

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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In the Matter of)
)
Implementation of Sections 309(j) and)
337 of the Communications Act of 1934)
as Amended)
)
Promotion of Spectrum Efficient)
Technologies on Certain Part 90)
Frequencies)
)
Establishment of Public Service Radio)
Pool in the Private Mobile)
Frequencies Below 800 MHz)

WT Docket No. 99-87

RM-9332

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF
CENTRAL AND SOUTH WEST CORPORATION

Central And South West Corporation ("CSW"), by its attorneys, hereby submits the following comments with respect to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("Notice") in the above-captioned proceeding.

CSW provides utility services to over 1.7 million customers over a four-state region. CSW has invested almost \$50 million in the development and construction of a wide area communications system. That system provides essential support for CSW's crews in responding in disaster recovery and other emergency situations, as well as for day-to-day line work and repair and other utility services.

As an active member of the United Telecom Council ("UTC"), CSW has also contributed with many other member utilities in the comments being submitted by UTC in this proceeding. CSW is filing separately simply to emphasize certain points of particular concern to CSW.

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CSW is very concerned by suggestions in the Notice that to make room for new commercial systems and auctions, it might be forced to change frequencies or reengineer its system to employ narrowband equipment. CSW estimates that the latter requirement would force it to incur in excess of \$30 million of additional costs, all of which would ultimately have to be borne by CSW's utility customers. CSW urges that the tremendous investment that it has already made in the construction of a wide area communications system not be stranded by such a shift in Commission rules and frequency assignments.

CSW is also concerned that the new rules proposed might limit its use of the system to emergency situations, forcing it to have, or purchase communications services, from a second parallel network to support its day-to-day utility functions. Such a requirement would be utterly impractical, both in terms of costs and implementation. It is simply unrealistic to expect crews to carry two sets of mobile phones and decide for each call which mobile phone is permitted to be used.

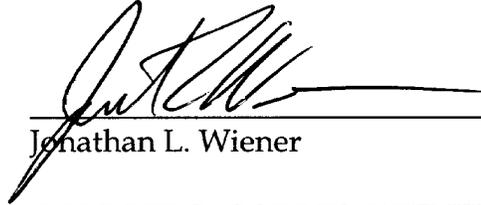
CSW also urges that utilities who have invested millions of dollars in wide area networks should not be denied the opportunity currently available to them under the rules to defray some of their costs by sharing, on a non-profit basis, with other permitted entities. Such sharing allows utilities to make more efficient use of their systems which, in order to give them sufficient capacity and coverage to be able to respond to emergencies, almost by definition will have excess capacity in non-emergency conditions.

The net effect of the proposals in the Notice, if implemented, would be to force utilities to rely on commercial networks that are not subject to use restrictions. But if this were to happen, in addition to stranding existing investment, utilities could find themselves without clear lines of communications at the very time when such communications are most vital when, with lines down, commercial mobile networks are overloaded with traffic. CSW respectfully requests the Commission not to embark down this path.

Respectfully submitted,

CENTRAL AND SOUTH WEST CORPORATION

By:



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