

FCC ORDER DA 26-1124 • OCTOBER 20TH

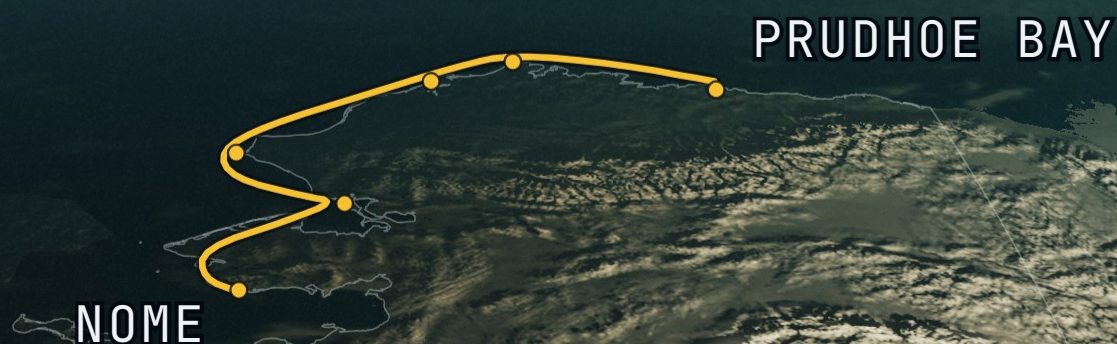
The FCC cleared GCI's Arctic fiber
deal citing Starlink,

