

Study recommends satellite for rural phones

Washington, D.C.—A study for the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) recommends that the most economical means of providing telephone service for villages in Alaska is by earth station-satellite in lieu of conventional transmission facilities used in telephone

systems.

In commenting on the report, REA Administrator Robert W. Feragen said, "This is certainly encouraging news...Much of the isolation in Alaska could be eliminated by the introduction of a modern reliable telecommunications system. This study

indicates that some of our most sophisticated electronics may be suited to this harsh environment and still be affordable to its rural residents.

The study points out that the difference in the cost of installation and maintenance are the primary reasons why earth station-satellite is preferable to conventional systems.

This study is available through the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. When ordering use the following Document Accession Numbers: PB-297210 for Volume I (Executive Summary) and PB-297211 for Volume II along with the title "Systems Study for the Technologies Useful for Providing Economic Telephone Service in Rural Alaska." The cost is \$6.00 for Vol. I and \$10.00 for Vol. II.