



# Public Service Commission

## State of North Dakota

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### COMMISSIONERS

Susan E. Wefald, President  
Kevin Cramer  
Tony Clark

Executive Secretary  
Darrell Nitschke

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480  
Web: [www.nd.gov/psc](http://www.nd.gov/psc)  
E-mail: [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov)  
TDD 800-366-6888 or 711  
Fax 701-328-2410  
Phone 701-328-2400

December 22, 2008

Raeann Kelsch  
Regional Manager of External Affairs  
Upper Midwest Region  
Alltel  
1100 College Drive Suite 107  
Bismarck, ND 58502

Re: Rhame Cellular Meeting

Dear Mrs. Kelsch,

On October 28, 2008, the Commission held a public meeting about cell phone coverage in Rhame, ND, located in Bowman County. The meeting was held at the request of Trace Wiffler, Mayor of Rhame.

More than 130 people attended the meeting and we received 144 Consumer Wireless Surveys from people describing poor service in the area. Citizens are asking for better coverage not only for convenience, but also for improved access to emergency services and as a way to promote development in the area.

Improved coverage would be a tool for economic development in the area. As oil activity has increased, so has the demand for improved communications in the surrounding areas. Oilfield workers and businesses catering to the oil industry use cellular phones heavily because they are working in the field. A survey completed by the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division in December 2008 estimates there are more than 200 cell phones held by oilfield workers in the Rhame area every day. Those oilfield workers would benefit from improved coverage.

Not only is Rhame a center for major oil activity, it could be home to a new wind farm next year. Montana-Dakota Utilities is in the planning stages of building a 19.5 megawatt wind farm near Rhame. The wind farm would bring more traffic through the area and more people in need of cellular communications. It could also signal the beginning of more energy development in the area.

The demand for cellular communication will only increase as Rhame becomes a regional center for energy production. In addition to the energy industry, farmers, other businesses, law enforcement and emergency responders would also benefit from improved coverage in the area.

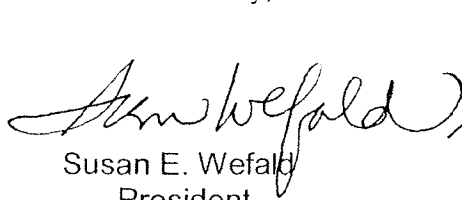
We understand that your company and others build new cellular towers across the state each year and we strongly urge your company to consider Rhame as a location for a new tower in the near future.

We also ask that you respond to this letter to let us know if Rhame is an area under consideration for expanded coverage. We also ask that you contact Mayor Wiffler so that he and other city officials can assist you in identifying locations for a cell tower. Mayor Wiffler can be reached at 701-279-5710 or by writing to him at the address below. We appreciate any help you can provide in this matter.

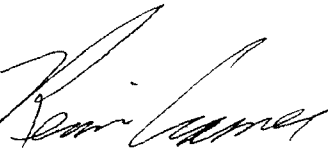
Sincerely,



Tony Clark  
Commissioner



Susan E. Wefald  
President



Kevin Cramer  
Commissioner

Cc: Trace Wiffler  
Mayor  
P.O. Box 70  
Rhame, ND 58651-0070

Cc: Diana Stevens  
Manager of Partnership Relations and Accounting  
Verizon Wireless  
One Verizon Place  
Alpharetta, GA 30004 -8511

Cc: Lynn Helms  
Director  
North Dakota Oil and Gas Division  
600 E. Blvd. Ave., Dept. 405