



Brett Kilbourne
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April 20, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ex Parte

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation PS Docket No. 13-229 and RM-11635.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to notify you pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules and in connection with the above-referenced proceeding that on April 16, 2015 that James Crandall and Greg Kunkle on behalf of the American Petroleum Institute (API) and H. Russell Frisby, Jr. on behalf of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) along with the undersigned from the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) met with Priscilla Delgado Argeris from the Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel.

During the meeting, the representatives from API, EEI and UTC opposed authorizing the use of the six 173 MHz telemetry channels (i.e. 173.2375, 173.2625, 173.2875, 173.3125, 173.3375, and 173.3625 MHz) for Vehicular Repeater Systems (VRS). Consistent with their comments on the record in this proceeding, the representatives from API, EEI and UTC explained that VRS use of these channels posed an unacceptable risk of interference that could not be effectively mitigated through frequency coordination. Mobile voice is incompatible with telemetry equipment currently employed in the band. Moreover, utilities, pipeline companies and other critical infrastructure industries (CII) use these frequencies for mission critical communications to support applications such as supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), distributed automation (DA) and early warning sirens at nuclear power plants and water dams. Interference to these communications systems poses an unreasonable risk to public safety and operational reliability. There are reasonable alternatives for VRS to use other frequencies besides the 173 MHz telemetry channels, and VRS proponents have failed to provide a sufficient technical justification for the use of the 173 MHz telemetry channels. Finally, the representatives suggested instead that the Commission relax the technical rules in the band to allow 12.5 kHz operations that would support increased utility and CII capacity requirements for certain applications.

The attached PowerPoint presentation was distributed, which describes how communications is a key enabler for a flexible, resilient and connected power system. Utilities, pipeline companies and other critical infrastructure industries increasingly rely on communications systems, like those using the 173 MHz channels, to enable advanced applications that promote safety and operational reliability and security. VRS use of the 173 MHz telemetry channels threatens the reliability of utility communications and the underlying applications, such as smart grid, which they enable.

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Thank you for your help in this matter. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please let me know.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brett Kilbourne".

Brett Kilbourne

cc: FCC Participants