



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

February 4, 2015

Dr. Jeff Shuren, MD, JD
Director
Center for Devices and Radiological Health
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
White Oak Building 66
10903 New Hampshire Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Shuren:

On March 29, 2013, the FCC opened a *Notice of Inquiry (Inquiry)* to consider whether recent research into the possible health effects of radiofrequency (RF) emissions, changes in usage patterns of RF emitters of all types, and various recent standards-setting activities warrant a reexamination of the FCC's exposure limits and policies for all regulated sources of RF emissions.¹ In its *Inquiry*, the FCC specifically solicited input from federal health and safety agencies and institutes on the propriety of our present exposure limits. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) also indicated that the FCC should solicit such expert opinion.²

The FCC is not a health and safety agency, and we defer to other organizations and agencies such as yours to interpret the biological research necessary to assess the health impact of RF emissions, and to determine what exposure levels can be considered safe for humans. The FCC has in the past relied on recommendations from federal health and safety agencies and institutes, including the FDA, in adopting its present rules limiting human exposure to RF energy.

The public response to the *Inquiry* forms a significant portion of the record in this proceeding. As we continue our analysis of the issues addressed and information sought in the *Inquiry*, I encourage the FDA to submit substantive comments to the FCC responding to the various issues the *Inquiry* raised.

Your views are appreciated on all matters on which you may wish to comment. We seek your expertise in evaluating the implications of any and all research done in this area, and how they inform what changes, if any, the FCC should make to its fundamental human exposure guidelines, as well as any of the implementing rules, including measurement procedures used to ensure compliance in differing exposure situations. While much research and alternative standards used elsewhere are referred to in the *Inquiry*, we welcome information regarding your

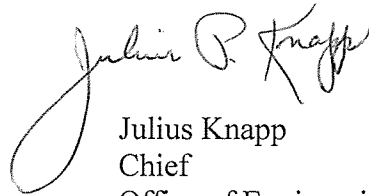
¹ See *Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies*, Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket No. 13-84, FCC 13-39, March 29, 2013, available at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-13-39A1.docx.

² See *Telecommunications: Exposure and Testing Requirements for Mobile Phones Should Be Reassessed*, U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO-12-771, July 24, 2012, available at: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-771>.

evaluation of any other potentially pertinent research, extant alternative standards, or scientific examinations with which you are familiar. In the *Inquiry*, the FCC acknowledged the “precautionary” measures endorsed by some parties, and we would appreciate your input on whether any such extra precaution is necessary. We would also particularly appreciate your views on whether the FCC’s current localized SAR limit of 1.6 W/kg, averaged over any one gram of tissue, applied continuously, remains appropriate for the general public, given the body of health research, changes in usage, standards-setting activities, or any other factors, that were not available when the FCC established its current guidelines in 1996.

If you need any additional information, you may contact Bruce Romano, Associate Chief of our Office of Engineering and Technology, at Bruce.Romano@fcc.gov or by telephone at (202) 418-2470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julius P. Knapp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Julius Knapp
Chief
Office of Engineering and Technology