

Recent Developments in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

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Agenda

- Spectrum Management – Task Force Report
- Secondary Markets Proceeding
- 800 MHz Proceeding
- Balanced Budget Act Proceeding
- Spectrum Audits
- Other Developments



Spectrum Policy Task Force Report: WTB Initiatives

- The Spectrum Policy Task Force is a team of high-level, multi-disciplinary professional FCC staff tasked with reexamining the FCC's spectrum policy
- Key findings in the Task Force's Report of importance to the Wireless Bureau include:
 - Access to spectrum more significant problem than physical scarcity
 - Need to eliminate regulatory barriers to increase spectrum access
 - Fostering efficiency and innovation through flexibility



Spectrum Policy Task Force Report: WTB Initiatives

- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of spectrum management and create greater access to spectrum
- Several key Commission proceedings will present these types of spectrum management issues:
 - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking/MO&O regarding the Multipoint Distribution Service/Instructional Television Fixed Service (MDS/ITFS) rules
 - Licensing rules for Advanced Wireless Services (or "3G" services)
 - Secondary Markets



Secondary Markets Proceeding

- On May 15, 2003, the Commission adopted a Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rule Making
 - Authorizes spectrum leasing in wireless services
 - Adopts streamlined processing for categories of license transfer and assignment applications
 - Seeks comment on additional steps to improve the functioning of secondary markets



Secondary Markets Proceeding

Report and Order

- Wireless licensees with “exclusive” rights to spectrum
- Updated de facto control standard for spectrum leases
- General spectrum leasing policies
- Alternative spectrum leasing mechanisms
 - Spectrum manager leasing
 - De facto transfer leasing
- Streamlined processing for transfer of control and assignment of license applications



Secondary Markets Proceeding

The Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making considers potential actions to supplement and expand on action taken in Report and Order and seeks comment on the following:

- Measures that facilitate information exchange between parties engaged in secondary market transactions
- Necessary mechanisms to facilitate access to spectrum by new technologies
- Need and FCC's role for establishing a clearinghouse mechanism to provide spectrum access information



800 MHz Proceeding

Background

- Band is heavily used by the public safety community and private land mobile radio service operators
- Instances of interference has occurred and continues to increase even though all providers are operating within the parameters of their FCC licenses
 - Best Practices Guide



800 MHz Proceeding

- In March 2002, the FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making
 - Tentatively concludes that harmful interference to public safety communications must be remedied
 - Discusses various means of reconfiguring the 800 MHz band
 - Requests information on amount of spectrum sufficient to meet public safety needs
 - Discusses means of how to handle licensing, coordination and costs that would be associated with restructuring of 800 MHz band
 - Considers receiver standards, limits on emissions and more robust public safety signals



800 MHz Proceeding

- Complex proceeding
- Approximately 700 matters have been filed in the record to date
 - FCC is currently reviewing record and considering various proposals



800 MHz Proceeding

- Comments submitted by:
 - Public safety and government agencies
 - Utilities and other critical infrastructure industries
 - Private land mobile radio service users
 - Commercial mobile radio service providers
 - Equipment manufacturers
 - Associations



Balanced Budget Act Proceeding

Background

- June 1998 - AMTA filed a petition with the FCC proposing that certain Part 90 licensees be required to employ new spectrum efficient technologies at a more rapid pace
- February 2003 – FCC released a Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making which creates dates certain for migration to narrowband technologies



Balanced Budget Act Proceeding

Report and Order

- Six months after publication in the Federal Register, the Commission:
 - Prohibits applications for new operations using 25 kHz channels
 - Prohibits any modification applications that expand the authorized contour of an existing station if the bandwidth for transmissions specified in the modification application is greater than 12.5 kHz



Balanced Budget Act Proceeding

Report and Order

- January 1, 2005 – Prohibits certification of equipment capable of operating at one voice path per 25 kHz of spectrum
- January 1, 2008 – Prohibits the manufacture or importation of any 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz band equipment that can operate on a 25 kHz bandwidth
- January 1, 2013 and 2018 – Deadlines for migration to 12.5 kHz technology for non-public safety and public safety PLMRS systems, respectively



Balanced Budget Act Proceeding

Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making

- Seeks comment on whether the equipment certification provision in the current rules are sufficient to promote migration to one voice path per 6.25 kHz bandwidth, or equivalent technology or whether migration to 6.25 kHz bandwidth or equivalent technology should be mandatory



License Audits

- Private Land Mobile Radio Service
- 220 MHz



License Audits: PLMRS

- Audit of the construction and operational status of public safety and business/industrial radio services licensed on frequencies below 512 MHz
- Purpose of the audit is to update and improve the integrity of the data in the WTB's Universal Licensing System (ULS)



License Audits: PLMRS

- Phase I of audit
 - Initial mailing of audit letters took place from August 2001 until January 2002
 - 267,864 audit letters
 - 420,135 call signs
 - 73% response rate
- Phase II of audit
 - In April and May 2002, second letter sent to licensees who failed to respond to initial mailing
 - Approximately 58,000 letters sent
 - Additional 4,000 call signs recovered
- Over 33,000 call signs recovered
- Licensees who fail to respond will risk losing license



License Audits: 220 MHz

- 220-222 MHz commercial, site-specific licenses authorized under Phase I of 220 MHz licensing
- First mailing was initiated on May 14, 2003
- Responses are required by June 13, 2003



License Audits

- Audit Web Page
 - <http://wireless.fcc.gov/licensing/audits>
 - General information on audits
 - Audit public notices, letters, and response forms
 - Online query of audit database
 - Tracking letters and responses
 - Query by call sign/name/reference number/
city and state



Other Developments

