

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

Dockets

272

29 JAN 1992

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CN9200135

Honorable Fred Grandy
House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1506

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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JAN 30 1992

Dear Congressman Grandy:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Your letter to Chairman Sikes has been referred to me for reply. Your constituent, Dennis L. Hill of Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, expressed concern to you regarding proposals to reallocate frequencies at 2 GHz that potentially would impact the public utilities currently using those frequencies.

On January 16, 1992, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in ET Docket No. 92-9 that proposes allocating 220 MHz of 2 GHz spectrum for use by providers of emerging technologies. With regard to licensees currently using portions of this spectrum, the Commission proposed to permit state and local government licensees, including public safety agencies, to continue indefinitely their current operations on a primary basis. Other users would be permitted to continue their current operations on a primary basis for a period of time to be established -- such as 10 or 15 years -- and then permitted to continue operating only on a secondary basis. Expansion and new microwave systems also would be permitted only on a secondary basis in this band. Expansion and new systems on a primary basis would be permitted at higher frequencies. In conjunction with the Notice, the Commission will release a staff study of existing use of this spectrum and identify other suitable frequencies available for this purpose. To further facilitate accommodation of the competing demands for this spectrum, the Commission also proposed to permit negotiation of financial arrangements between existing licensees and parties proposing new services that would facilitate access to this spectrum for services employing emerging technologies.

These provisions are intended to prevent disruption to the communications of the existing licensees, yet still provide the spectrum needed by U.S. companies to develop new and innovative telecommunications products and services and bolster U.S. competitiveness in world telecommunications markets. An example of one such new proposed service is the personal communications service (PCS), which the Commission is addressing concurrently in GEN Docket No. 90-314.

The need of the existing users of 2 GHz for reliable communication is of importance to the Commission, and is being taken carefully into consideration. Your constituent's concerns will be taken into account

Honorable Fred Grandy

2.

before a final determination is made, and for that purpose, I am making his letter part of the record in the two dockets discussed above, ET Docket No. 92-9 and GEN Docket No. 90-314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Stanley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally on the page.

Thomas P. Stanley
Chief Engineer

FRED GRANDY
6TH DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:

WAYS AND MEANS

STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1506

January 15, 1992

OET
FF-SPECTRUM

REPLY TO:
18 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1506
(202) 225-5476

IOWA DISTRICT OFFICES:
4501 SOUTHERN HILLS DR.
SUITE #21
SIOUX CITY, IA 51106
(712) 276-5800
211 NORTH DELAWARE
MASON CITY, IA 50401
(515) 424-0233
14 WEST 5TH STREET
SPENCER, IA 51301
(712) 262-6480

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JAN 17 1992

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OCPA

Mr. Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Sikes:

Enclosed please find a letter from Dennis L. Hill regarding the utilities use of the 2 GHz Microwave Radio Spectrum.

If you could provide any assistance in this matter, it would be greatly appreciated. Please mark your return correspondence to the attention of Shawn Coughlin.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

FRED GRANDY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

FG/sc
Enclosures



December 3, 1991

The Honorable Fred Grandy
Attn: Shawn Coughlin
418 Cannon House Office Building
1st Street & Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sir: In Reply Refer to: Code 105

SUBJECT: Preservation of 2 GHz Microwave Radio Spectrum

It is with deep concerns that we write you today relative to an issue that is currently before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC is proposing to reallocate an area of radio spectrum for personal communications networks and also create a spectrum reserve for new developing technologies.

The area of spectrum that this is to take place in is the 1.8 to 2.2 GHz region. That area of spectrum is used very heavily in the United States for operational fixed microwave communications. The current users of these frequencies are wide and varied but the utility industry is by and large the biggest user of these frequencies. In the State of Iowa alone there are 275 of these microwave systems in operation. This represents a value of approximately \$55 million for existing equipment users.

If the FCC has its way, all the 2 GHz microwave users in the United States will be moved out of this band to other frequencies and other technologies. The band will then be clear for the proposed spectrum reserve. In the United States, this represents an all encompassing investment of approximately \$4 billion in equipment that will be totally worthless and need to be replaced.

We, in the utility business, will be hardest hit. Not only because of the dollar value that we will need to reinvest in new equipment (\$3.5 million for my utility alone), but we will lose a great deal of reliability in our power generation and transmission systems.

Our microwave radio systems are used to monitor and control our power transmission network ensuring that all of our customers are receiving an economical and reliable supply of electrical energy. The microwave radio system that we now have in place is by far the most reliable and economical means of controlling the transmission network. If we were forced to move to other frequencies, or find other forms of communication technologies, we might expect periods of brownouts or blackouts. This could result in increased crimes, snarled traffic and possible

The Honorable Fred Grandy
Washington, D.C.
December 3, 1991
Page 2

personal injuries or deaths. You might recall the East Coast blackout that occurred a number of years ago. This is the same kind of consequences we are dealing with if we lose these radio frequencies.

The FCC is currently trying to "railroad" this issue through without any consideration for current spectrum users or the consequences that the public will suffer financially and, most important, the reliability of their electrical energy supply. It is proposed that the FCC will rule on this important issue by the end of the year.

Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative and others have done everything possible to relay to the FCC the extreme importance this issue is to the public, but they don't seem to care and appear to have already made up their minds. For example, on December 5, 1991, there will be a hearing on the spectrum reserve. Numerous pro-PCN parties were invited to testify, but only one person was asked to attend to represent existing spectrum users. Our trade association, Utilities Telecommunications Council (UTC), who represents the largest body of existing users, was not even asked to testify. We think that this is unfair and that the FCC has "tipped the table" in their favor.

We are asking your help in seeing that the utility industry and others who use these microwave frequencies in this country for the well-being of the American public are not left out in the cold. There are other frequencies that are available that will serve just as well for personal communications networks or a spectrum reserve other than in the proposed 1.8 to 2.2 GHz band.

Please contact the FCC Commissioners and Chairman and tell them how important these frequencies are to the people of Iowa and the Nation for continued reliable electric service. You, the Congress of the United States, are our only hope to overcome this impending disaster.

I have also included a list of states and the financial burdens that those residents will incur if we lose this radio spectrum.

Because of the time constraints, we are faxing you this letter so that you might start researching this problem as soon as possible. We will follow the fax with the original being mailed. Your immediate and caring attention to this matter will be deeply appreciated by all concerned.

Sincerely,

NORTHWEST IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE


Dennis L. Hill
Data Retrieval Manager

DLH:mrs



ELECTRIC • GAS • WATER • STEAM
 (202) 872-0030
 FAX (202) 872-1331
 Direct Dial

NORTHWEST IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE

100 HAUAN / P11-25	300 VER MULM..
101 MESNER ...	301 JOENS
102 BOWERS ...	302 SHOSTAK ..
103 BREMER ...	303 SCORBERG.
104 FRY	304 STREUFER?
105 HILL /	305 JENSEN ...
106 MCLER.....	306
200 HAUAN	400 NELSON..
201 OORDT.....	401 ANDERSON..
202	500 C. FILE....

BASIS FOR IMPACT/COST ESTIMATES

I. The UTC Executive Summary Contains the Statement That:

[T]he loss of the 2 GHz band would cost utilities... alone, close to \$800 million in equipment purchases and operational transition costs.

II. Basis for Cost Estimates:

A. In a 1990 UTC survey of electric, gas and water utilities operating stations in the 1.85-2.20 GHz band, each licensee was asked:

If you could no longer use the 1.8 or 2.1 GHz bands, what would be the total cost (for engineering, installation, site acquisition, equipment, etc.) to install replacement facilities or to obtain substitute service?

B. 142 utilities responded to the survey, collectively operating about 2,600 microwave stations in this band:

1. Aggregate cost for these survey respondents to replace their stations with other facilities or services -- about \$577 million.
2. Average per station relocation cost -- about \$220,000.

C. Based on UTC's review of FCC licensing records, there are about 3,700 utility-owned microwave stations in the 1.85-2.20 GHz band.

D. Therefore, the total cost to relocate all utility-owned microwave stations would be over \$800 million (i.e., \$220,000 x 3,700).

E. With over 20,000 microwave stations licensed in the 1.85-2.20 GHz band, the cost to relocate all users from the band would be well over \$4 billion.

F. See Reverse for State by State Relocation Costs

COST TO RELOCATE 2 GHz MICROWAVE STATIONS

<u>STATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF STATIONS</u>	<u>COST TO RELOCATE</u>
Alabama	323	\$65 Million
Alaska	322	\$64 Million
Arizona	561	\$112 Million
Arkansas	364	\$73 Million
California	2,241	\$448 Million
Colorado	629	\$126 Million
Connecticut	93	\$19 Million
Delaware	21	\$4 Million
District of Columbia	31	\$6 Million
Florida	850	\$170 Million
Georgia	443	\$89 Million
Hawaii	158	\$32 Million
Idaho	241	\$48 Million
Illinois	534	\$107 Million
Indiana	310	\$62 Million
Iowa	275	\$55 Million
Kansas	275	\$55 Million
Kentucky	369	\$74 Million
Louisiana	754	\$151 Million
Maine	93	\$19 Million
Maryland	172	\$34 Million
Massachusetts	136	\$27 Million
Michigan	282	\$56 Million
Minnesota	392	\$78 Million
Mississippi	165	\$33 Million
Missouri	505	\$101 Million
Montana	238	\$48 Million
Nebraska	295	\$59 Million
Nevada	384	\$77 Million
New Hampshire	64	\$13 Million
New Jersey	100	\$20 Million
New Mexico	600	\$120 Million
New York	655	\$131 Million
North Carolina	349	\$70 Million
North Dakota	173	\$35 Million
Ohio	430	\$86 Million
Oklahoma	318	\$64 Million
Oregon	414	\$83 Million
Pennsylvania	676	\$135 Million
Rhode Island	44	\$9 Million
South Carolina	198	\$40 Million
South Dakota	159	\$32 Million
Tennessee	257	\$51 Million
Texas	2,215	\$443 Million
Utah	400	\$80 Million
Vermont	46	\$9 Million
Virginia	411	\$82 Million
Washington	568	\$114 Million
West Virginia	146	\$29 Million
Wisconsin	348	\$70 Million
Wyoming	354	\$71 Million