

Mauneluk Displeased with No. State

While other attention around the state is being focused on the statewide problems of telecommunications, the RurAL CAP region in Kotzebue, Mauneluk, is taking some positive steps to deal with problems they feel are being caused by the local telephone exchange, North State

Mauneluk, and its executive director, Ernie Norton (who is also Kotzebue's mayor) have formally requested that the Alaska Public Utilities Commissioner (APUC) revoke the certificate of public convenience and necessity granted to North Star Telephone Company, Inc.

The complaint contains a series of charges the more important of which are the allegations that North Star Telephone Co., Inc. has failed to maintain adequate and efficient services and facilities; during certain periods has required monies in excess of those authorized by the commission for the placement of

local exchange area calls from public telephones; has required security deposits for local telephone exchange service in exchange of the amount authorized by the commission; and has failed to restore service to facilities critical to public health, safety, and welfare within a reasonable time after interruption.

In a related matter, North State has filed a tariff revision with the APUC.

The proposed revision would increase the private line business rate in the Kotzebue exchange area from \$21 per month at present to \$30 a month; each business extension phone from \$3.50 per month at present to \$5.50 per month; and each residence extension telephone from \$2.50 per month at present to \$3.50 per month; and increase the public pay phone charge from 10 cents per call to 25 cents per call.