

Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission  
February 1, 2012

Brian Tagaban, Executive Director

Special Meeting, Soliciting Comments  
in the Matter of  
Application of Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

We are here today for the staff and interested parties to voice an opinion for public record to the Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. The intent of this session is to allow the NNTRC the opportunity to directly hear and query the service providers with an interest in the implementation of the CCN. The following is the oral statement of the Executive Director to state a generalized background, purpose and need of the CCN for the Navajo Nation.

**The Background of the CCN:**

In February 2010, the NNTRC prioritize the CCN as a priority for rule development, and set milestones to reach the overall objective of adopting rules and procedures enabling the CCN. The milestones included work sessions, commenting periods and notices to keep the public and industry informed of the progress. Throughout the process, the NNTRC has been mindful not duplicate other processes in the Navajo Nation such as Navajo Business Regulatory or Navajo Land Department. In July 2011 the NNTRC adopted and released the first version of the application for public comment. Mr. Greg Kelly will review the CCN application and order immediately after my presentation. The final comment deadline was set for October 14, 2011. A review of the comments will be presented by Mr. James Dunstan. Since receiving the comments from communications industry, the NNTRC Director and Staff have been reviewing very carefully all the submitted comments. The NNTRC Office feels it is in the best interest for the NNTRC members to hear from the industry directly before the NNTRC decides on the next steps for the CCN. The NNTRC Office would like to iterate the mission and need of the CCN.

### **The Mission of CCN:**

The CCN is a certificate verifying an entity has established its' operation in a manner to service a vital public need, and reliable communications is such a service. Making a phone call can be just be a matter of convenience when communicating to verify the attendance of a party to a meeting, but it is a necessity when immediate emergency assistance is required by a party in critical distress. A company or entity demonstrating this capacity has special place in our society, and the demands and expectations on these types businesses are vigorous. Therefore, the CCN is verification from the Navajo Nation that a particular service provider has submitted to the satisfaction of the Navajo Nation the provider is operating in the public interest rather just in a private or profit mode.

### **The Need for the CCN:**

The NNTRC is obligate to the Navajo People to work in the interest of the entire Navajo Nation for telecommunications. In order to formulate informed and completed decisions the NNTRC is in need of vital statistic, and to be the information index for the statistics. The NNTRC has compiled a series of narratives from complaints but has not been able to rule from statistics gathered from a uniform information format. The CCN is the mechanism to populate such information tables, and thus provide sound statistical information which can be analyzed to formulate, amend, or repeal telecommunication regulations shaping the market on the Navajo Nation.

### **Conclusion:**

The NNTRC is obligated to protect the Cultural and Economic Interest of the Navajo People, and to see that services meet a level that is fair for the current market. The Navajo Market has unique challenges for carriers, but yet the Navajo People demand better. To classify a set of entities or companies as working in the public interest means they are providing a service vital to daily life. Instituting the CCN in a balanced manner is the measure by which the CCN implementation will be judged.