

United States of America
Draft Proposals for the Work of the WRC-15

AGENDA ITEM 7 to consider possible changes, and other options, in response to Resolution 86 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, an advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures for frequency assignments pertaining to satellite networks, in accordance with Resolution **86 (Rev.WRC-07)** to facilitate rational, efficient, and economical use of radio frequencies and any associated orbits, including the geostationary-satellite orbit;

ISSUE: Suspension period for Appendix **30B**

BACKGROUND: The unplanned FSS frequency bands are highly utilized worldwide. In fact, it is becoming more and more difficult for a new operator to have access to satellite communications resources in the conventional unplanned FSS frequency bands. As a result, use of the Appendix **30B** FSS bands has become more attractive, especially for developing countries and new satellite operators. As of November 2013, there are 247 satellite networks submitted to the ITU under Article 6 of Appendix **30B** of the Radio Regulations (RR) and 60 satellite networks in Notification stage under Article 8 of the same Appendix (*Source: ITU's website – Space Plans Query System*).

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012) (WRC-12) introduced additional provisions in the RR, namely RR No. **11.44.2** and RR No. **11.44B**, in order to better define the bringing into use of a frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary satellite orbit (GSO). In addition, item A.2.a of RR Appendix **4** was modified in order to make a reference to RR Nos. **11.44.2** and **11.44B** in determining the date of bringing into use of a frequency assignment to a GSO space station, including frequency assignments in RR Appendices **30**, **30A** and **30B**. WRC-12 also modified RR No. **11.49** and added RR No. **11.49.1** so as to extend the period allowed for suspension of the use of a frequency assignment to space station to three (3) years, and at the same time to specify the conditions for bringing a recorded frequency assignment back into use.

Similarly, § 5.2.10, § 5.2.11 and footnote 20bis were added in RR Appendix **30** and § 5.2.10, § 5.2.11 and footnote 24bis in RR Appendix **30A** in relation to the suspension of use of a frequency assignment in the Regions 1 and 3 List, where all are in line with the practices described in RR Nos. **11.49** and **11.49.1**.

Furthermore, WRC-12 approved the application of the extension of the suspension period from two years to three years in regard to RR Appendix **30B** via an agreement contained in its Plenary Minutes (see paragraph 9 of WRC-12 [Document 553](#)), thus harmonizing the practices in RR Appendix **30B** with the ones in RR Article **11** and RR Appendices **30** and **30A** (Rev.WRC-12). The Bureau applied this WRC-12 decision by proposing an adequate Rule of Procedure which was approved in the 60th meeting of the Radio Regulations Board (see Annex to [Document RRB12-2/6](#)). However, there are no such provisions in procedures of the FSS Plan in RR Appendix **30B**, and therefore corresponding amendments to the RR still need to be prepared for approval by WRC-15.

In view of the above, an alignment of RR Appendix **30B** with RR Article **11** and RR Appendices **30** and **30A** in relation to the suspension of use of a frequency assignment is proposed.

PROPOSAL:

APPENDIX 30B (REV.WRC-12)

**Provisions and associated Plan for the fixed-satellite service
in the frequency bands 4 500-4 800 MHz, 6 725-7 025 MHz,
10.70-10.95 GHz, 11.2-11.45 GHz and 12.75-13.25 GHz**

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ARTICLE 6 (REV.WRC-12)

**Procedures for the conversion of an allotment into an assignment, for
the introduction of an additional system or for the modification of
an assignment in the List^{1,2} (WRC-07)**

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6.33

When:

- i) an assignment is no longer required; *or*
- ii) an assignment recorded in the List and brought into use has been suspended for a period exceeding ~~two~~**three** years and ending after the expiry date specified in § 6.31; *or*
- iii) an assignment recorded in the List has not been brought into use within the eight-year period following the receipt by the Bureau of the relevant complete information under § 6.1 (or within the extended period in the event of an extension under § 6.31*bis*), with the exception of assignments submitted by new Member States where § 6.35 and 7.7 apply,

the Bureau shall:

- a) publish in a Special Section of its BR IFIC the cancellation of the related Special Sections and the assignments recorded in the Appendix **30B** List;
- b) if the cancelled assignment is the result of a conversion of an allotment without modification, reinstate the allotment in the Appendix **30B** Plan;
- c) if the cancelled assignment is the result of the conversion of an allotment with modifications, reinstate the allotment with the same orbital location and technical parameters of the cancelled assignment except for its service area, which shall be the national territory of the administration whose allotment is being reinstated; *and*
- d) update the reference situation for the allotments of the Plan and the assignments of the List. (WRC-12)

Reasons: To align the suspension provisions in Appendix **30B** with those in Article **11** and Appendices **30** and **30A**, consistent with the decision captured in the Plenary minutes of WRC-12.

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ARTICLE 8 (REV.WRC-12)

Procedure for notification and recording in the Master Register of assignments in the planned bands for the fixed-satellite service^{11, 12} (WRC-07)

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MOD USA/7/2

8.17 Where ~~ver~~ the use of a ~~recorded~~ frequency assignment to a space station recorded in the Master Register is suspended for a period ~~not~~ exceeding ~~six eighteen~~ months, the notifying administration shall, as soon as possible, but no later than six months from the date on which the use was suspended, inform the Bureau of the date on which such use was suspended. When the recorded assignment is brought back into use, the notifying administration shall so inform the Bureau, as soon as possible, and the date on which the assignment is to be brought back into regular use. ~~This latter~~ date on which the recorded assignment is brought back into use^{ADD 14bis} shall ~~not exceed~~ be not later than three ~~two~~ years from the date of suspension. If ~~thea~~ recorded frequency assignment is not brought back into use within ~~two~~three years from the date of suspension, the Bureau shall cancel the assignment from the Master Register and apply the provisions of § 6.33. (WRC-07)

Reasons: To align the suspension provisions in Appendix **30B** with those in Article **11** and Appendices **30** and **30A**, consistent with the decision captured in the Plenary minutes of WRC-12. Section 8.1 follows the text of RR No. **11.49**.

ADD USA/7/3

^{14 bis} The date of bringing back into use of a frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit shall be the date of the commencement of the ninety-day period defined below. A frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit shall be considered as having been brought back into use when a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit with the capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment has been deployed and maintained at the notified orbital position for a continuous period of ninety days. The notifying administration shall inform the Bureau within thirty days from the end of the ninety-day period.

Reasons: To align the suspension provisions in Appendix **30B** with those in Article **11** and Appendices **30** and **30A**, consistent with the decision captured in the Plenary minutes of WRC-12. Footnote 14bis aligns with the text of RR No. **11.49.1**