

I have been informed that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued a proposed rule-making announcement, which could seriously affect radio astronomy. This proceeding, RM-9740, deals with unwanted emissions from satellites and, if modified carelessly, could significantly damage the ability of radio astronomers and earth scientists to successfully produce useful scientific results.

Recognizing that changes are often necessary, I am however concerned that passive use of the radio spectrum e.g. radio astronomy observations and passive remote sensing of the Earth, could be harmed if the restrictions on unwanted emissions for satellites are liberally relaxed. These now pose the greatest threat to radio astronomy and passive remote sensing.

Radio observations represent a unique window on the universe, providing scientific data unavailable from telescopes operating at visible-light wavelengths or other parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. Radio astronomers are not asking that the spectrum not be used; they simply ask that it be used in a responsible manner, minimizing unwanted emissions that will, in fact, become a problem in the future for other services as well.

I hope the FCC will do its part to keep that window crystal clear and usable to radio astronomers as well as to earth scientists.

Sincerely,

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