



**Montana
Independent
Telecommunications
Systems**

Senate Energy & Telecomm. Comm.
Exhibit No. 7
Date 4.12.05
Bill No. INFO

**Providing professional services
to the rural telecommunications
industry since 1994.**

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www.mitstel.com

STAFF

**Mike Strand, Chief Counsel and CEO
Mike Sheard, Director of Operations
Bonnie Lorang, Director of Govt Affairs
Loy Fraser, Special Projects**

MEMBERS

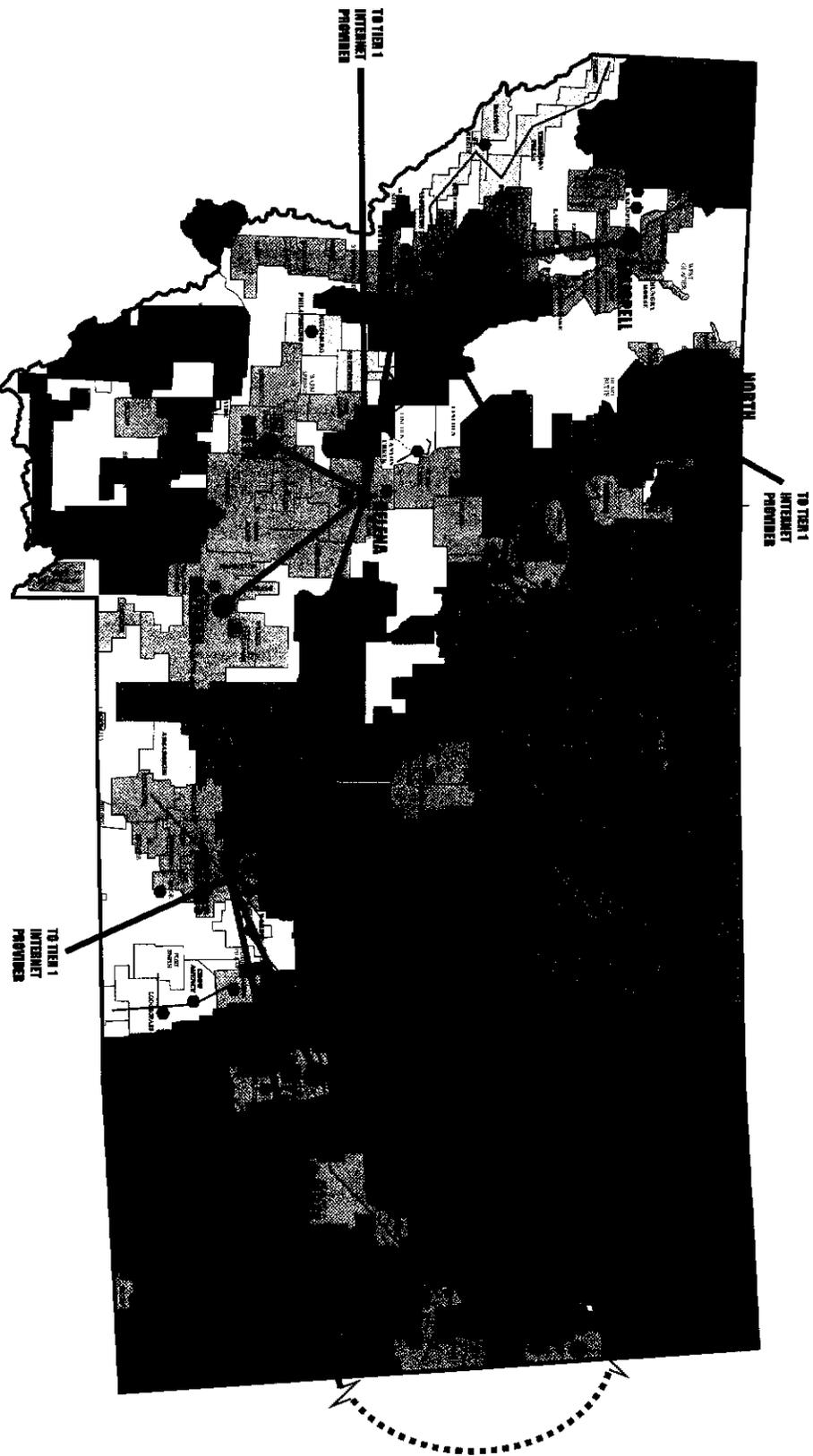
Nemont Telephone	Triangle Telephone
Project Telephone	Central MT Communications
Northern Telephone	InterBel Telephone
CC Communications	Southern Telephone

