

<PROCEEDING> rm9267
 <DATE> 05/30/98
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 <DOCUMENT-TYPE>CO
 <CONFIDENTIAL> N
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 <DESCRIPTION> COMMENTS ON RM-9267, PETITION BY LMCC ON BEHALF OF PMRS
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MAY 1998
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 MAY 1998

Federal Communications Commission May 30, 1998
 Secretary of the FCC, Room 222
 1919 M Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: RM 9267

Dear Commission:

As a licensed Amateur Radio operator I want to go on record as being strongly against the petition under consideration, RM-9267.

The frequencies bands 420 MHz to 430 MHz and 440 MHz to 450 MHz, proposed for reallocation by this petition, are very important to our continued success in serving the public through our work. These frequency band segments include important linking and control of stations on other bands, data, amateur television and repeater systems, and weak signal operations such as moon-bounce, satellite and point to point long haul SSB and CW. Many of these operations are crucial to operations on other bands because of mode restrictions on other bands. These frequencies are used daily by a large number of amateurs in the Southern California area that promote the public welfare through emergency, disaster and public service communications.

This amateur band has evolved and established itself as the premier band for radio experimenters. This band is also a model of success in coordination and cooperation among the many different modes and operations. A level of cooperation the likes of which are unheard of in other services.

I have been licensed as an amateur since 1975, and currently hold an Extra Class license. I'm active daily on this band in the Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino County areas, and often find times when I must wait for a clear frequency before establishing contact. This is a fact of life in many areas of heavy urban concentration.

I am also experienced with the difficulties in the Private Mobile Radio Service (PMRS) having been employed in the area as a radio dispatched Communications Technician within the Motorola National Service Organization

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and with independent and governmental radio shops since obtaining a Second class Radiotelephone Operator in 1978 (now General Radiotelephone Certificate).

The Commission must fully understand that the most efficient use of finite usable spectrum lies in these technological and operational solutions:

inadvertent or deliberate interference between shared channel users (UHF Trunking?).

smaller
coverage areas linked by land-line.

the
number of private transmitters with similar coverage areas.

Further, The Commission must already understand that these objectives are best served in the conversion of as many of PMRS customers to Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) otherwise The Commission would not be promoting CMRS operations over PMRS interests.

However, there are many reasons why a given customer would choose to own, operate and maintain a system of its own and these are given in RM-9267, and CMRS must address these needs before those customers would convert, but Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) ignores some of the above technological solutions, and instead emphasizes a need for expansion. In fact the only solutions sought are local coordination and the exploitation of more and more frequencies, utilizing all of the old technologies and methods of operation.

In one example given in RM-9267 in paragraph 16, LMCC emphasizes the safety issue at Port of Los Angeles. When I encountered this system firsthand, I found low cost 2-way radios and portables utilizing the "capture effect" with CTCSS decoding hardwired on-hook as a low cost expedience against the mix-communication problem stated. A much better method would include tailoring antenna patterns between cranes and immediate work crews, or the use of several small, localized UHF trunked systems with shaped coverage, combined with wire-line remote access. This could reduce both interference and operator confusion.

While cheap bread and butter radios may be fine in less dense areas, where there isn't a problem after all, areas where PMRS penetration into the marketplace have made the RF environment hostile and congested may require more sophisticated radio solutions.

Also, LMCC shows it's ignorance of the reality of the amateur 420-450 MHz equipment and usage in RM-9267 paragraphs 72 and 73, where in 72 it states, "Because of its closeness to the 450-512 MHz "work-horse" band, existing equipment may be employed for the use of this spectrum." And in paragraph 73, where it seriously underestimates the usage of the entire band, and asserts that sharing is possible.

Some of the 450-512 MHz equipment may be modified for use in 420-450, but not without violating FCC type acceptance of these units. Of course if the FCC type acceptance is waved or ignored then low cost amateur equipment,

some with front panel frequency programming, might be utilized on a light duty basis at the risk of the licensee.

As already stated above, the entire 420-450 MHz is fully utilized in the Los Angeles and many other urban areas, with multiple shared frequencies and a multitude of varied modes and uses coexisting. Furthermore, it is populated with the expertise and flexibility that is so vital to emergency communications.

All amateur operations on this band would be terribly affected forever if "sharing" were instituted, due to the aggressive, competitive and pecuniary interests of some of the PMRS customers. The typical needs and patterns of PMRS customers would be in conflict with the basis and purpose of amateur operations, and could lead to identification confusion, congestion and compliance problems along with all of the same problems now encountered in 450-470 MHz., all within a very short time.

The problems that LMCC cites, cannot be easily remedied by "throwing more into the fire".

Thank You very much, for your careful consideration.

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