



May 8, 2009

Mr. Jon M. Peha
Chief Technologist
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room 7-C324
Washington, DC 20554
e-mail jon.peha@fcc.gov

Re: Nomination of John McHugh, OPASTCO Technical Director, for membership on the FCC's Technological Advisory Council

Mr. Peha,

The Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies (OPASTCO)¹ and the Western Telecommunications Alliance (WTA)² hereby nominate OPASTCO's Technical Director, John McHugh, for membership on the FCC's Technological Advisory Council (TAC) for its next two-year cycle. Mr. McHugh's expertise in both Internet protocol (IP) networks and the public switched network would make him an excellent representative for rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) throughout the United States.

Mr. McHugh has been OPASTCO's Technical Director for the past 11 years, and would bring a wide range of experience and resources to the FCC's TAC. For over six years, Mr. McHugh has represented OPASTCO on the North American Numbering Council (NANC), where he has conveyed the concerns of the association's members on issues such as local number portability (LNP), pooling, and numbering plan area (NPA) exhaust relief measures. In addition, Mr. McHugh represents OPASTCO on the National Coordinating Center for Communications (NCC), as an alternate to the Broadband Forum, as a primary to the IP

¹ OPASTCO is a national trade association representing approximately 520 small telecommunications carriers serving rural areas of the United States. Its members, which include both commercial companies and cooperatives, together serve approximately four million customers. Nearly all OPASTCO members are rural telephone companies as defined in 47 U.S.C. §153(37). In addition to local phone service, OPASTCO members provide a wide range of other services including broadband Internet access, video, wireless, long distance, and competitive local exchange.

² WTA is a trade association that represents over 250 rural telecommunications companies operating in the 24 states west of the Mississippi River. Most members serve fewer than 3,000 access lines overall and fewer than 500 access lines per exchange.

Multimedia Subsystem – Next Generation Network (IMS-NGN) Forum, and as a primary to the University of New Hampshire’s Interoperability Labs. Also, Mr. McHugh frequently speaks on various technical topics at industry forums and state association meetings.

Mr. McHugh’s career in telecommunications spans nearly 45 years during which he has been actively involved with microwave technologies, electronic and digital switching, fiber network design, and IP networks. He has worked for both large and small ILECs (Verizon, Granite State Telephone in NH), including time spent as a coordinator between the large regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) and small independent companies. During this time he worked closely on disaster reporting and recovery issues.

Mr. McHugh’s contact information is as follows:

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In closing, John McHugh would be an invaluable asset to the TAC, providing outstanding representation for rural ILECs. Please feel free to contact John McHugh or either of us if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/ John N. Rose
John N. Rose
President, OPASTCO
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/s/ Kelly Worthington
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