Temporary earth station intalled at Dillingham

RCA Alaska Communications Inc. announced today the turn-up of a transportable Earth Station in Dillingham to relieve a shortage of telephone circuits in the area.

The Earth Station is equipped with a 15-foot diameter antenna and will provide additional circuits to Dillingham until a permanent Earth Station is installed next year.

The turn-up of the temporary satellite facility gives Dillingham ten additional long distance channels. Dillingham was previously served by an overloaded VHF radio link to the White Alice Communications System site at King Salmon. Dillingham previously had only four long distance circuits.

The transportable Earth Station was cutover for service in conjunction with the new central office installed by Nushagak telephone cooperative. Equipped with 500 telephone lines, the central office switches all the local and long distance telephone calls generated from the area. The old switch in Dillingham was equipped with 100 lines.

Additional equipment was also installed by Nushagak to give Dillingham the capability for automatic number identification (ANI) which ties into the nationwide Direct Distance Dialing network. With station-to-station long distance telephone calls go through the local telephone switching equipment automatically without operator assistance. The long distance operator comes on the line only if the call is person-to-person, collect, credit card or billed to another number.

Dillingham previously had Operator Number Identification (ONI). The long distance operator had to ask for the number of the person calling, which was then keyed into the DDD system.

A permanent Earth Station, scheduled to serve Dillingham in 1977, is one of 21 such stations RCA Alascom plans to build over the next three years to replace outdated Tropospheric facilities of the White Alice System. With recent authorization from the Federal Communications Commission, RCA Alascom will begin construction of the foundation and building for Dillingham's permanent Earth Station in 1976. Specifications for the antenna are being determined.