



United States  
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Agriculture

Forest  
Service

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Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of

Establishment of Rules and Policies ) 1B Docket No. 95-91  
for the Digital Audio Radio Satellite ) Gen. Docket No. 90-357  
Service 2310-2360 MHZ Frequency Band ) Rm No. 8610

The USDA Forest Service National Weather Program manages the data collection and operation of over 300 Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). The RAWS use satellite telemetry for data transmission via the NOAA Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES). The RAWS are located in remote parts of western US and the maintenance crews travel long distances to service these stations.

Although satellite radio currently focuses on CD - quality audio, there may be a future for data transmission. There is an ever increasing demand for weather and climate data for resource management and life threatening and property damage decision making. Channels could also be dedicated for continuous broadcasting of life threatening warning due to severe weather or wildland forest fires.

Technology is changing fast and we must be able to transmit data and information clearly and fast. The satellite radio could benefit us now with the clear CD - quality audio even if for entertainment during long remote trips to the weather stations but, more importantly, for future transmission of data.

I, therefore, recommend that prompt actions be taken to obtain the license for Digital Audio Radio Service.

Respectfully submitted,

*Roger A. Tucker*

ROGER A. TUCKER  
Weather Program Manager

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