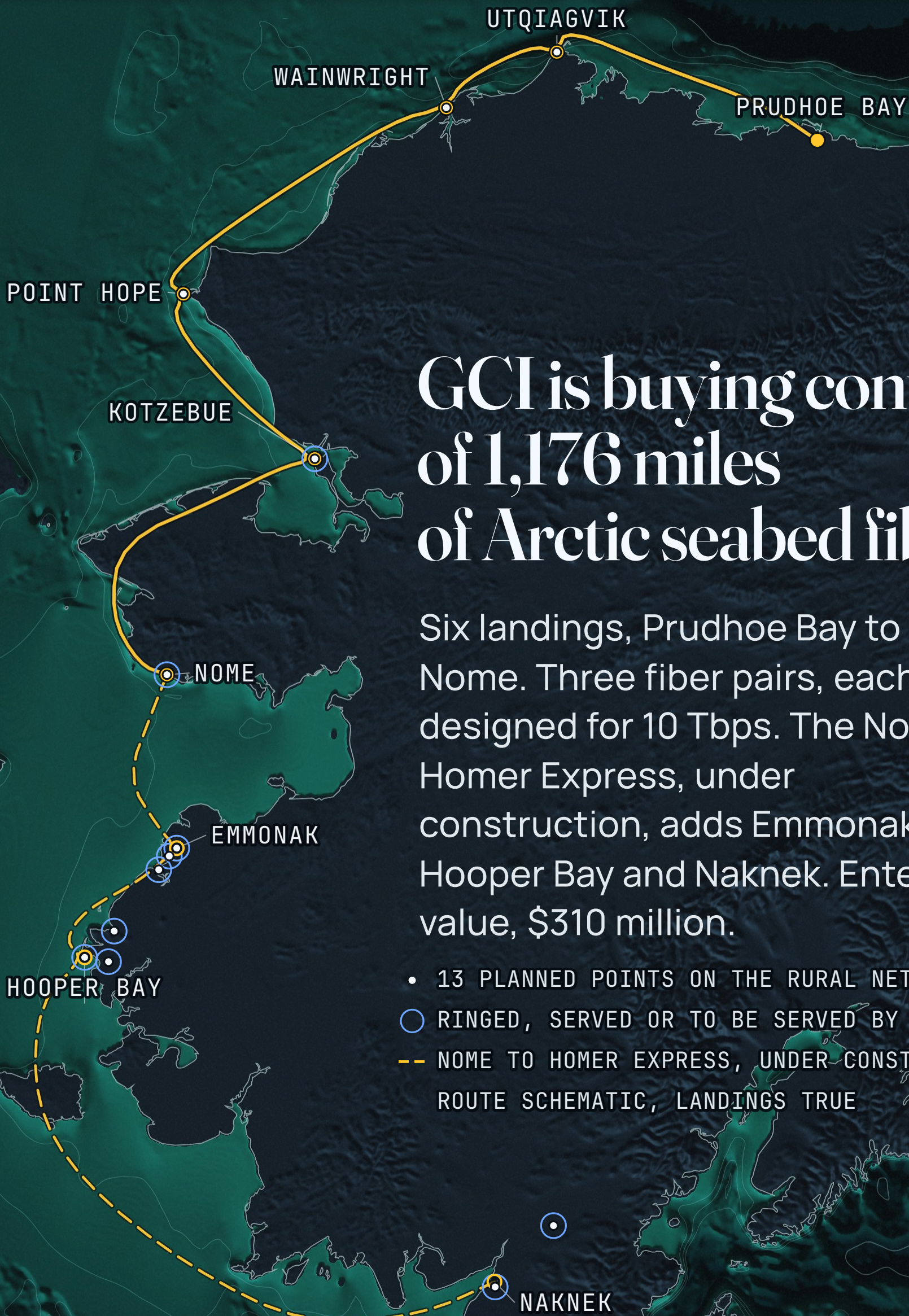
regardless
of whether

FCC ORDER DA 26-1124

"... Starlink is currently providing wholesale middle mile transport service in Alaska, we find nothing in the record to suggest that it or another LEO could not provide such wholesale service ..."

The record disagrees on whether Starlink sells it here today. The FCC approved anyway, with conditions.





GCI is buying control of 1,176 miles of Arctic seabed fiber.

Six landings, Prudhoe Bay to Nome. Three fiber pairs, each designed for 10 Tbps. The Nome to Homer Express, under construction, adds Emmonak, Hooper Bay and Naknek. Enterprise value, \$310 million.

- 13 PLANNED POINTS ON THE RURAL NETWORK
- RINGED, SERVED OR TO BE SERVED BY GCI
- NOME TO HOMER EXPRESS, UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- ROUTE SCHEMATIC, LANDINGS TRUE

"GCI and Quintillion currently are the only providers of middle mile transport for substantial portions of Western and Northern Alaska, respectively."

ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS, PETITION TO DENY,
AS QUOTED IN THE ORDER

ACS also said the Universal Service Fund would bear the cost. The FCC denied the petition.

A topographic map of Alaska is shown in the background. The northern portion of the state is outlined with a yellow line. The text "NORTHERN ALASKA" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the northern part of the map. Below it, in smaller white capital letters, is "QUINTILLION, PER ACS".

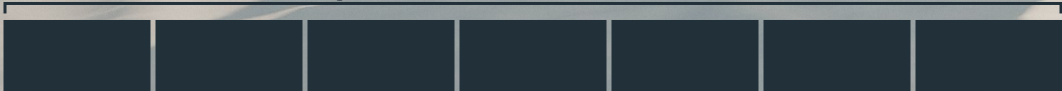
NORTHERN ALASKA
QUINTILLION, PER ACS

WESTERN ALASKA
GCI, PER ACS

In January 2025, sea ice cut the line near Oliktok Point.

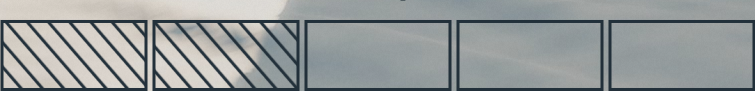
The outage ran seven to nine months, by differing accounts. GCI told the FCC it moved traffic to its microwave system and had to drastically limit speeds.

