BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

APPLICATION OF WANTEL, INC. d/b/a COMSPANUSA FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER PURSUANT TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996 – NON-RURAL AREAS

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Docket No.

Wantel, Inc. d/b/a ComspanUSA ("Wantel") respectfully submits this Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") pursuant to Sections 214(e)(1)-(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"), 47 U.S.C. (e)(1)-(2) and Section 54.201 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 54.201. Wantel requests that it be designated as eligible to receive all available support from the federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") including, but not limited to, interstate access support for high cost areas and support for low income customers in the geographic areas specified in this Application. Wantel is requesting ETC status primarily to allow customers it serves in the Roseburg, Sutherlin and Winston exchange areas of Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") to be eligible to receive Oregon Telephone Assistance Program ("OTAP") and Lifeline/Link Up assistance and because designation as a federal ETC is effectively a prerequisite for participating in the Oregon Universal Service Fund.

APPLICANT

I.

Wantel is a competitive local exchange company ("CLEC") and obtained its competitive registration from the Oregon Public Utilities Commission on August 20, 1999 under Order No. 99-507.

PAGE 1 WANTEL, INC. d/b/a COMSPANUSA'S APPLICATION FOR ETC STATUS

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II.

ALLEGATION OF FACTS

Eligibility and Identification of the Service Area. A.

Under Sections 214(e) and 254 of the Act, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("OPUC" or "Commission") is authorized to designate Wantel as an ETC. Section 214(e)(2) of the Act provides that state commissions have the primary responsibility for designating ETCs. The FCC recently amended its rules governing Universal Service. See Part 54 of Title 47 CFR, and Report and Order, issued March 17, 2005. Wantel submits maps of service territory as Exhibit A, to support its application for ETC status.

В. The Legal Standard for Granting ETC Status

10 In order to obtain ETC designation, an applicant must demonstrate the following: (1) a commitment and ability to provide the services to all customers in the area proposed to be 12 served; (2) emergency back up functionality; (3) that it meets applicable consumer protection 13 standards and service quality standards, (4) that local usage offered is comparable to that offered 14 by the incumbent LEC; and (5) that the applicant understands that it may be required to provide 15 equal access if all other ETCs in the designated service area relinquish their designations.

16 As part of the commitment to provide services to all customers in the proposed area to be served, the applicant must submit a five year plan describing with specificity, on a 17 18 wire center-by-wire center basis, proposed improvements and upgrades to the applicant's 19 network.

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SERVICES PROVIDED BY PETITIONER III.

21 In order to be designated an ETC, a common carrier must demonstrate pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) that they offer services and agree to offer and advertise the supported services 22 23 throughout the proposed ETC service area. In addition, the common carrier must meet the public 24 interest standard.

25 Wantel will offer the federally designated services listed at 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a): (1) voice grade access to the public switched network, (2) local usage, (3) dual tone multi-26

PAGE 2 WANTEL, INC. d/b/a COMSPANUSA'S APPLICATION FOR ETC STATUS

frequency signaling or its functional equivalent, (4) single-party service or its functional
 equivalent, (5) access to emergency services, (6) access to operator services, (7) access to
 interexchange service, (8) access to directory assistance, and (9) toll limitation for qualifying
 low-income consumers. Wantel is a facilities-based carrier that offers these services throughout
 the areas where it seeks ETC designation. Wantel will offer throughout Roseburg, Winston, and
 Sutherlin exchange areas basic telephone service using Wantel's own subscriber plant (i.e. loop
 facilities), leased UNE loop facilities, or resale of another carrier's retail service.

A. Voice-grade access to the public switched telephone network. 47
9 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(1) requires a carrier to offer voice grade access to the public switched
10 telephone network. Wantel provides voice grade access to the public switched telephone
11 network. Wantel provides voice grade access pursuant to the FCC's definition.

B. Local Usage. Wantel's service provides unlimited local usage and is
 consistent with 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(2).¹

14 C. Dual-tone, multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent.
15 Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(3) an ETC must provide dual tone multi-frequency
16 signaling ("DTMF") to facilitate the transportation of signaling throughout its network. Wantel
17 provides DTMF signaling throughout its network, consistent with FCC rules.

D. Single-party service or its functional equivalent. "Single-party service"
 means that only one party will be served by a subscriber loop or access line in contract to a
 multi-party line.² Wantel provides single party service, as required by 47 C.F.R. Section
 54.101(a)(4).

