

The Communicator

**A Publication of Motorola Solutions
Spectrum Strategy Team**

*Editor: Bette Rinehart, Gettysburg, PA
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FCC Provides Guidance on Implementation of the Environmental Notification Process for Registration of Antenna Structures

The FCC has released a Public Notice to provide guidance on the process for filing Environmental Notifications during Antenna Site Registration (ASR).

The Environmental Notification applies to new towers that require ASR and to modifications of existing towers that would:

- Increase the height of the tower by 10% or 20 feet, whichever is greater
- Add lighting

- Modify existing lighting from most preferred to a less preferred configuration

Environmental Notification would also apply to pending ASRs if there is any change in:

- Coordinates
- Increase in overall height
- Type of structure
- Lighting configuration from most preferred to a less preferred
- Or an Environmental Assessment is added

Filing an ASR that requires an Environmental Notification consists of two parts. Part 1 consists of filing a partially completed Form 854 which will include the proposed lighting of the structure and the date the applicant requests the FCC to post the proposed tower registration on its website for public comment. FAA clearance can be obtained either before or after filing the Form 854. Next, the ASR applicant must provide local notice of the proposed tower registration through publication in a local newspaper or other means. Local notification must occur on or before the date requested for posting on the FCC website. The FCC will post the proposed tower registration on its website for a 30-day comment period during which members of the public can request a further environmental review. The applicant must wait until the FCC has determined that no further environmental assessment is required, (or a determination of No Significant Impact) before completing the second step. Applicants can determine the status of pending ASRs by logging onto the ASR database. Those pending ASRs ready for Part 2 will be listed as “Ready for Certification.”

In Part 2, the applicant must amend the pending Form 854 to provide the FAA study number and issue date (if not already provided), the date of the local notice and must certify that the tower will have no significant environmental impact. At this point the Form 854 will be considered complete and processed accordingly.

Impact on Part 90 Licensing

Applicants for station licenses in Part 90 radio services have two options when completing the Form 601.

If the tower has an ASR number, the application would be completed as normal.

If the tower has not yet received an ASR number, the Part 90 applicant can provide the ASR File Number on the Form 601 if:

- The structure has received FAA clearance
- Local notice has been provided and
- The proposed structure has been posted on the FCC’s website

Applications that provide an ASR file number cannot be granted until the ASR has been granted and the Form 601 amended to show the ASR number. During the pendency of the tower registration, the Form 601 must be amended every 60 days to explain why the Form 601 is still pending by uploading an exhibit using a new attachment type entitled “Status of Environmental Review.” Form 601s may be dismissed if this bi-monthly update is not provided.

Additional information will be available on the Universal Licensing System (ULS) at the following:

www.fcc.gov/help/antenna-structure-registration-asr-help.

The FCC will demonstrate the changes to the filing system on May 21, at 11 AM at the FCC Headquarters in DC. The event will also be webcast and can be viewed on the day of the event at: www.fcc.gov/live.

The new requirements will go into effect upon Federal Register publication of OMB approval.

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-731A1.doc

More Waivers of the Narrowband Deadline Placed on Public Notice

Since January, the FCC has placed a total of 35 waivers of the narrowband deadline on Public Notice for comment. To date, the St. Louis Metro counties and Delta Airlines' waivers have been granted.

In May, the FCC has placed the following waivers filed between February and early May on Public Notice

- Dane County, WI
- Pima County, AZ
- Northumberland County, PA DPS
- DeKalb County (GA) School District
- Buck's County, PA
- St. John's County, FL
- Berks County, PA
- Pierce County, WA
- Onslow County, NC
- Indiana County, PA
- State of Oregon

Comments were due May 24 and replies due June 1, 2012:

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-735A1.doc

- Puget Sound Energy

Comments due 5/25/2012; Replies due June 4, 2012

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-700A1.doc

- New York City Transit Authority filed in December 2011

Comments due June 11; Replies due June 21, 2012

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-794A1.doc

Delta Airlines' Waiver of the Narrowband Deadline Granted

The FCC has granted Delta Airlines' waiver requesting to extend the narrowband deadline for approximately 200 of its licenses. Delta was granted until December 31, 2013 to complete narrowbanding. In its decision, the Commission noted that Delta met the high standard for a successful waiver because:

- It operates a large, complex system, located at airports throughout the country which require technical personnel to obtain special clearance to gain admittance;
- Most of its systems will be compliant within the required timeframe;
- It showed diligence in planning for and implementing narrowbanding
- A one-year extension is no more than reasonably necessary
- Neighboring systems will not be harmed. Delta
 - Has no interoperability or interdependency with other systems and
 - Has provided adjacent channel licensees with contact information in case harmful interference is encountered

The text of the Order is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-793A1.doc

Spectrum Allocated for Medical Body Area Networks (MBANs)

In May the FCC allocated 40 MHz of spectrum in the 2360-2400 MHz range for Medical Body Area Networks (MBANs). MBAN operation will be on a secondary basis and will be licensed by rule under Part 95.

