

**From:** [Helen Shaw](#)  
**To:** [arcticnoi](#)  
**Subject:** Search + Rescue Services (North Slope Borough)(April Brower, Director of S+R)(Nov 13, 2014)  
**Date:** Friday, November 14, 2014 4:12:46 PM

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**From:** Sean Harty [mailto:Sean.Harty@north-slope.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 1:56 PM  
**To:** Helen Shaw  
**Cc:** April Brower; Teresa Bowen; Aden Bynum  
**Subject:** RE: Seeking Information about Search and Rescue Services in North Slope Borough for White House Report

Ms. Shaw,

April asked me to respond to this message on her behalf.

Emergency Services, (Search and Rescue, Fire and Police) all use 911 and radio communications provided and maintained by the NSB Police Dept. There are levels of redundancy build in on different long distance carriers for connecting all communities back the Barrow where the dispatch center is located. Currently working with the LEC and CLEC in Barrow to have ANI and ALI passed to the PSAP that would assist in all of these departments to quickly know where the call is coming from. Many towns in Alaska do not have proper ANI and ALI and it has become a hurdle to work through to have it function correctly. As many of our communities are small there is only one cellular tower in many towns and presents a problem for triangulation to find the device and not all phones have GPS to locate.

They have plans for the future radio systems to have a gateway that could be put in place to communicate with ALMR as well as the US Coast Guard if there is a need to. The NSB GIS division is also being brought up to speed to have the maps of the region to be able to interface with this system but as it hasn't been done in the past it will take time.

I have been on a committee that is involved with the 911 as well as a new VoIP system to so across the NSB for communication so am aware of some of these hurdles as well as the approach to interface our business phone system with the PSAP.

It is my understanding that representatives from the NSB Police Dept. they have more hands on knowledge of those systems have been forwarded a copy of this and sure they can provide details.

Sean  
ITO  
North Slope Borough

FYI April was appointed the Director of NSB Search and Rescue.

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**From:** April Brower  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2014 9:20 AM  
**To:** Sean Harty  
**Subject:** FW: Seeking Information about Search and Rescue Services in North Slope Borough for White House Report  
**Importance:** High

Sean,

This is what I got from Helen Shaw. Thank you!

April Brower, Director  
North Slope Borough  
Search and Rescue Department

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

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**From:** Helen Shaw [<mailto:HShaw@ntia.doc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 12:54 PM  
**To:** April Brower  
**Cc:** Steve Merriam ([Stevem@astac.net](mailto:Stevem@astac.net))  
**Subject:** Seeking Information about Search and Rescue Services in North Slope Borough for White House Report  
**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Brower:

Steve Merriam, CEO/General Manager, ASTAC, recommended that we get in touch with you to learn more about the provision of search and rescue services in the Arctic region of Alaska. We would like to inquire about the current availability of search and rescue, public safety, emergency response, and other telecommunication services in the North Slope Borough, which we will report on in the *Arctic Telecommunications Assessment* that we are producing for the White House. Your knowledge and expertise as Interim Director of Search and Rescue Services in the North Slope Borough will be very helpful.

Based on President Obama's *National Strategy for the Arctic*, in the *Arctic Implementation Plan*, the National Security Council (NSC) assigned the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as the lead agency to do the telecommunications assessment. Please see NTIA's assignment on pages 6-7 ("*Develop Communications Infrastructure in the Arctic*") in the *Implementation Plan*, which is attached.

On October 3, NTIA's *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* was published in the *Federal Register*. The *NOI* (please see attached) contains questions about existing telecommunications services in the Arctic region of Alaska in order to identify the adequacy of the services and to find out where there are gaps in service. The deadline for response to the *NOI* is now being extended to December 3. In order to supplement the information we receive from the *NOI*, we are conducting interviews with knowledgeable people.

We are hoping that your schedule will permit time for you to reply to the Search and Rescue Services questions in the *Notice of Inquiry* by December 3. Please let us know if you

could participate in a conference call in November in which we can discuss the provision of Public Safety, law enforcement, and other telecommunications services in the North Slope Borough. I can be reached by phone at (202) 482-1157, by fax at (202) 501-8009, or via email at [hshaw@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:hshaw@ntia.doc.gov), and will hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

*Helen A. Shaw*

Point of Contact for the Arctic Telecommunications Project  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
(NTIA)

U.S. Department of Commerce  
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