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AGENDA RELEASED FOR FCC'S INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES RENO REGIONAL WORKSHOP AND ROUNDTABLE JULY 17-18, 2003, IN RENO, NEVADA

Strategic Planning and "Nuts and Bolts" Information Sessions Highlight Agenda

Washington, DC – The Commission has released the agenda for its two day Indian Telecommunications Initiatives (ITI) meeting to be held July 17 and 18 in Reno, NV. It will be held at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino in downtown Reno, and is free of charge to registrants.

The meeting, which the FCC is hosting in cooperation with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, will include panel discussions on the following topics as part of the July 17 workshop:

- Infrastructure Development and Feasibility Planning
- Implementation of Tribal Telecom Service Strategies
- Strategic Development and Financial Planning
- Tribal Telecommunications Operations and Universal Service Support
- Public Safety and Interoperability

The July 18 Roundtable, open to all participants, will be an interactive, government-to-government consultation session on tribal telecom goals and objectives.

The complete agenda is attached.

K. Dane Snowden, Chief of the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, said, "This program features subjects integral to the successful telecommunications development in Indian Country. We appreciate the leadership of Chairman Wallace and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to help make this event happen and are delighted to be able to present such a comprehensive agenda with such distinguished speakers and panelists. Through our discussion-oriented program, we hope to open clear lines of communication between the FCC and tribes to further a strong trust relationship. This event is another step in our mission to establish viable and lasting partnerships to achieve telecom solutions in Indian Country."

The FCC's ITI is comprehensive program that seeks to promote understanding, cooperation and trust among American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and tribal organizations; the FCC and other governmental agencies; and the telecommunications industry. The ITI program is designed to build partnerships to target specific concerns, identify potential solutions, and bring affordable, quality telecommunications services to Indian Country. Specifically, ITI seeks to increase the telephone penetration rate among tribal communities; facilitate the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure in Indian Country necessary to provide telecommunications services; and inform tribes and tribal consumers about financial support available through federal government programs, including Universal Service Fund programs.

To register for the FCC's ITI Reno Regional Workshop and Roundtable, or to obtain additional information, please call 202-418-2513, or fax 202-418-1414, or e-mail itireno@fcc.gov. Additional Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau contacts: Geoffrey Blackwell, FCC Intergovernmental Affairs, at 202-418-8192, geoffrey.blackwell@fcc.gov; and Dan Rumelt, FCC Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division at 202-418-7512, dan.rumelt@fcc.gov.

For information on this and other topics of interest to tribes, visit the FCC's Tribal Initiatives Web site at www.fcc.gov/indians.

For information on this and other topics of interest to consumers, visit our Web site at www.fcc.gov/cgb

To receive information on this and other FCC consumer topics through the Commission's electronic subscriber service, click on www.fcc.gov/cgb/emailservice.html.