E. Access to emergency services. The ability to reach a public emergency service provided by dialing 911 is a required service in any universal service offering. Wantel

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 1 First Report and Order, at 8814 2 Id. at 8810

PAGE 3 WANTEL, INC. d/b/a COMSPANUSA'S APPLICATION FOR ETC STATUS

currently provides all of its customers with access to emergency service by dialing 911. Wantel offers E-911 throughout its calling area.

F. Access to operator services. Access to operator services is defined as any automatic or live assistance provided to a consumer to arrange for the billing or completion, or both, of a telephone call.³ Wantel provides customer access to operated services on 24/7 basis consistent with 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(6).

G. Access to interexchange service. An ETC must offer consumers access
to interexchange service to make and receive toll or interexchange calls. Wantel meets this
requirement by providing all of its customers with the ability to make and receive interexchange
or toll calls through interconnection arrangements it has with several IXCs. Wantel is an equal
access provider.

H. Access to directory assistance. The ability to place a call to directory
 assistance is a required ETC service offering.⁴ Wantel customers are able to obtain directory
 assistance from live operators.

I. Toll limitation for qualifying low income consumers. An ETC must
offer either "toll control" or "toll blocking" services to qualifying Lifeline customers at no
charge. In particular, an ETC must provide toll blocking which allows customers to block the
completion of outgoing calls.⁵ Wantel provides this service now and will continue to do so in the
future.

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IV. ADVERTISING AVAILABILITY OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE

Pursuant to Section 54.201 of the FCC's rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 54.201, Wantel plans to advertise the availability of each of the supported services detailed above, through its licensed service area, by media of general distribution. The methods of advertising utilized may include newspaper, magazine, radio, direct mailings, public exhibits and displays, bill inserts, and

²⁵ $||_{3}$ *Id.* at 8817-18.

 $^{||^4} Id.$ at 8817-18.

²⁶ $\int Id. at 8821-22.$

telephone directory advertising. This information is currently advertised by Wantel in its service area.

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V. PUBLIC INTEREST FACTORS

4 Granting Wantel's application to become an ETC in the Roseburg, Winston, and 5 Sutherlin area is in the public's interest. Wantel is committed to provide service throughout its 6 designated service area to all customers who make a reasonable request for services.⁶ Further, 7 Wantel agrees to provide service to requesting customers where its facilities already exist, as 8 well as to those in its service area but outside its existing network coverage within a reasonable period of time and at a reasonable cost.⁷ See attached Exhibit B (Wantel's original Application 9 10 for OUS Support). Wantel seeks to use the high cost support prudently, in a manner that will 11 extend the provision of its services to customers in the high cost areas.

Wantel, in support of its ETC application, has provided a Five Year Plan for 12 improvements and upgrades to its network.⁸ This plan covers the entire service area that Wantel 13 14 serves and seeks ETC status. Through Wantel's planned improvements it will be able to provide 15 advanced services to all of its customers, including those in traditional high cost areas. These improvements include high speed data services, as well as facilities that will allow the provision 16 17 of "triple play" services: voice, video and high speed data. Wantel also provides access to 18 several different ISPs in the area. Wantel's plan to extend its fiber infrastructure in its service 19 area will be in the public interest as it will be able to offer advanced services and increased 20 reliability and capacity to its customers.

This infrastructure will allow customers to obtain advanced services that were previously
unavailable in high cost areas. By extending these advanced services, customers will be
provided with increased choice as well. Granting ETC status to Wantel will further serve to

⁶ Report and Order, Released March 17, 2005, at 11-12.

⁷ Note, the criteria in the recently released *Report and Order, Id.*, generally apply to wireless ETC applicant. Wantel is a facilities based provider, and does not employ antennaes and abse stations in its network.

^{26 &}lt;sup>8</sup> The Five Year Plan is submitted as a confidential exhibit, as it contains confidential information regarding planned network upgrades. Exhibit C.

achieve the national policy of extending these advanced services to all regions of the nation.⁹
These new customers will have access to voicemail, call waiting, caller identification, three way
calling, and last call return. In addition, Wantel will be extending Digital Subscriber Line
("DSL") service to these customers. Providing these services to customers in high cost areas
meets the public interest goals for an ETC provider.

