

RE: WNTB624

Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement & Power District is a major user and licensee of frequencies in the MAS bands at 928/952/956 MHz. Primarily the use is to control the distribution of water over our 131 miles of canal waterways throughout the area and we also use an automated meter reading system using radio for electrical energy consumption.

The approach to freeze applications and licensing as imposed by the Commission on July 1, 1999 is capricious and arbitrary, and does not appear to be supported by the facts already before the Commission. This action has had an immediate and adverse effect on our ability to operate our MAS systems, which are part of our critical infrastructure that assist us with the services we provide to the public. Being a public utility these services are essential to the quality of life for the general population that we serve in the metropolitan Phoenix, Arizona area..

We urge the Commission to immediately lift the freeze and resume acceptance and processing of applications in the 928/952/956 MHz bands. In this request, we support the "Emergency Request for Limited Exception to the Application Freeze" filed with the Commission by the CII Petitioners on July 23, 1999 in connection with WT Docket No. 97-81.

We further urge the Commission to immediately begin accepting license applications from critical infrastructure industry users for frequencies in the 932/941 MHz band on a site-by-site licensing basis identical to that applied to the existing bands.

Thanks,

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