Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
Amendment of Parts 2, 15, 80, 90, 97,	)	
and 101 of the Commission's Rules	)	
Regarding Implementation of the Final	)	ET Docket No. 15-99
Acts of the World Radiocommunication	)	
Conference (Geneva, 2012) (WRC-12),	)	
Other Allocation Issues, and Related	)	
Rules Updates...	)	

To the Commission:

EX PARTE STATEMENT OF JAMES EDWIN WHEDBEE

Comes now, JAMES EDWIN WHEDBEE, an interested party in the above-captioned and related proceedings, hereby respectfully submitting his ex parte statement relative to the above-captioned proceeding's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the comments/reply comments therein made, with the aim of clarifying his own position relative to yesterday's ex parte statement of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

1. In its perplexing ex parte statement of yesterday expressing concern about some heretofore unannounced notification procedure, ARRL says the following: "ARRL has been made aware that the Commission is soon to consider a Report and Order (RO) in this proceeding..."

2. Assuming, arguendo, the ARRL is correct regarding when the Commission may or may not issue its RO, without even the benefit of knowing the Commission's mind on the subject yet, the broad arc of ARRL's concerns centers upon the regulatory burden of notification amateur radio operators might see if they opt to operate below on frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service below 1.8 MHz.

3. As my friends at ARRL know all too well, procedures exist within existing Commission rules and regulations for even partial reconsideration and clarification of new rules adopted in rulemaking proceedings, if the outcome doesn't fit a party's desired outcome. ARRL's ex parte statement tries the prisoner in absentia, and in effect if not in fact, is a premature petition for reconsideration of rules not yet adopted.

4. The undersigned does not express an opinion on any impending RO; however, because ARRL specifically comments about regulatory burdens, I do wish to remind my friends at ARRL of the extraordinary regulatory burden exacted by whatever administrative delays its ex parte statements may have caused, or the regulatory burden of not being able to enjoy an allocation which, despite any notification procedures the Commission eventually adopts, this rulemaking lifts regardless of the form it takes. The Amateur Radio Service has a long-standing history of working WITH others and each other, and I am certain - knowing whatever regulatory burdens the Commission imposes upon us, it also imposes upon itself - if the notification procedures prove too onerous, the Commission will, in the ordinary course of business, lift or modify those.

5. The undersigned reminds the Commission, and his friends at ARRL, that the Amateur Radio Service and the electrical utilities have, in principle, come to their first meeting of the minds: that we together can coexist within the proposed regulations. That agreement is a first of many I pray we see as both parties progress in these new allocations. For my own part, I'd remind the Amateur Radio community that here before us is an opportunity to work together with the electrical utilities. We have, on the horizon, new opportunities for

service. Amateur radio can HELP the electrical utilities in times of crisis, particularly during natural disasters, when electrical services are disrupted because our equipment – using the LF and MF allocations these proceedings propose – can help those utilities detect and repair transmission line failures. Our technological innovations can help IMPROVE PLC equipment such that the utilities are far better off with us than they ever were without us. Let's not squander such opportunities on speculative forays into what may or may not happen when the Commission issues the RO which nobody has seen (or should have seen) at this point.

6. The undersigned very much reminds the Commission and the electrical utilities, and UTC in particular, that we in the Amateur Radio Service are your friends. It does nothing for us, as radio amateurs, if you aren't just as successful as are we...after all, we buy your electricity to transmit our signals, we create much of the technological advances your customers use daily with your electricity, and we often serve in secret during the disasters you and we experience together to fix the damage, heal the injured, and protect the lives, health, and property of your employees, customers, and fellow citizens. If you fail, we fail...that is no feather in anyone's hat, and we want nothing less than the best for us all. Amateur radio isn't CB...the vast majority of us are far more demanding of ourselves and far more technically exacting than any of these rulemaking proceedings envision, and we are simply seeking a few minor radio allocations that many other nations' amateur radio operators already enjoy. Working with you, we get those allocations, so it is as much in our interests as yours to make it work.

7. We have an agreement in principle, we have common interests, and we have common ground...all the necessary ingredients for success. Let's not borrow trouble where none exists. Notification procedures, under the most arduous process we could envision, still aren't a barrier to entry for amateur radio to the proposed allocations, so let's get on with it. We'll work out whatever 'kinks' are discovered when we get to that bridge.

WHEREFORE, the foregoing considered, the undersigned looks forward with great anticipation to the Commission's RO, as it presently stands (if it does), and to working with the Commission and electrical utilities to our mutual advantages and advancements.

Respectfully submitted:

March 11, 2016

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