MBANs offer a way to wirelessly monitor every patient in a health care facility providing accurate real-time data enabling medical personnel to intervene as necessary before conditions deteriorate to life-threatening levels. The devices can be used to monitor blood pressure, glucose levels, EKGs, neonatal health.

Because the band is shared with Aeronautical Mobile Telemetry (AMT), MBANs in 2360-2390 MHz are restricted to indoor operations at health care facilities and must register with an MBAN coordinator (to be selected as part of a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking). Additional coordination may be required depending upon location.

MBANs operating in 2390-2400 MHz can be used at any location, including in-home, and do not require registration and coordination.

The text of the News Release is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-314274A1.doc

The text of the Report & Order is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-54A1.doc

Notice of Inquiry Released Seeking Input on Use of Deployable Aerial Communications Architecture After Major Disasters

A Notice of Inquiry seeking public input on the pros and cons of using Deployable Aerial Communications Architecture (DACA) as a means of quickly restoring communications after a major disaster has been released by the FCC.

DACA such as weather balloons or unmanned aircraft could provide a way to quickly and temporarily restore communications during or immediately after a major disaster until terrestrial communications could be restored.

Comment is sought on:

- Costs and benefits of DACA
- Coordinating and managing the use of DACA
- Deployment and operation of DACA
- Authorizing spectrum for DACA use
- DACA system performance (coverage, interoperability, interference mitigation and capacity)

Comments are due 40 days after publication in the Federal Register; Reply Comments are due 60 days after publication.

The text of the News Release is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-314272A1.doc

The text of the NOI is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-53A1.doc

Changes in FCC Bureau Leadership

David Turetsky Selected to Head Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski has named David Turetsky to serve as the Chief of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) beginning after Memorial Day. Acting Chief David Furth will return to his position as Deputy Bureau Chief.

Turetsky's background includes several years of senior US government experience, particularly in the area of antitrust law. His most recent position was a partner in the law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP.

The text of the News Release is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-314196A1.doc

Rick Kaplan to Step Down as Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski has announced that, effective mid-June, Wireless Telecommunication Bureau (WTB) Chief Rick Kaplan will step down after three years in the position. He will be succeeded by Ruth Milkman, currently Special Counsel to the Chairman for Innovation in Government, but who led the WTB immediately prior to Kaplan.

The text of the News Release is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-314366A1.doc

800 MHz News

Rules Amended to Allow ESMRS to Operate at Bandwidths Greater than 25 kHz in Geographically Licensed 800 MHz Band

Part 90 rules governing the 800 MHz ESMR bands have been amended to allow greater technical and regulatory flexibility to deploy advanced communications technologies. The rule change will enable ESMR licensees to transition their networks from 2G to 3G technology as well as even further advanced technologies such as LTE.

In the 1990's the FCC converted commercial SMR licensing from individual, site-based to geographic wide-area assigned through spectrum auctions. One of the goals of geographic licensing was to provide additional flexibility for ESMR operators to deploy and modify their systems without the need to first obtain or modify individual licenses. Another stated goal was to allow ESMRS to determine the channelization of frequencies within their geographically licensed spectrum block. The Part 90 rules regarding maximum permissible bandwidth were never amended, with the result that 25 kHz was the maximum permissible bandwidth.

With this Report & Order, the FCC is amending rule section 90.209 to allow ESMR operators to exceed the bandwidth limitation and channel spacing in the 817-824/862-869 MHz band (813.5-824/858.5-869 MHz in the Southeastern SMR area). In NPSPAC Regions where 800 MHz band relocation is not complete, ESMRS may exceed bandwidth/channel spacing limitations only in 817-821/862-866 MHz.

ESMR operators must provide public safety licensees with a 30-day prior notice of their intent to exceed the channel spacing and bandwidth limitations and the anticipated date that those operations will begin. Notice must be provided to all 800 MHz public safety licensees within the affected NPSPAC Region as well as any public safety licensee with a transmitter located within 70 miles of an impacted NPSPAC Region.

Providing the anticipated date of transition will allow public safety licensees to monitor their systems around that date and quickly identify and resolve any harmful interference that might occur.

