



July 29, 2015

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: IB Docket No. 12-340

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) is a federation of public safety organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership. NPSTC pursues the role of resource and advocate for public safety organizations in the United States on matters relating to public safety telecommunications. Accordingly, NPSTC provides guidance on issues that can either negatively impact or benefit the operation of public safety communications.

On June 24, 2015 through its legal counsel, LightSquared, LLC submitted notice of an *ex parte* presentation made to Commission officials by its engineering consultant Roberson and Associates. The LightSquared filing addresses “an initial perspective on testing of the compatibility of terrestrial broadband and GPS.”¹ The presentation recognizes that GPS is used both for location and high precision timing. While the presentation shows cellular base stations and industrial control systems as applications requiring GPS precision timing devices, it makes no mention of public safety use.

¹ LightSquared *ex parte* filing, June 24, 2015 at page 1.

On June 26, 2015 LightSquared submitted an additional *ex parte* filing through its legal counsel.

This particular filing states:

Mr. Smith [Doug Smith, CEO of LightSquared, LLC] emphasized that he is certain LightSquared and the major GPS device firms can reach a reasonable business compromise if they were so motivated. ...testing and resolution of the issues in this band would benefit by (a) LightSquared receiving from the three GPS firms (Deere, Garmin, and Trimble), in confidence, information regarding the receiver designs that concern them specifically, information about antenna and software coding issues; (b) the three GPS firms explaining to LightSquared, in confidence, what economic issues concern them since we believe there are business solutions and compromises that would enable this vital midband spectrum to be utilized to everyone's satisfaction; and (c) LightSquared meeting in-person with decision-making personnel from the three firms to discuss in-depth the entire range of issues between the company and the GPS industry, including resolution of the litigation.²

LightSquared subsequently submitted a revised test plan on July 15, 2015. The revised plan provides additional detail regarding the proposed testing and again makes no mention of public safety use. The *ex parte* statement that accompanied this revised plan noted “...we hereby renew the request for such comments and critiques and hope to receive feedback within the next week, since testing is anticipated to begin by the end of this month.”³

Regardless of any technical details in its test plan, it appears from the June 26 *ex parte* statement that LightSquared believes it can work with only a subset of the stakeholders potentially impacted by any interference to GPS. That statement also seems to imply that ultimately, LightSquared would attempt to resolve the situation through a business compromise, not necessarily a showing of no interference.

GPS is used for wireless 911 location, support of dispatch operations, mapping/response directions to responders, and synchronization of simulcast communications systems across the country. These elements of GPS usage are essential to local and state public safety operations and protection of the public. Therefore, LightSquared should include testing to ensure there would be no interference to these public safety applications of GPS. Whether LightSquared is able to reach a “business compromise” with other stakeholders is yet to be determined. Regardless of any such compromise, the nation cannot

² LightSquared Notice of *ex parte* presentation, June 26, 2015 at page 1 and 2.

³ LightSquared Notice of *ex parte* presentation, July 15, 2015 at page 1.

afford to risk interference that could debilitate the reception and/or accuracy of GPS signals used for public safety operations.

NPSTC participated in the testing of a previous LightSquared proposal several years ago and offers to do so again for this current initiative. Public safety communications must be protected from interference, regardless of any potential benefits the Commission determines might accrue from approval of LightSquared's proposed terrestrial use of its satellite spectrum.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph A. Haller, Chairman
National Public Safety Telecommunications Council
8191 Southpark Lane, Suite 205
Littleton, Colorado 80120-4641
866-807-4755