

Barrow earth station is now operational

ANCHORAGE — A new satellite earth station is now in operation in Barrow, more than doubling the number of long distance telephone circuits serving the community, RCA Alaska

Communications, Inc. announced last week.

The earth station, with a 33-foot diameter "Dish" antenna, is one of 21 satellite ground facilities being constructed by RCA Alascom to replace key sections of the Air Force's White Alice Communications System. RCA Alascom is leasing the White Alice System from the Air Force under an agreement announced last July. Part of the lease agreement calls for replacement of specified tropospheric scatter communications sites with earth stations.

The Barrow Earth Station initially is equipped with 20 long distance channels for public use. Barrow previously had seven long distance circuits. The earth station can be readily expanded to meet future traffic needs. In addition to public long distance trunks, the The earth station is also carrying private line circuits including channels for the public Broadcasting System, the Alaska Native Health Service and teletype and telex customers.

Communications traffic from Barrow previously travelled over the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line, which connects with the White Alice System at Cape Lisburne. Traffic from points between Barrow and Barter Island now travels VIA satellite to Anchorage for switching to designated locations. Long distance traffic from Wainwright will continue to travel on the DEW line to Barrow.