SERVICES

- MITS provides a wide variety of professional services to telecommunications companies in Montana and surrounding states.
- MITS staff has over 30 years of regulatory experience. MITS provides regulatory consulting, research & analysis, and legal services.
- Lobbying and public relations
- Marketing
- Education and Training including MITS' Annual Technology Symposium
- Project Coordination
- Community Economic Development

ADVOCACY

- Montana State Legislature
- Public Service Commission
- U.S. Congress
- Senate Commerce Committee
- Indian Affairs Joint Committee
- Federal Communications Commission
- Federal-State Joint Boards
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
- New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities
- National Assoc. of Telephone Cooperatives
- Western Telecommunications Association
- Montana 9-1-1 Advisory Committee
- Montana Information Technology Board
- 7-1-1 Advisory Board
- Montana Council of Cooperatives
- Blue Ribbon Task Force on Telecommunications
- Montana Universal Access Committee
- Federal-State Joint Board on Advanced Services Staff
- Federal-State Joint Board on Separations Staff



- ★ INTERNET PEERING POFS
- EXISTING NODE OR ATM HUB
- FUTURE ATM HUBS
- EXISTING DSL/CATV MOD. SERV.
- FUTURE DSL SERVICE
- FUTURE FIBER HOTEL
- FUTURE ICON, FIBER HOTEL
- VISION NET, INC. ITV STUDIOS
- MID-RIVERS/RANGE ITV SITES

Vision Net, Inc (406) 467-4700
www.montanavision.net

EXISTING FIBER OPTICS
 (UP TO OC-192 CAPACITY)

TIER 1 INTERNET

EXISTING INDEPENDENT
 CO. FIBER OPTICS

- VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- TRIANGLE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
- BLACKFOOT TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
- NEMONT TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
- CENTRAL MONTANA COMMUNICATIONS
- NORTHERN TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
- 3RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
- CLARK FORK TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- PROJECT TELEPHONE COMPANY
- QWEST COMMUNICATIONS
- MID-RIVERS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

- RANGE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
- SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE COMPANY
- INTERBEL TELEPHONE COMPANY
- LINCOLN TELEPHONE COMPANY
- CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS
- HOT SPRINGS TELEPHONE COMPANY
- GENTURY COMMUNICATIONS
- WEST RIVER COOP TELEPHONE COMPANY
- RESERVATION TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE
- ROMAN TELEPHONE COMPANY
- UNASSIGNED AREA

CREATED BY:

VISION

iConnect Montana

PROVIDING NETWORK CONNECTIVITY AND COLLOCATION SERVICES TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS, e-COMMERCE AND INTERNET-BASED BUSINESSES

OVERVIEW

- *iConnect Montana* is a specialty business that provides space in specialized rooms environmentally conditioned for housing telecommunications and information technology equipment.
- *iConnect Montana* facilities provide tenants with access to multiple fiber and wireless networks simply by connecting their equipment from rack to rack or cage to cage in a safe, secure, controlled, competitively neutral environment.
- *iConnect Montana* tenants often experience significant telecom cost savings by “cross-connecting” their networks to other networks within the same facility eliminating expensive data transport costs.

