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July 15, 1997 **RECEIVED**

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William F. Caton  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *In re* Replacement of Part 90 by Part 88 to Revise  
the Private Land Mobile Radio Services and Modify  
the Policies Governing Them and Examination of  
Exclusivity and Frequency Assignment Policies of  
the Private Land Mobile Radio Services: PR  
Docket No. 92-235  
**Notice of Ex Parte Presentation**

Dear Mr. Caton:

On this date the Land Mobile Communications Council delivered the enclosed written *ex parte* presentation to Daniel B. Phythyon, Esq., Acting Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, for consideration in the above-referenced rule making proceeding.

In accordance with Sections 1.1206(a)(2) and 1.1206(b)(1) of the Commission's rules, I am submitting two copies of this letter for inclusion in the official files for PR Docket No. 92-235.

Very truly yours,

Mark E. Crosby  
Secretary/Treasurer

Enclosures

cc: Daniel B. Phythyon, Esq.

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July 15, 1997

Daniel B. Phythyon, Esq.  
Acting Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
2025 M Street, N.W., Room 5002  
Washington D.C. 20054

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JUL 15 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Re: PR Docket No. 92-235  
(Refarming)**

Dear Mr. Phythyon:

In the *Second Report and Order* in its refarming proceeding, the Commission consolidated the existing 20 private land mobile radio services into two broad pools and introduced competition into the frequency coordination process. As a result of these actions, frequency coordinating committees will be required to interact with each other more closely and more frequently than ever before, particularly in the area of notification of completed frequency recommendations. The *Order* established general guidelines addressing data notification procedures between frequency coordinating committees but left implementation details up to the coordinators. The Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) hereby submits its plan for those procedures. The membership of the LMCC includes all of the current private land mobile frequency coordinators and, as such, is the appropriate forum for devising the plan that will have to be implemented by all the frequency coordinating committees to insure that conflicting frequency recommendations are not made.

LMCC has reached agreement on several data-related issues, including the format in which files will be transferred, the exact notification/transfer procedures and the specific data elements to be transferred. In reaching these decisions, LMCC recognized that a number of the frequency coordinating committees may elect to use an outside party for provision of database and data transfer services. LMCC has identified one such outside

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party, CET, and has included them in all of the discussions and agreements.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, this plan has been developed and agreed to by all currently known parties that will be involved in the transfer and maintenance of frequency coordination data.

#### Real-Time Common Database

LMCC agrees with the Commission's assessment that a real-time common coordinator database would be too expensive and too time consuming to implement at this time. In the alternative, some coordinators will continue to maintain their own database(s) that they have built and maintained over time, while other coordinators will use third party services. LMCC does not believe that separate databases will be a hindrance to the coordination and notification process. With the proper procedures in place, the frequency coordination process can be performed efficiently, effectively and expeditiously.

#### Data Transfer Format

LMCC considered a number of ways for frequency coordinators to transfer data to each other. We believe that nothing less than some form of electronic notification is acceptable in a modern business environment, especially in a high tech industry such as telecommunications. The inherent time-sensitivity of the work being performed also mandates expeditious treatment. Therefore, low tech options such as facsimile and overnight mail were immediately rejected.

E-mail transfer of data via the Internet was examined but rejected. Security concerns as well as the real possibility of an Internet service provider "crashing" at any time were the main considerations. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) was also considered and rejected due to its complexity and the likely amount of time it would take all parties to implement. That time period would certainly stretch beyond the October effective date of the *Second R&O*.

LMCC has agreed that coordinating committees and/or their service providers will transfer files to one another in the ASCII data format. ASCII was selected because all parties have ASCII capabilities and it is the simplest

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<sup>1</sup> If any coordinating committee should decide to use another outside service provider in the future, that provider would be required to conform to the procedures outlined herein.

format for data conversion for each frequency coordinator and data service provider.

