

June 7, 2005

The Honorable Michael T. Harum
Sheriff, Chelan County
P.O. Box 36
Wenatchee, WA 98807

Dear Sheriff Harum:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning telecommunications and emergency services in Stehekin. I appreciate how important it is for your office and other local government agencies to provide emergency services, and I understand that it must be a challenge to provide those services when the location is isolated. It is clear from your letter that you have worked hard to provide effective emergency communications and emergency services to the residents of Stehekin.

This agency's designation of WeavTel as an "eligible telecommunications carrier" under federal law was not based on any determination about the adequacy of current emergency communications services in Stehekin. Federal law requires WeavTel, as an eligible carrier, to provide access to those emergency services that are implemented by local government.

We recognize that the UTC does not have the responsibility to determine what emergency services should be provided in any given locality. That responsibility lies with other state agencies and local governments, and they also determine the

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fees subscribers pay to support the services. If 911 service or enhanced 911 service is made available in the Stehekin area by local government, then the UTC has a responsibility to ensure that WeavTel provides its customers with the ability to communicate in an emergency by dialing 911.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of my letter to Representatives Condotta and Armstrong responding to their inquiries regarding Stehekin.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Sidran

Chairman

cc: Richard Weaver, WeavTel
Honorable Cary Condotta
Honorable Mike Armstrong