FEATURES

- Environmentally controlled space
- High security with 24 x 7 access
- Sophisticated systems monitoring
- Conditioned power w/generator backup

SERVICES

- Collocation Services
 - Private Suites
 - Targeted to clients who desire separate rooms for highest security.
 - Sized according to client’s needs.
 - “Caged” Suites
 - Targeted to clients planning to collocate equipment in at least 3 equipment racks.
 - Approx 80-100 sq. ft. enclosed by wire mesh panels for added security.
 - Common Collocation
 - Targeted to clients planning to collocate 1 or 2 equipment racks.
 - Options include ¼, ½, and whole racks.
- Meet-Me Room Services
 - Connectivity to multiple local, regional and national telecom and bandwidth providers.
 - Copper, fiber and wireless; DS-1 through OC-N levels; No local loop charges.
- Technical Support Services
 - Network engineering & design; Equipment acquisition, installation & testing; Maintenance; Trouble shooting & repair; Monitoring services; Network connection services.

WHO CAN BENEFIT?

Internet Service Providers, Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, Data Transport Providers, Interexchange Carriers, Wireless Service Providers, E-commerce Businesses, Hosting Companies, Banks, Hospitals, “Enterprise” Corporations, Non-profit Organizations, Government Agencies, etc.

LOCATIONS

BILLINGS ♦ GREAT FALLS ♦ HELENA ♦ MISSOULA ♦ BOZEMAN



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Ken Meyer (406) 896-8287 or kmeyer@montanavision.net

www.iConnectMontana.com





MONTANA'S ADVANCED INFORMATION NETWORK, INC.

Your Vision... Our Network... Together, Building Success

History

MAIN, Inc. was formed in 1995 by 10 of Montana's independent telephone companies to combine their networks in Montana into a statewide, 100% digital fiber-optic network spanning from the North Dakota border to Western Montana. Through this collaboration of the State's independent telephone companies, MAIN can reach urban and rural communities throughout the State and provide the same high-speed data and telecommunications services that customers in metropolitan areas enjoy.

MAIN's Network

MAIN's entire network spans over 1,500 miles and interconnects with regional and national carriers to provide connections within Montana and beyond. The network connects to thousands of customer lines statewide and has the equivalent capacity of 32,256 channels or 48 DS-3s, utilized for the transmission of telecommunications services, such as voice, data and video.

Vision

As MAIN continues to invest in and expand its network throughout the State, enabling technologies will be implemented to support the integration of voice, video and data services. MAIN is focused on providing network solutions to Montana businesses through next generation technologies, network reliability and exceptional service and support.

Services

MAIN offers a full suite of communications services, including voice and data transport, competitive local access, private lines (T1, DS3 and OC-X), high-speed internet access, fractional services, web storage and network equipment co-location.

MAIN provides more than just services to our customers - we provide solutions through quality services, operational excellence and exceptional support:

- 24X7 Network Monitoring and Technical Support
- End-to-End Circuit Provisioning
- Aggressive Installation Schedules
- Customized Billing
- Technicians Throughout the State
- Service Level Agreements
- Single Point of Contact For End-To-End Service:

Montana's Advanced Information Network, Inc.
222 N. 32nd Street
Suite 300
Billings, MT 59101