In the Order, the Commission reiterated that it was not removing or revising any other technical rules in the 800 MHz band. EA licensees must continue to:

- Comply with the co-channel mileage separation requirements in 90.621
- Meet the OOB requirements of 90.691 on the outer channels of their licensed spectrum block and on any interior channels adjacent to frequencies occupied by incumbent licensees
- Protect non-cellular 800 MHz licensees from harmful interference as required in 90.672
- Abate any unacceptable interference under 90.673
- Comply with interference resolution procedures of 90.674

The text of the News Release is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-314273A1.doc

The text of the Report & Order is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-12-55A1.doc

700 MHz News

Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability Submits Report to FCC

As required by the Spectrum Act, the FCC-appointed 14 member Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability has submitted its recommendations to the FCC within the 60 day time limit imposed by the Spectrum Act.

The Board worked with subject matter experts from within and beyond the member organizations as well as NTIA, NIST and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communication to develop the recommendations. In the News Release, the Board expressed its belief that its report provided a solid framework for the development of National Public Safety Broadband Network.

The text of the News Release is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-314246A1.doc

The recommendations are available at:

<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7021919873>

May 31 Deadline for Broadband Early Deployment Waiver Recipients to Retain a Common Clearinghouse Suspended

The FCC has granted a Request filed by the 22 Broadband Early Deployment Waiver Recipients to stay the May 31 deadline by which they were to have retained the services of a common clearinghouse to manage their roaming agreements with commercial carriers.

Since the FCC established the deadline, Congress passed the Spectrum Act allocating the D Block to public safety and changing the regulatory structure upon which the waivers were granted. The Spectrum Act requires the existing public safety broadband spectrum and the adjacent D block to be licensed to the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and gives FirstNet responsibility to enter into agreements to enable roaming.

In their Request, the Waiver Recipients note that if they retain a clearinghouse or attempt to enter into agreements, it might frustrate Congress' intent in establishing FirstNet. The Waiver Recipients also note that currently no commercial operations have roaming onto their LTE networks.

The text of the Order is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-738A1.doc

Region 47's 700 MHz Regional Plan Placed on Public Notice

The FCC has placed the Region 47 (Puerto Rico) 700 MHz Regional Plan on Public Notice. Region 47 is seeking a waiver of the adjacent Region concurrence of the Virgin Islands (Region 48).

Comments are due: June 11, 2012

Reply Comments are due: June 21, 2012

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-804A1.doc

700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING UPDATE

Until the Regions have developed their plans and had those plans approved by the FCC, no licenses (other than state-wide licenses on the 2.4 MHz state allocation at 700 MHz) can be granted at 700 MHz. The NCC Implementation Subcommittee Regional Planning documents can be found on the NPSTC website at www.npstc.org/documents/html. Fifty-four of the fifty-five Regions have either held or set the date for their first meeting. One Region has selected a convener but not yet set a date for the first planning meeting. Forty-two Regional Plans have been approved; two plans are pending.

Each month, *"The Communicator"* will list the status of the 700 MHz Regional planning process. If you have any information about 700 MHz RPC planning activities that are not on this list, or have a customer who is interested in getting his or her 700 MHz Region started, please contact the editor – Bette Rinehart at 717-334-0654. Assistance is available for initiation of the Regional Planning process including presentation of an educational piece about the 700 MHz band. Regions in *italics* and highlighted in pink have a *Plan pending with the FCC*. Regions highlighted in green have Plans approved by the FCC.