### Electronic Notification Procedures

The *Order* states that frequency “coordinators must provide notification of all frequency recommendations within one business day of making such recommendations to every certified in-pool coordinator that is also certified to coordinate that frequency.”<sup>2</sup> LMCC has an interest in complying with the Commission’s mandate in this regard, while at the same time, implementing a procedure that gives coordinators (and their service providers) a high degree of flexibility in receiving and processing transferred data. To that end, LMCC has developed a set of procedures that addresses the specifics of how notification will take place.

- 1.) Under LMCC’s plan, frequency coordinators will implement a “dial up” process in which one coordinator’s system dials another coordinator’s system and requests files. Using a dial up process allows a coordinator to ask for files only when it is ready to receive them. It also allows a coordinator to request files as often as it desires, rather than waiting until the other coordinator is ready to send them. Some coordinators may choose to receive files more than once per business day. This process would allow them to do so. It also gives coordinators the flexibility to receive data at such time(s) during the day when it is operationally optimal for them to do so, thus allowing each coordinator to tailor the process to their own internal needs. Each coordinator is still responsible for posting its frequency recommendations within one business day of completion, thus making them available for receipt by the other coordinators. In this way, the coordinating committees meet the FCC’s requirement to “provide notification.”
- 2.) If no files are to be received, the other coordinator’s message will state, “There are no files to transfer. (Date and time specified).” Such a message will confirm that a connection was made and also eliminates any concern that there may have been some files to receive but the system was unable to retrieve them.

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<sup>2</sup> *Second Report and Order*, PR Docket No. 92-235 at para. 47.

- 3.) Once a file is received it will be purged from the sending file to eliminate receiving duplicate data. Coordinators and service providers will maintain separate files for each coordinator, thus allowing any coordinator to request files as often as it wishes, even if other coordinators have not yet retrieved the previous files.
- 4.) Confirmation that a file was picked up will be automatically provided by the receiver.
- 5.) Any coordinator that identifies a conflict with another coordinator's recommendation(s) is responsible for advising the other coordinator of the conflict. This dialog should transpire between only those coordinators who have the conflict. It is not necessary to notify all coordinators at this point.
- 6.) In addition to routinely transferring files, coordinators' and service providers' systems will be programmed to advise all other parties that a previously transferred record needs to be modified, amended or withdrawn.
- 7.) A back-up modem is recommended for all parties transferring and receiving files to ensure that communications continue in the event that the primary receiving modem is down.
- 8.) When a third party is being used for data transfer, the third party will be responsible for dialing up and retrieving the data. When the data is transferred properly and correctly, it then becomes the third party's responsibility to forward the data to the appropriate coordinator. In reverse, if the third party is not providing the appropriate data to be picked up in a timely manner to other coordinators, the coordinator using that third party will be responsible for correcting the problem.

#### Data Exchange File Format

The *Second R&O* specifies a limited amount of applicant information that must be included in the inter-coordinator notifications of completed frequency recommendations. All of the specified information is contained on the FCC's Form 600. Under LMCC's plan, coordinators and service providers would transfer the entire content of the Form 600, not just those items noted by the FCC. LMCC has elected to transfer the entire form to ensure that all coordinating committees have access to the full amount of information that the

coordinator completing the recommendation had, as well as to ensure that all coordinators receive the same information. LMCC's members have reviewed and agreed on a file format layout for each item on the Form 600.<sup>3</sup> In addition, as software is finalized to implement recommendations in TIA's Working Group 8.8 report submitted to the FCC on July 9, 1997, it is likely that additional items will be identified that should be included in routine data transfers. Such items will be incorporated into the file layout. As of this writing, testing of the transfer of files has begun.

LMCC has crafted a plan that provides for the accurate and timely transfer of necessary information amongst coordinators and service providers and is in keeping with the Commission's directive. Should you have any questions concerning this plan, please contact Donald Vasek of the Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA), who chaired the LMCC reforming task force. Mr. Vasek may be reached by phone at 703-739-0300, extension 3015, or by fax at 703-836-1608.

Regards,



Larry Miller  
President



LM:bjl

cc: Office of the Secretary  
David Horowitz  
Herbert W. Zeiler  
Ira Keltz

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<sup>3</sup> LMCC will make a copy of the file format layout available to the FCC for review upon request.