

007-207-2744

Dockets  
Room 222



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Wayne Allard  
United States Senate  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Allard:

Thank you for your letter concerning a recent proposal to permit non-voice, non-geostationary mobile satellite services ("Little LEO services")<sup>1</sup> to operate in the 455-456 MHz and 459-460 MHz bands on a frequency sharing basis with existing operations. Our office has received many letters expressing concern that the potential Little LEO operations might cause harmful interference with the existing air-to-ground telephone operations that use the 459.665-459.985 MHz portion of that band.

The proceeding which you reference, ET Docket No. 97-214, is an ongoing rule making proceeding that is still under consideration by the Commission. On October 14, 1997, the Commission released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* ("NPRM") that proposed to implement domestically the international allocation of the two megahertz which the United States delegation sought at the 1995 World Radiocommunication Conference ("WRC-95"). The WRC-95 preparatory documents identified these bands as having spectrum sharing potential for Little LEO operations. The NPRM acknowledges that there are several incumbent operations in these bands and requested comment on whether there is sufficient sharing capacity in these bands to support Little LEO operations. Further, the NPRM sought comment on any available spectrum utilization techniques or interference avoidance techniques that would permit Little LEO operations to share this spectrum without causing harmful interference to incumbent operations.

The comment and reply comments to the NPRM have arrived and my staff has begun to review the record in the proceeding and to analyze the sharing potential of these operations. I anticipate that the Commission will take final action in this proceeding later in 1998. However, at this stage no determination has been made regarding the proposed allocation.

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<sup>1</sup> Little LEO satellite services use a constellation of low-Earth orbiting ("LEO") satellites to provide commercial radiolocation and two-way data messaging services to customers anywhere in the world.

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The Honorable Wayne Allard

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Please be assured that we will take the concerns of the incumbent air-to-ground community into consideration in making this determination. If you need further assistance, please call Tom Derenge at 202-418-2451 or [tderenge@fcc.gov](mailto:tderenge@fcc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Richard M. Smith  
Chief  
Office of Engineering and Technology

WAYNE ALLARD  
COLORADO

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COMMITTEE

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0606  
February 10, 1998

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The Honorable William E. Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

The purpose of this letter is to express my interest in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making ET Docket No. 97-214. I realize that the period for filing comments has expired, however, as you review the concerns raised by citizens, I would ask that you strongly consider any negative impact on current users that would occur if the 455-456 MHz and 459-460 MHz bands were shared with Mobile-Satellite Service. In particular, I am aware of concerns raised by those using air-to-ground communication services on a portion of this band.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Wayne*  
Wayne Allard  
United States Senate

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