6 Service quality will increase for customers of Wantel in high cost areas. A review of the 7 five year plan shows how the network upgrades (including those funded by the company) will 8 extend Wantel's fiber network further into the high cost areas. By doing so, this new 9 infrastructure will increase call and service quality in these areas. The result will be improved 10 local access via new facilities with fiber-optic runs to the neighborhood enabling more customer 11 connections, more reliable service, and a broader choice of features and benefits. Improved 12 service quality will result from the new infrastructure, fiber-optic transport, SONET ring 13 topology and newer state of the art equipment in the field, customer premises and wire centers. 14 Improved service quality will also result from local involvement by consumers in the service 15 area, enabled by Wantel's walk-in offices located in the service area where customers can 16 interact with Wantel employees on a person-to-person basis as well as having Wantel's core 17 technical staff on hand locally for instant response to situations as they arise. There will also be 18 more reliable emergency services due to diverse traffic routing and SONET ring technologies, as 19 well as eight hour battery back-up and generators distributed throughout Wantel's network as 20required.

Wantel will be providing enhanced access to IXCs via its FG-D trunking to the access
Tandems serving its areas, as well as the company's regional fiber-optic network. Wantel's
service will enable more reliable 911 and provide a secondary route for access to the Eugene,
Oregon PSAP and provide a direct diverse secondary link to the local Sheriff's Office 911
center.

⁹ Report and Order, Released March 17, 2005, at 18-19.

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PAGE 6 WANTEL, INC. d/b/a COMSPANUSA'S APPLICATION FOR ETC STATUS

In addition, as part of its Five Year Plan, Wantel describes its interest in PCINW
 Regional Fiber. Wantel owns one-third interest in this dark fiber run that serves to connect local
 Wantel communicates to a regional high speed transport network providing advanced services.
 Extending connections to the PCINW Regional Fiber will offer increased cost savings and
 connectivity to customers being served in the high cost areas of Wantel's service area.

In addition, designation of Wantel as an ETC is in the public interest because it will promote competition. Competition promotes consumer benefits in the form of lower prices, increased service quality, and innovation. As a competitor to the incumbent, Wantel must offer prices that equal or are less than the incumbent's. It must also offer good service quality or it will lose customers. Also, by designating Wantel as an ETC it will make available Lifeline and Link Up, including OTAP, services to customers of Wantel in the Roseburg, Winston, and Sutherlin area. For these reasons designation of Wantel as an ETC is in the public interest.

See Exhibit B Wantel's original Application for OUS Support. In it, Wantel certifies and agrees to provide its services to all customers for a reasonable cost within a reasonable time frame.

COMMITMENT TO SERVE REQUESTING CUSTOMERS

VII. EQUAL ACCESS

As an applicant for ETC status, Wantel acknowledges that it must provide equal access in its service area. It further acknowledges that should all other ETCs in its service area relinquish their designations, it must continue to provide equal access. *See* Exhibit D, Wantel's Equal Access Script, and Exhibit B, Wantel's original Application for OUS Support.

VIII. EMERGENCY BACK-UP FUNCTIONALITY

In order to be designated an ETC, the applicant must be able to demonstrate a reasonable back-up power to ensure a functioning network. Wantel has eight hour battery back-up at each

PAGE 7 WANTEL, INC. d/b/a COMSPANUSA'S APPLICATION FOR ETC STATUS

ATER WYNNE LLP 601 UNION STREET, SUITE 5450 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101-2327 (206) 623-4711

VI.

location where its equipment requires power. It also has LNP/LPG powered generators with automatic transfer switches where it is required.¹⁰

IX. CONSUMER PROTECTION

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Wantel is subject to the Oregon consumer protection laws. It also submits service quality reports to the Commission. Attached as Exhibit E is a summary of Trouble Reports,
 Provisioning Commitments, Held Orders, Access to Representatives for Repair and Business
 Office, and Call Blocking. Each of these standards have been met or surpassed by Wantel.
 Respectfully submitted this 31st day of March, 2005.

ATER WYNNE LLP

By:

Arthur A. Butler, WSBA #04678 <u>aab@aterwynne.com</u>

Joel R. Paisner, WSBA #16405 jrp@aterwynne.com

Ater Wynne LLP 601 Union Street, Suite 5450 Seattle, WA 98101-2327 Telephone: (206) 623-4711 Of Attorneys for Wantel, Inc. d/b/a ComspanUSA

¹⁰ Referring to Wantel's confidentially submitted Five Year plan will demonstrate the redundancy in the network to provide a reroute of traffic and how the network can address traffic spikes during an emergency.

