, Rampart, and Tanana.

Funding for the Alaska FiberOptic Project is provided through a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, to provide hard-wired broadband service to approximately 600 households in these five underserved, predominantly Alaska Native communities within Doyon's Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary. As a result, Doyon is required to submit an Environmental Assessment (EA) for NTIA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

Information discussing the proposed Project, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, as well as instructions for public participation are located at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/documentation-and-reporting>. **A copy of the EA is available in your community at the following location:**

Location: _____

Point of Contact: _____

Your comments, suggestions, and questions on the Proposed Project will be received from **April 29, 2024, to May 29, 2024**, and can be emailed to NEPAComments@ntia.gov, or mailed to Attn: Amanda Pereira, Environmental Program Officer, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 4878, Washington, DC 20230.