

emerging technologies (ET Docket 92-9). Under the Commission's proposal, current microwave users of the 2 GHz bands, other than state and local governments, would eventually become "secondary" and subject to displacement by new "primary" users of the band. State and local government users, however, would retain their "primary" status indefinitely. Applications filed after January 16, 1992, for entirely new 2 GHz microwave systems, including applications filed by state and local governments, will be granted only on a conditionally secondary basis.^{1/}

A key element of the Commission's proposal in ET Docket 92-9 is its claim that the 4 and 6 GHz bands can accommodate those 2 GHz private microwave users who are forced to move (or move voluntarily) as well as future private microwave facilities that might otherwise have been assigned in the 2 GHz band. However, as UTC explains in its Petition, the technical rules for a large portion of 4 and 6 GHz bands must first be modified to accommodate the different requirements of private microwave facilities.^{2/}

UTC also urges the Commission to determine whether the 1.7 to 1.85 GHz band could be made available for non-Federal

^{1/} PSMC will be filing extensive comments on June 5, 1992, in response to the Commission Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 92-9. PSMC will strongly support the "grandfathering" of state and local government users of the 2 GHz band, but will urge that the FCC must accommodate those future state and local government microwave needs that can only be met in the 2 GHz frequencies.

^{2/} Alcatel Network Systems, Inc. has filed a similar Petition for Rulemaking which includes specific rules for microwave bands above 3 GHz.

Government use. This band has propagation characteristics similar to the 2 GHz bands, and would be a better alternative than 4 or 6 GHz for certain private microwave facilities. The Federal Government band might be particularly appropriate for sharing with other "government" users such as state and local government public safety agencies.

PSMC agrees with UTC that the Commission needs to revise its rules to accommodate additional private operational fixed microwave users in bands above 3 GHz, and should continue to explore sharing of the 1.7 to 1.85 GHz band. While state and local governments will not be required to move existing facilities out of 2 GHz under the FCC's proposal, they do face the potential of being forced to find alternatives to 2 GHz for new and expanded microwave facilities. As PSMC will explain in its Comments in ET Docket 92-9, state and local governments are experiencing increasing demand for microwave facilities to provide the backbone for area-wide trunked public safety mobile radio systems and for command and control system integration. If the Commission changes its present rules so that state and local governments are foreclosed from using 2 GHz in the future, acceptable and reliable alternatives must be available.^{3/}

^{3/} Furthermore, some state and local governments may choose to vacate the 2 GHz band after negotiating with new users of the band. That negotiation process will never occur, however, unless viable alternatives to 2 GHz are available.

The Commission should not reallocate a frequency band unless it identifies comparable replacement frequencies and makes whatever rule changes are necessary to accommodate displaced users of the reallocated band, as well as those who had been, but who are no longer able to obtain licenses in the band. This is especially important when the frequency band to be reallocated is used for vital public safety communications operations.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jane Nauman, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing "Comments of the Public Safety Microwave Committee," was served this first day of June, 1992, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the following individual at the address listed below:

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