SEVEN-PLUS, PER GCI



JAN 2025

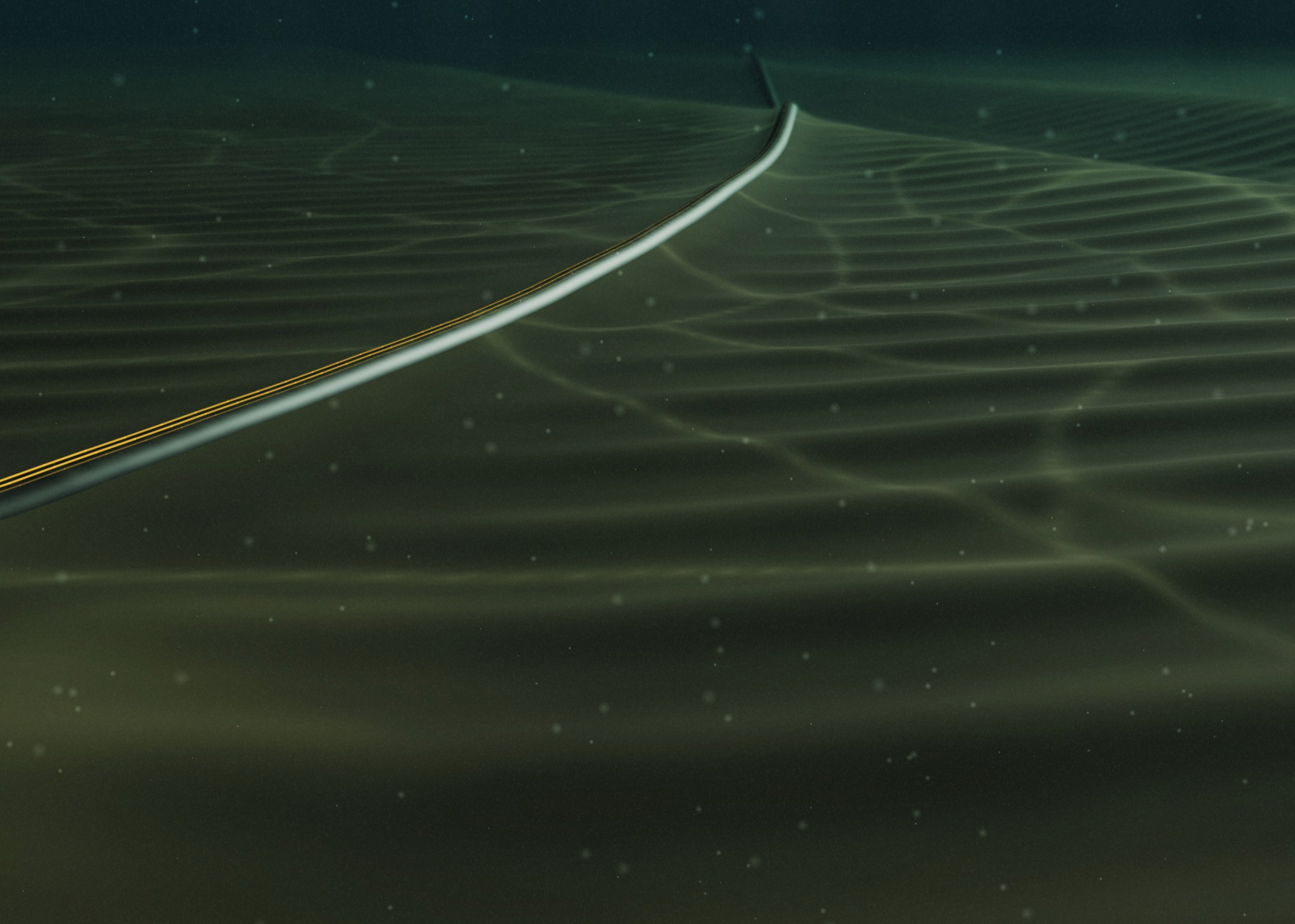
ONE CELL, ONE MONTH



NEAR NINE,
PER BROADBAND BREAKFAST

Under the ice, one line.

Two fiber pairs carry traffic, the companies say. One is held in reserve.



CHUKCHI SEA FLOOR • ILLUSTRATIVE

What GCI is actually held to

Contracts in force at closing,
honored for the life of the system

No inflation increase for three years after closing

Then only if Anchorage inflation tops 5 percent, capped at
that rate, once a year

Contracts over \$5,000 a month per circuit or \$10,000 total
filed with the FCC, 7 years wholesale, 5 other

Under seal. The public won't see the prices.



● CLOSING HASN'T HAPPENED YET

The order never mentions AI. Its eastern landing is Prudhoe Bay.

North Slope Power, a North Slope Borough venture, plans a gas plant near Prudhoe Bay designed, it says, to power colocated AI data centers. Proponents describe 3 GW at first, possibly 10.

PLANNED, NOT BUILT • SITE APPROXIMATE



Is "regardless of whether"
enough of a check on
Arctic fiber prices?