



This Week's Headlines

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Legislative Committee

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Alltel Markets

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PEOPLE & COMPANIES

Do you have an announcement for *People & Companies*? Send an e-mail (info@mnta.org) or fax (651-291-2795) to MTA.

[Save The Date](#)

MTA Fall Conference

July 25, 2008

MTA UPDATE

Eddy to Chair Legislative Committee

MTA Vice Chair Robert Eddy has been appointed chair of the MTA Legislative Committee by Chairman John Finke, CEO of HickoryTech. He replaces Brent Christensen, Vice President of Christensen Communications, who will assume the additional responsibility in August of serving on the Minnesota High-Speed Broadband Task Force representing telcos with fewer than 50,000 subscribers. Christensen will now serve as vice chair of the legislative committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Verizon Will Divest Assets in MN, Other Alltel Markets

Verizon Wireless has offered to sell assets in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and 15 other areas to gain approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its purchase of Alltel, according to media reports. The \$28.1 billion purchase was announced on June 5, 2008. The company also reiterated two commitments about roaming agreements with regional and rural wireless providers. Overall, Verizon Wireless has offered to divest overlapping properties in 85 cellular markets. [Read More](#)

Hibbing Says No To FiberNet Project

Hibbing's city council recently voted not to be a partner in the FiberNet project, according to the Hibbing Daily Tribune. The paper reported that the council voted unanimously not to put \$15,000 toward the continued financial feasibility of the project. FiberNet as planned would bring high speed fiber optic cable to homes and businesses in a coalition of Iron Range communities. [Read more](#)

Purchase of Lakedale Telephone Company Completed

Iowa Telecom last week completed its purchase of Lakedale Telephone Company. Lakedale is now operating as a subsidiary of Iowa Telecom. Gene South continues to serve as general manager. Iowa Telecom is the second largest local telephone company in Iowa, serving over 450

October 9-10, 2008

**Northland Inn
Brooklyn Park**

**Telecom Industry
Appreciation Golf Day**

at Wapicada Golf Club
in St. Cloud on Monday,
August 11, 2008
(formerly the MART Golf
Day & Dinner). Sponsored
by Pinnacle
Please contact [Amy](#) at
800.950.4301.

**MTA Office Managers
Fall Meeting**

Sept 24th- Sept 26th
Best Western- Kelly Inn
St. Cloud

Stat of the Week

AT&T this week announced it added more than 1.3 million new wireless subscribers in the second quarter to reach a total of 72.9 million customers. Verizon Wireless said it added 1.5 million new customers to reach a total of 68.7 million customers.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Is there someone in your organization who you would like to add to the distribution list? Send their name, company, and e-mail address to info@mnta.org and we'll add them to the list.

WEEKLY BULLETIN is intended for MTA members.

communities across the state.

Sprint Selling, Leasing Back Towers

Sprint Nextel has agreed to sell approximately 3,300 towers to TowerCo for approximately \$670 million in cash. Additionally, the two companies have entered into a long term leasing agreement where TowerCo will provide Sprint Nextel with wireless communications towers to support the company network. The specific number of towers and final purchase price will be determined at closing, the company said in a release on its Web site. The transaction, subject to customary closing conditions, is expected to close in 90 days. [Read More](#)

Comcast to Offer Advance Telephone Services

Comcast said this week that starting in August it will begin offering new advanced telephone features such as visual voice mail, caller ID on TV and universal address book. Philadelphia-based Comcast is the fourth-largest phone company in the nation with 5.15 million phone subscribers. [Read More](#)

Telecom Suppliers Settle Patent Suits

Nokia and Qualcomm this week announced that they have entered into a new agreement covering various standards and resolves all litigation between the companies. Under the terms of the new 15-year agreement, Nokia has been granted a license under all Qualcomm's patents for use in Nokia mobile devices and Nokia Siemens Networks infrastructure equipment. Further, Nokia has agreed not to use any of its patents directly against Qualcomm, enabling Qualcomm to integrate Nokia's technology into Qualcomm's chipsets. The financial structure of the settlement includes an up-front payment and on-going royalties payable to Qualcomm. [Read more](#)

Reprinted from Last Week Wergin Named to PUC

Senator Betsy Wergin, R-Princeton, has been named by Governor Tim Pawlenty to fill the remaining term of LeRoy Koppendrayer, her brother, on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The six-year term expires Jan. 4, 2010. Koppendrayer retired last month. Commissioner David Boyd has been elevated to chair of the Commission by the Governor. [Read more.](#)

FCC & REGULATORY FILINGS

JULY 31: FCC FORM 507, UNIVERSAL SERVICE QUARTERLY LINE COUNT UPDATE: Line counts are required to recalculate a carrier's per line universal service support and must be filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). This information must be submitted on

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Minnesota Telecom Alliance
www.mnta.org
Tel: 651-291-7311
Fax: 651-291-2795
E-mail: info@mnta.org

MTA Officers: John Finke,
Chairman; Robert K. Eddy,
Vice Chairman;
Brent J. Christensen,
Secretary-Treasurer;
Randy Young,
President/CEO

Weekly Bulletin editor:
Moses Dennis

July 31st each year by all rate-of-return carriers and on a quarterly basis if a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier (CETC) has initiated service in the rate-of-return incumbent carrier's service area and reported line count data to USAC in the rate-of-return incumbent carrier's service area, in order for the incumbent carrier to be eligible to receive Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS). The quarterly filing covers lines served as of December 31, 2007.

JULY 31: FCC FORM 525, COMPETITIVE CARRIER LINE COUNT

QUARTERLY REPORT: Competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs) are eligible to receive high cost support if they serve lines in an incumbent carrier's service area, and that incumbent carrier receives high cost support. CETCs are eligible to receive the same per-line support amount received by the incumbent carrier in whose study area the CETC serves lines.

AUGUST 1: FCC FORM 499-Q, TELECOMMUNICATIONS REPORTING

WORKSHEET: All telecommunications common carriers that contribute to federal Universal Service Fund support mechanisms must file this quarterly form. The form covers revenue information from the prior quarter plus projections for the next quarter.

AUGUST 1: FCC FORM 502, NUMBER UTILIZATION REPORT: Any wireline or wireless carrier that has been assigned an NXX code (10,000 numbers) or one or more 1,000 number blocks; and any wireline or wireless carrier that has received from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) or from another carrier one or more 1,000 number blocks must file this form.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

MTA & Industry Meetings/Events This Week

July 24: MTA Video Peer Group

Upcoming MTA & Industry Meetings/Events

For a look at 12 months and more of industry events, [click here](#)

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