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Wantel, Inc. d/b/a ComspanUSA ("Wantel") respectfully submits this Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") pursuant to Sections 214(e)(1)-(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1934, as amended ("Act"), 47 U.S.C. (e)(1)-(2) and Section 54.201 of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 54.201. Wantel requests that it be designated as eligible to receive all available support from the federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") including, but not limited to, interstate access support for high cost areas and support for low income customers in the geographic areas specified in this Application. Wantel is requesting ETC status primarily to allow customers it serves in the Roseburg, Sutherlin and Winston exchange areas of Qwest Corporation ("Qwest") to be eligible to receive Oregon Telephone Assistance Program ("OTAP") and Lifeline/Link Up assistance and because designation as a federal ETC is effectively a prerequisite for participating in the Oregon Universal Service Fund.

I. APPLICANT

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ALLEGATION OF FACTS

A. Eligibility and Identification of the Service Area.

Under Sections 214(e) and 254 of the Act, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("OPUC" or "Commission") is authorized to designate Wantel as an ETC. Section 214(e)(2) of the Act provides that state commissions have the primary responsibility for designating ETCs. The FCC recently amended its rules governing Universal Service. See Part 54 of Title 47 CFR, and Report and Order, issued March 17, 2005. Wantel submits maps of service territory as Exhibit A, to support its application for ETC status.

II.

B. The Legal Standard for Granting ETC Status

In order to obtain ETC designation, an applicant must demonstrate the following: (1) a commitment and ability to provide the services to all customers in the area proposed to be served; (2) emergency back up functionality; (3) that it meets applicable consumer protection standards and service quality standards, (4) that local usage offered is comparable to that offered by the incumbent LEC; and (5) that the applicant understands that it may be required to provide equal access if all other ETCs in the designated service area relinquish their designations.

As part of the commitment to provide services to all customers in the proposed area to be served, the applicant must submit a five year plan describing with specificity, on a wire center-by-wire center basis, proposed improvements and upgrades to the applicant's network.

III. SERVICES PROVIDED BY PETITIONER

In order to be designated an ETC, a common carrier must demonstrate pursuant to Section 214(e)(6) that they offer services and agree to offer and advertise the supported services throughout the proposed ETC service area. In addition, the common carrier must meet the public interest standard.

Wantel will offer the federally designated services listed at 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a):
(1) voice grade access to the public switched network, (2) local usage, (3) dual tone multi-

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frequency signaling or its functional equivalent, (4) single-party service or its functional equivalent, (5) access to emergency services, (6) access to operator services, (7) access to 3 interexchange service, (8) access to directory assistance, and (9) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers. Wantel is a facilities-based carrier that offers these services throughout the areas where it seeks ETC designation. Wantel will offer throughout Roseburg, Winston, and Sutherlin exchange areas basic telephone service using Wantel's own subscriber plant (i.e. loop facilities), leased UNE loop facilities, or resale of another carrier's retail service.

A. Voice-grade access to the public switched telephone network. 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(1) requires a carrier to offer voice grade access to the public switched telephone network. Wantel provides voice grade access to the public switched telephone network. Wantel provides voice grade access pursuant to the FCC's definition.

В. Local Usage. Wantel's service provides unlimited local usage and is consistent with 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(2).¹

C. Dual-tone, multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(3) an ETC must provide dual tone multi-frequency signaling ("DTMF") to facilitate the transportation of signaling throughout its network. Wantel provides DTMF signaling throughout its network, consistent with FCC rules.

D. Single-party service or its functional equivalent. "Single-party service" means that only one party will be served by a subscriber loop or access line in contract to a multi-party line.² Wantel provides single party service, as required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.101(a)(4).

E. Access to emergency services. The ability to reach a public emergency service provided by dialing 911 is a required service in any universal service offering. Wantel

First Report and Order, at 8814 Id. at 8810

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currently provides all of its customers with access to emergency service by dialing 911. Wantel
 offers E-911 throughout its calling area.

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H. Access to directory assistance. The ability to place a call to directory assistance is a required ETC service offering.⁴ Wantel customers are able to obtain directory assistance from live operators.

I. Toll limitation for qualifying low income consumers. An ETC must offer either "toll control" or "toll blocking" services to qualifying Lifeline customers at no charge. In particular, an ETC must provide toll blocking which allows customers to block the completion of outgoing calls.⁵ Wantel provides this service now and will continue to do so in the future.

IV. ADVERTISING AVAILABILITY OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE

Pursuant to Section 54.201 of the FCC's rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 54.201, Wantel plans to advertise the availability of each of the supported services detailed above, through its licensed service area, by media of general distribution. The methods of advertising utilized may include newspaper, magazine, radio, direct mailings, public exhibits and displays, bill inserts, and

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 $^{||^{3}}$ *Id.* at 8817-18.

 $^{^{4}}$ *Id.* at 8817-18.

