

**FCC TO HOLD SEVENTH INDIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES
(ITI) REGIONAL WORKSHOP AND ROUNDTABLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UT
JULY 16-17, 2008**

Washington, DC -- The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its Indian Telecommunications Initiatives (ITI), is holding its seventh regional workshop and roundtable in Salt Lake City, UT, on July 16, from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM and July 17 from 7:30 AM to 2:45 PM. It will be held at the Indian Walk-in Center, 120 W. 1300 South Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115.

It will focus on issues pertaining to the Digital Television (DTV) transition and telecommunications development and deployment in Indian Country. A draft topical agenda is attached.

The program is being run in cooperation with the National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA), Native Public Media (NPM), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Native American Journalist Association (NAJA), Native Voice One (NV1), Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT), Utah's Division of Indian Affairs, and KRCL Radio Free Utah (90.9 FM).

This FCC effort is a collaboration and coordination with the American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) community that will feature meaningful discussions and information exchanges on topics of particular interest to the tribes. For example a key focus of ITI Salt Lake City will be to identify and implement effective mechanisms for educating consumers living in tribal areas about the digital television (DTV) transition and making sure that they understand the specific steps that may need to take in order to continue watching free over-the-air television after February 17, 2009. ITI Salt Lake City will also feature information exchanges about effective strategies for the deployment of telecommunications on Tribal lands, particularly in geographically isolated areas and communities.

The FCC's Indian Telecommunications Initiatives

The FCC's ITI is a comprehensive program that seeks to promote understanding, cooperation and trust among Tribes and Tribal organizations, the FCC, and the telecommunications industry. The ITI program seeks to build partnerships, identify potential solutions, and bring affordable, quality telecommunications services to Indian Country. The ITI program's goals - to increase the telephone penetration rate; facilitate the deployment of advanced telecommunications infrastructure on Tribal lands; and inform Tribes about federal government programs, including Universal Service Fund programs, and consumer outreach initiatives such as the DTV transition - are undertaken in Indian Country by the FCC through targeted outreach, coordination and consultation.

The ITI is designed to increase the FCC's and Tribal Nations' understanding of essential telecommunications issues impacting the deployment of telecommunications services in Indian Country and to perpetuate intergovernmental consultation between the parties in order to identify and remove barriers to telecommunications deployment in Indian Country. The Commission's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), located within the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), is responsible for coordinating the FCC's Tribal outreach and consultation.

ITI Salt Lake City will continue to enhance the government-to-government relationship between the FCC and the Tribal nations in recognition of the FCC's trust relationship with the AI/AN community. This event builds upon the successes of the FCC's previous ITI Workshops and Roundtables, held in Rapid City, South Dakota, in May 2004, on the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Reservation in Idaho in November 2004, Albuquerque, New Mexico in July 2005, San Diego, California in July 2006, Polson, Montana in October 2006, and Albuquerque, New Mexico in July 2007.

Registration for "ITI Salt Lake City" and More Information

The ITI is free of charge to registrants. For the convenience of attendees a small block of rooms, under the "FCC Indian Telecommunication Initiative Workgroup" have been reserved two miles away from the meeting site at the Monaco Hotel, 15 West 200 South Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101, for reservations call (877) 294-9710. Tribal leaders and American Indian/Alaska Native community representatives are encouraged to attend the ITI. Telecommunications industry representatives are also welcome to attend these intergovernmental meetings. To register for the ITI Salt Lake City or to obtain additional information, please call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322), press number 6 and follow the prompts to leave your full contact information, fax 202-418-2839, or e-mail your full contact information to iti-info@fcc.gov.

For more information about the ITI Salt Lake City Workshop, the FCC's ITI program, or the FCC's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, please contact Shana Barehand, Senior Attorney and Liaison to Tribal Governments at 202-418-0385, shana.barehand@fcc.gov. Updates and further information about the ITI Salt Lake City will also be made available on the FCC's Tribal Initiatives website at: <http://www.fcc.gov/indians>.

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