Region	Status	Next Meeting	Chair/Convener
1 (Alabama)	Plan Approved 1/14/2009	TBD	Eric Linsley, Chair
2 (Alaska)	Plan Approved October 20, 2008	TBD	Dean Strid, Chair
3 (Arizona)	Plan Approved November 7, 2008	May 4, 2012	Mark Openshaw, Chair
4 (Arkansas)	Plan Approved 12/10/2010	TBD	J M Rowe, Acting Chair
5 (Southern California)	Plan Approved June 6, 2008	TBD	Dave Buchanan, Chair
6 (N. California)	Plan approved 10/22/2009	TBD	John Lemmon, Chair
7 (Colorado)	Plan Approved December 3, 2008	March 2, 2012	Edward Boyer, Chair
8 (Metro New York)	Plan Approved 5/4/09	May 22, 2012	Anthony Melia, Chair
9 (Florida)	Plan Approved 4/20/09	TBD	Ray Carlson, Chair
10 (Georgia)	Plan Approved 8/25/2009	TBD	Jim Mollohan, Chair
11 (Hawaii)	First Meeting 9/18/02	TBD	Robert Hlivak, Chair
12 (Idaho)	Plan Approved 8/25/2009	May 16, 2012	Todd Herrera, Chair
13 (Illinois)	Plan Approved 9/22/2009	February 15, 2012	Gary Cochran, Chair
14 (Indiana)	Plan Approved 11/12/2009	TBD	Anthony Stantz, Chair
15 (Iowa)	Plan Approved 8/4/2011	TBD	Les Fish, Chair
16 (Kansas)	Plan Approved 4/21/09	TBD	Jason Moses, Chair
17 (Kentucky)	First Meeting 2/15/02	TBD	Bob Stevens, Chair
18 (Louisiana)	Plan Approved 4/21/09	TBD	Ken Hughes, Chair
19 (New England)	Plan Approved 4/21/09	March 13 2012	Jerry Zarwanski, Chair
20 (Maryland)	Plan Approved 7/24/08	TBD	Ed Ryan, Chair
21 (Michigan)	Plan Approved 10/10/08	May 3, 2012	Keith Bradshaw, Chair
22 (Minnesota)	Plan Approved June 2, 2008	TBD	Brandon Abley, Chair
23 (Mississippi)	Plan Approved 1/12/2011	TBD	Tom Lariviere, Chair
24 (Missouri)	Plan Approved November 7, 2008	February 28, 2012	Steve Devine, Chair
25 (Montana)	Plan Approved April 17, 2012	TBD	Scott Bradford, Chair
26 (Nebraska)	First Meeting 8/8/02	TBD	Mike Jeffres, Chair
27 (Nevada)	Plan Approved June 2, 2009	TBD	Jeffrey Yeagley, Chair
28 (Eastern PA)	Plan Approved 9/22/2009	July 10, 2012	Mark Grubb, Chair
29 (New Mexico)	First Meeting 3/21/05	TBD	Don Cooper, Chair
30 (Eastern NY)	Plan Approved 8/6/2009	TBD	David Cook, Chair
31 (North Carolina)	Plan Approved 6/28/2011	TBD	Michael Hodgson, Chair
32 (North Dakota)	First Meeting 12/17/2009	TBD	Mike Lynk, Chair
33 (Ohio)	Plan Approved 9/11/2009	TBD	Paul Mayer, Chair
34 (Oklahoma)	Plan Approved 5/17/2010	TBD	Stephen Williamson, Chair
35 (Oregon)	Plan Approved 8/25/2010	March 20, 2012	Joe Kuran, Chair
36 (W. PA)	Plan Approved 1/5/2010	TBD	Randy Brozenick, Chair
37 (SC)	Plan Approved 2/14/2011	TBD	Buddy Jordan, Chair
38 (South Dakota)	First Meeting 1/15/09	TBD	Todd Dravlund (Conv.)
39 (Tennessee)	Plan Approved June 6, 2008	February 15, 2012	John Johnson, Chair
40 (Central & NE TX)	Plan Approved 6/3/09	TBD	Wanda McCarley, Chair
41 (Utah)	Plan Approved 10/2/2009	TBD	Steve Proctor, Chair
42 (Virginia)	Plan Approved 6/19/2010	May 16, 2012	Robert DeLauney, Chair
43 (Washington)	Plan Approved June 2, 2008	January , 2012	Jon Wiswell, Chair
44 (West Virginia)	Plan Submitted to FCC 2/24/2012	TBD	Dave Saffel, Chair
45 (Wisconsin)	Plan Approved October 20, 2008	June 6, 2012	Russell Schreiner, Chair
46 (Wyoming)	First Meeting 2/15/01	TBD	Mark Joiner, Chair
47 (Puerto Rico)	Plan Submitted to FCC 4/25/2012	TBD	Ferdinand Cedenio, Chair
48 Virgin Islands	Appointed Convener	First Meeting TBD	Angel Turnbull, Chair

49 (Central TX)	Plan Approved /2/7/2011	June 12, 2012	Ron Mayworm, Chair
50 (W. Texas)	First Meeting 7/15/04	June 20, 2012	Frank Mendez, Chair
51 (Houston)	Plan Approved 1/14/2009	January 18, 2012	Doug Frankhouser, Chair
52 (NW Texas)	First Meeting 7/30/03	TBD	Bob Sanders, Chair
53 (South Texas)	<i>Plan Submitted to FCC 5/30/2012</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Richard Morales, Chair</i>
54 (Chicago)	Plan Approved 9/30/2009	May 16, 2012	Carl Guse, Interim Chair
55 (New York-Buffalo)	Plan Approved 6/2/2009	March 15, 2012	Steven Sharpe, Chair