

Estimated Timeline of Key Events Leading Up to FCC's Broadcast Incentive Auction

Updated June 25, 2014

Time Period	Event
May 15, 2014	FCC adopts Incentive Auction Report & Order (“R&O”).
June 2, 2014	FCC releases text of R&O.
2Q-4Q 2014	FCC conducts broadcaster outreach; provides informational material to broadcasters that includes estimated auction values.
3Q 2014	FCC opens proceeding to examine how to mitigate the potential impact of the Incentive Auction and the repacking process on LPTV and TV translator stations.
	FCC opens proceeding to revise the Commission’s existing Part 15 rules to facilitate the use of unlicensed devices in the remaining television spectrum and to allow the use of unlicensed devices in the 600 MHz Band guard bands and on Channel 37.
	FCC opens proceeding to address the needs of wireless microphone users over the longer term, both inside and outside of the television bands.
	FCC opens proceeding to review Designated Entity (“DE”) rules, including whether any revisions made to the DE rules should apply to the Incentive Auction.
	FCC adopts methodology for preventing harmful “inter-service interference” between television and wireless broadband operations for application during and after the Incentive Auction and the repacking process.
	FCC issues Public Notice (“Auction Comment PN”) to solicit public input on final auction procedures, including specific proposals on opening prices, the specific benchmarks for the Final Stage Rule, and how much market variation to accommodate in the 600 MHz Band Plan.
	FCC adopts Public Notice (“Auction Procedures PN”) establishing final auction procedures and providing detailed explanations and instructions for potential auction participants.
1Q 2015	Media Bureau announces Pre-Auction Licensing Deadline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorized construction of new full power station facilities, channel substitutions for licensed full power stations, modifications to existing full power and Class A facilities granted before the April 2013 freeze, and Class A digital conversion facilities must be completed and licensed by this deadline in order to be protected in the repacking process.

This is an estimated timeline only, and does not commit the Commission to act on specific dates with respect to any of the events described herein.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadcasters will be notified at least 90 days in advance of the announcement of the deadline.
1H 2015	<p>FCC issues orders in the LPTV/TV Translator, Part 15, Wireless Microphone, and DE proceedings described above.</p> <p>Media Bureau issues final catalog of repacking costs that will be eligible for reimbursement, and begins outreach to broadcasters to provide information regarding the reimbursement process, the post-auction transition to new channels, and related consumer education requirements.</p> <p>Office of Engineering and Technology publishes an updated baseline list of broadcast facilities that will be preserved in the repacking process and their coverage areas/population served.</p> <p>FCC conducts bidder education tutorials and seminars on pre-auction procedures, conduct of Incentive Auction, and post-auction requirements.</p>
Mid 2015	<p>FCC conducts Incentive Auction</p> <p>Step One. FCC opens application process for reverse auction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides opening prices for each bidding option to each eligible broadcaster. Reviews TV station owners' timely-filed applications to participate in the auction; notifies applicants individually that they have qualified as bidders and provides registration materials to them; qualified bidders must commit to accept opening price or decline to participate. Based on commitments of qualified bidders, sets national spectrum clearing target (e.g., 120 MHz). Conducts mock auction for qualified bidders. <p>Step Two. FCC conducts reverse auction to determine how much money will be required to make incentive payments to broadcasters that relinquish some or all of their spectrum usage rights.</p> <p>Step Three. FCC conducts forward auction.</p> <p>Step Four. FCC evaluates the results of the reverse and forward auction to determine if the auction closes or continues at a lower clearing target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If proceeds from the forward auction are sufficient to cover the incentive payments to broadcasters and the other revenue requirements specified in the Final Stage Rule, the forward auction bidding continues until there is no excess demand for licenses, and the Incentive Auction closes. If the proceeds are not sufficient to satisfy the Final Stage Rule, the FCC lowers the spectrum clearing target and repeats Steps Two and Three until the Final Stage Rule is satisfied.
Upon Completion of the Auction	<p>Media and Wireless Bureaus release Channel Reassignment Public Notice ("Channel Reassignment PN") announcing final TV channel assignments.</p>

As Soon As Practicable After Conclusion of Auction	As FCC grants licenses to forward auction winners, it begins disbursing forward auction proceeds to broadcasters that are voluntarily relinquishing some or all of their spectrum usage rights.
Three Months After Receiving Incentive Auction Payments	Stations relinquishing their licenses must terminate operations; “sharee” stations in a channel sharing arrangement must terminate operations on their pre-auction channels.
Three Months Following Release of the Channel Reassignment PN	Broadcasters and multichannel video programming distributors eligible for reimbursement of channel relocation costs must provide an estimate of those costs to the Media Bureau.
	Broadcast stations that have been reassigned to new channels must file construction permit applications to operate on their new channels.
Following Submission of Estimated Relocation Costs	Media Bureau reviews the cost estimates and issues an initial allocation from the TV Broadcast Reimbursement Fund, which will be available to eligible entities for draw down as expenses are incurred.
Following Submission of Construction Permit Applications	Media Bureau establishes construction deadlines for broadcast stations that have been reassigned to new channels based on their individual circumstances.
	After broadcast stations have filed construction permit applications for their new facilities, the Media Bureau announces a limited window for operating LPTV and TV translator stations to submit displacement applications.
Not Later Than 39 Months After Release of the Channel Reassignment PN	On a rolling basis, broadcasters remaining on the air must complete their post-auction transition or go dark on their pre-auction channels.