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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Re: IB Docket No. 98-172

This memorandum is to report a meeting on December 16, 1999, convened by Commission staff. A list of participants is attached. Please include a copy of this memorandum in the Docket File for the referenced proceeding.

The participants discussed several options for resolving issues under consideration in IB Docket No. 98-172. In particular, Commission staff sought views on several options concerning use of the 18.3-18.8 GHz frequency bands. First, the staff sought views on designating the 18.3-18.55 GHz band for shared use by the fixed and fixed satellite services, rather than, as proposed by the Notice of Proposed Rule Making, designating the 18.55-18.8 GHz band for such shared use. Under this scenario, there would be an exclusive designation for the fixed satellite service from 18.55-18.8 GHz. Second, the staff also sought views on the effects on satellite systems if, in addition to shared use of the 18.3-18.55 GHz band, provision was made for sharing between the fixed service and fixed satellite service in either the 18.55-18.58 or 18.55-18.62 GHz bands.

Regarding designation of the 18.3-18.55 GHz band for shared fixed/fixed satellite use, one company reiterated its view that the 18.1-18.6 GHz band should be designated for exclusive fixed satellite service use. Other companies indicated that the impact of altering the NPRM proposal may depend on upcoming WRC proposals concerning pfd limits in the 18.6-18.8 GHz band, or on any domestic actions to lower the pfd limits applicable to U.S. operations.

Regarding sharing between the fixed service and fixed satellite services in the 18.55-18.62 GHz bands, a number of companies expressed concern that any additional sharing would limit blanket licensing and consumer services. Several companies indicated that, because of channeling plans contemplated for their satellite systems, the impact of additional sharing would extend beyond the 30-70 MHz under consideration.

Some parties indicated that the primary negative impact on satellite systems would be from sharing an additional 30 MHz from 18.55-18.58, because it would require an alteration of system design or operation, and that the difference between sharing an additional 30 and an additional 70 MHz would therefore be less significant. Others indicated that each additional incremental amount of shared spectrum has a negative impact on satellite system operation.

One company indicated, based on construction underway, that regardless of what band plan and sharing arrangements are ultimately adopted, it is critical that the spectrum designated for geostationary fixed satellite service use be the 18.3-18.8 GHz band.

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