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FCC MAIL SECTION
Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20554
JUN 15 4 38 PM '92

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter Of:

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FILE

Request for Amendment of the Commission's
Rules and Regulations Concerning Shared Use
of 900 MHz Paging Frequencies

) RM-7986

Comments of J. W. Groome of Groome Enterprises, Inc.

Groome Enterprises, Inc., hereby submits the following comments concerning the above reference proposal as submitted by NABER's Association for Private Carrier Paging (APCP) section to establish protection for 900 MHz Private Carrier Paging licensees (PCPs).

As an operating licensee in one of the lower bands, we see nothing the petition does to encourage migration from the lower bands to the 900 MHz systems. In contrast, its National System proposal might actually block entry and deter investment in the 900 MHz frequency systems.

We provide a private carrier paging service in the 460 MHz frequencies, providing coverage in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Grey, Venice, Lutcher, Lafayette, Louisiana; and Ocean Springs, Mississippi markets to a wide variety of customers.

Our primary concern is that the APCP petition does nothing to alleviate low band congestion even though the request cites migration from 150 MHz and 460 MHz frequencies, none of the subsequent actions appear designed to achieve that as a goal. Without incentives of tangible benefit, expensive conversion does not seem reasonable and therefore overcrowding will continue.

The APCP National System proposal will actually discourage migration of the low band carrier up to the 900 MHz channels by limiting channel availability. The transmitter-based limits, should they be enacted, would immediately set aside six of the now forty 900 MHz channels for exclusive use by four PCPs. These channels would no longer be available for 150 MHz or 460 MHz carriers desirous of moving up to 900 MHz. It seems likely that other of the channels would soon be lost to the National Systems.

The petition, we believe, fails to provide a method whereby competing PCPs would have equal access to exclusivity on the 900 MHz frequencies. The proposal immediately allows the larger PCPs to gain exclusivity immediately on certain of the channels and exhaust spectrum in metropolitan areas. The transmitter-based limits criteria gives windfall advantage to those PCPs which already have significant operation on the 900 MHz frequency without giving lower frequency carriers an equal opportunity to gain access to 900 MHz channels.

The risk that channels currently available would later be converted to exclusive National System use will certainly not encourage investment in the 900 MHz systems by potential entrants. The lower frequency carrier is unlikely to risk an expensive conversion process to a 900 MHz system if there is some likelihood another carrier building enough transmitters elsewhere in the country would obtain national exclusivity and thereby freezing them from the market place.

For the foregoing reasons, Groome Enterprises, Inc. submits that APCP's petition fails to address, let alone remedy, congestion problems now being experienced on the lower frequencies. We believe that the proposal actually discourages lower frequency carriers from making the switch up to a 900 MHz system.

Respectfully submitted:

Groome Enterprises, Inc.

BY: J. W. Groome, President