Phone: 888-737-4617

www.mainfiber.com

Committed to Helping Montana's Educators



- **Vision Net supports more than 100 Interactive TV (ITV) sites.**
 - Studios are located in more than 40 of MT's K-12 schools.
 - Studios are also located in many of MT's colleges & universities.
 - Vision Net-owned or privately-owned commercial studios are located in many communities across MT.
 - Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, Gt. Falls, Havre, Billings, Bozeman, Sunburst, Eureka, Scobey . . .
 - Numerous dedicated (private) studios have been built and are maintained by Vision Net.
 - Banks.
 - Grocery chains.
 - Law firms.
 - Rural telemedicine sites.
 - Montana District Court sites.
- **On an average school day, 60 - 80 hours of K-12 classes across MT are taught using Vision Net's ITV network.**
 - Vision Net delivers an additional 10-15 hours of "off-network" content to MT's schools.
 - Vision Net is actively working with content providers such as NASA and ARCUS (Artic Research Consortium of the United States) to provide content for MT's classrooms.
 - Vision Net facilitates frequent ITV meetings between Montanans and Max Baucus and Conrad Burns in Washington, D.C. and K-12 classrooms in Montana and has facilitated numerous ITV meetings between Conrad Burns and Montanans.
 - Vision Net's ITV network is used by approximately 70 classes each semester.
- **Vision Net also provides valuable educational opportunities to other Montanans.**
 - Vision Net's network is used to deliver educational telemedicine content to MT's rural areas.
 - Universities use Vision Net to expand the availability of courses to communities across MT.
 - For example, U of M MBA classes in Missoula are now available to students in Helena, Gt. Falls, Havre and Bozeman.
 - Other groups such as P.L.U.K. (Parents, Lets Unite for Kids) use Vision Net regularly to facilitate discussion groups, education and outreach efforts (see www.pluk.org).
- **Vision Net is a Montana company wholly owned by 5 of Montana's telephone cooperatives:**
 - 3 Rivers (Fairfield), Blackfoot (Missoula), Nemont (Scobey), Northern (Sunburst), and Triangle (Havre).
 - Vision Net was specifically created to ensure that advanced telecom services are available, even in Montana's rural areas.
 - Vision Net has been providing quality video conferencing for nearly a decade.
 - Vision Net has numerous highly-trained, Polycom-certified technicians on its staff.
 - Vision Net's services include ITV equipment sales, installation and maintenance, ITV conference scheduling solutions, network & 24 x 7 ITV management, troubleshooting & problem resolution.

For More Information:

Great Falls Office - 1211 NW Bypass•Great Falls, MT 59404•(406) 467-4700
Helena Office - 1086 Helena Avenue•Helena, MT 59601•(406) 457-1400
Billings Office - 222 N. 32nd•Billings, MT 59901•(406) 896-8287

www.montanavision.net



YELLOWSTONE REGIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE ADVANTAGE

:: ABOUT YRIX

The Yellowstone Regional Internet Exchange (YRIX) was formed by its founding members to provide peering services between Internet Service Providers in the greater Yellowstone area. The intent in creating this peering location is to provide improved performance to the customers of participating Internet Service Providers, while helping the ISPs to control the cost of their own IP backbone services. A secondary goal is to stimulate regional economic development by addressing the needs of current and prospective businesses for fast and cost efficient Internet service.

Core Routing and switching equipment is located in a neutral facility in Billings, Montana. The intent of the founding members of YRIX is to extend access into Wyoming and other surrounding states as soon as it is economically feasible.

A primary tenant of YRIX is to avoid providing services that compete with services offered by participating Internet Service Providers. Services offered to ISPs are planned to include

- Bi-lateral and multi-lateral peering (available currently)
- Wholesale Internet bandwidth (under consideration)
- Redundant routes for emergency service restoration (under consideration)

The founding members of YRIX include: OneEighty Communications, Inc., headquartered in Billings, Montana; Visionary Communications, Inc., headquartered in Gillete, Wyoming; Vision Net, Inc., headquartered in Great Falls, Montana; and, iConnect Montana, headquartered in Helena, Montana.

:: WHY PEER

- Reduces bandwidth needs when passing traffic to regional providers
- Provides options for redundant routing (through bi-lateral agreements)
- Provides improved performance for end customers

:: JOIN YRIX

YRIX is established as a non-profit Montana corporation. Members of YRIX must be operators of an Internet Protocol network which has one or more direct connections to YRIX's central router. Members are bound by an "Acceptable Use Policy" that describes both permissible and impermissible uses of the exchange. Members also enter into written service agreements that govern the provision of YRIX's services and provide details on issues such as the term of the agreement, the rates for the services, payment provisions, etc.

Join YRIX! - - Membership applications are being accepted now. Please contact apply@yrix.org for an application. Take advantage of exceptional services on a per use basis. Connect to YRIX via Ethernet, DS-1 or DS-3 to take advantage of cost-effective communications solutions.

YELLOWSTONE REGIONAL INTERNET EXCHANGE

222 North Park Street, Suite 200

Billings, MT 59101

www.yrix.org