^{[5] | &}lt;sup>5</sup> Id. at 8821-22.

1 telephone directory advertising. This information is currently advertised by Wantel in its service area.

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V. **PUBLIC INTEREST FACTORS**

Granting Wantel's application to become an ETC in the Roseburg, Winston, and Sutherlin area is in the public's interest. Wantel is committed to provide service throughout its designated service area to all customers who make a reasonable request for services.⁶ Further, Wantel agrees to provide service to requesting customers where its facilities already exist, as well as to those in its service area but outside its existing network coverage within a reasonable period of time and at a reasonable cost.⁷ See attached Exhibit B (Wantel's original Application for OUS Support). Wantel seeks to use the high cost support prudently, in a manner that will extend the provision of its services to customers in the high cost areas.

Wantel, in support of its ETC application, has provided a Five Year Plan for improvements and upgrades to its network.⁸ This plan covers the entire service area that Wantel serves and seeks ETC status. Through Wantel's planned improvements it will be able to provide advanced services to all of its customers, including those in traditional high cost areas. These improvements include high speed data services, as well as facilities that will allow the provision of "triple play" services: voice, video and high speed data. Wantel also provides access to several different ISPs in the area. Wantel's plan to extend its fiber infrastructure in its service area will be in the public interest as it will be able to offer advanced services and increased reliability and capacity to its customers.

This infrastructure will allow customers to obtain advanced services that were previously unavailable in high cost areas. By extending these advanced services, customers will be provided with increased choice as well. Granting ETC status to Wantel will further serve to

⁶ Report and Order, Released March 17, 2005, at 11-12.

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These new customers will have access to voicemail, call waiting, caller identification, three way
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In addition, as part of its Five Year Plan, Wantel describes its interest in PCINW Regional Fiber. Wantel owns one-third interest in this dark fiber run that serves to connect local Wantel communicates to a regional high speed transport network providing advanced services. Extending connections to the PCINW Regional Fiber will offer increased cost savings and connectivity to customers being served in the high cost areas of Wantel's service area.

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VI. COMMITMENT TO SERVE REQUESTING CUSTOMERS

See Exhibit B Wantel's original Application for OUS Support. In it, Wantel certifies and agrees to provide its services to all customers for a reasonable cost within a reasonable time frame.

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In order to be designated an ETC, the applicant must be able to demonstrate a reasonable back-up power to ensure a functioning network. Wantel has eight hour battery back-up at each

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location where its equipment requires power. It also has LNP/LPG powered generators with
 automatic transfer switches where it is required.¹⁰

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IX. CONSUMER PROTECTION

4 Wantel is subject to the Oregon consumer protection laws. It also submits service quality 5 reports to the Commission. Attached as Exhibit E is a summary of Trouble Reports, Provisioning Commitments, Held Orders, Access to Representatives for Repair and Business 6 7 Office, and Call Blocking. Each of these standards have been met or surpassed by Wantel. Respectfully submitted this 31st day of March, 2005. 8 9 ATER WYNNE LLP 10 By: 11 Arthur A. Butler, WSBA #04678 aab@aterwynne.com 12 Joel R. Paisner, WSBA #16405 13 jrp@aterwynne.com 14 Ater Wynne LLP 601 Union Street, Suite 5450 15 Seattle, WA 98101-2327 Telephone: (206) 623-4711 16 Of Attorneys for Wantel, Inc. d/b/a ComspanUSA 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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¹⁰ Referring to Wantel's confidentially submitted Five Year plan will demonstrate the redundancy in the network to provide a reroute of traffic and how the network can address traffic spikes during an emergency.



Suite 5450 601 Union Street Seattle, WA 98101-2327 206-623-4711 Fax: 206-467-8406 www.aterwynne.com

Joel R. Paisner E-Mail: jrp@aterwynne.com

March 31, 2005

COPY VIA EMAIL ORIGINAL VIA UPS NEXT DAY AIR

Public Utility Commission of Oregon Attn: Filing Center 550 Capitol Street NE, Suite 215 Salem, OR 97308-2148

Re: Application off Wantel, Inc. d/b/a ComspanUSA's Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 – Non-Rural Areas

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter please find an original and five (5) copies of Wantel, Inc. d/b/a ComspanUSA's Application for Federal ETC Status. Confidential portions are filed under separate "Confidential Cover". Once a docket has been assigned we will request entry of a protective order. If you have any questions please let me know.

Very truly yours, ATER WYNNE LLP

Arthur A. Butler Joel R. Paisner

Enclosures cc: Marty Patrovsky, Wantel, Inc.