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# What's WATS?

(WIDE AREA TELEPHONE SYSTEM)

**Q. What is WATS?**

**A.** WATS is a telecommunications service offered to customers having a need to make or receive large volumes of toll or data messages. WATS provides a means whereby the customer can choose the geographical area he desires and be billed on a bulk rather than an individual basis.

**Q. How do Alaskans participate?**

**A.** Alaskans can call the 800 numbers seen on TV ads, and in newspapers and magazines, etc., provided the AT&T or Hawaiian customers have subscribed to WATS for Alaska area.

**Q. What happens when you call?**

**A.** Alaskans simply dial the advertised "800" number. If the Lower 48 subscriber to that number has requested the Alaska 800 service, the call will go through just like a regular toll call with the "800" subscriber paying the bill. If the 800 customer has not subscribed to the Alaska 800 service, the call will be intercepted and the caller will get a recording stating that this call did not go through, please dial again, or check with your operator.

**Q. Who offers WATS?**

**A.** At present only the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) and Hawaiian Telephone Company offer WATS to their customers in the Lower 48 and Hawaii.

**Q. How can I find out whom I can call on the Alaska 800 service?**

**A.** Simply dial 800-555-1212, WATS directory assistance, and ask.

**Q. What is the future of WATS in Alaska?**

**A.** RCA Alascom is currently engaged in developing an Alaskan WATS service to and from the Lower 48 and Hawaii. This will make available to Alaskan business and agencies a WATS offering similar to that now enjoyed by their Lower 48 and Hawaiian counterparts. It is expected that the service will be available on a limited basis early in the first quarter of 1978. However, there are no plans for a statewide (within Alaska) WATS offering at this time.

**For further information, call RCA Alascom Public Affairs at 264-7000, Anchorage, Alaska.**

**RCA** Alaska  
Communications