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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals TW-A325
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Re: PR Docket No. 92-235; ET Docket No. 95-18;
WT Docket No. 97-81; WT Docket No. 99-87;
WT Docket No. 00-19
Ex Parte Meeting

Dear Madam Secretary:

The purpose of this letter is to provide notice that on October 3, 2000, the following members of the Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau attended a portion of the semi-annual Joint Meeting of the Microwave/Satellite and Radio Committees of the American Petroleum Institute ("API"): Kathleen O'Brien Ham, D'wana Terry, Ramona Melson, Herb Zeiler, John Borkowski, Zenji Nakazawa and Scot Stone. Also in attendance at the meeting (which was held at the Jury's Hotel in Washington, D.C.) were Wayne V. Black, Nicole Donath and Randy Young of the law firm of Keller and Heckman LLP (telecommunications counsel for API).

The portion of the meeting that was attended by the Commission's staff entailed a discussion of various substantive and procedural aspects of the above-referenced rule making proceedings. With one exception (discussed below), any substantive views expressed by API members or counsel merely reiterated the positions put forth by API in its Comments or other pleadings filed in these proceedings.

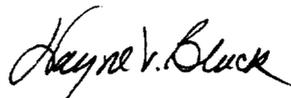
Ms. Magalie R. Salas
October 4, 2000
Page 2

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With regard to the Commission's Multiple Address System ("MAS") proceeding, WT Docket No. 97-81, one issue was discussed that had not previously been raised by API. Specifically, API representatives and counsel asked the Commission to clarify Section 101.1331(a) of its Rules so as to specify that incumbent *private* licensees in the 928/959 MHz MAS band may continue to assign or transfer control of their licenses to other private licensees without forfeiting their incumbent (*i.e.*, grandfather) rights. Toward this end, API reminded the Commission that, although this MAS band may be occupied primarily by commercial users, private licensees such as API members also operate systems in this band that are used to provide important safety-related functions such as the remote monitoring and control of petroleum and natural gas production fields and pipelines. Unless the Commission's rules are clarified to permit the assignment and transfer of control of such private licenses to other private licensees without impacting incumbent rights, these critical private systems will become worthless upon the licensee's consummation of a merger, acquisition or other normal business transaction and the subsequent auctioning of "available" spectrum in the 928/959 MHz band. API also noted that this issue is ripe for consideration by the Commission in the context of a Memorandum Opinion and Order in WT Docket No. 97-81, as the question of the appropriate interpretation of Section 101.1331(a) has been raised by CellNet Data Systems, Inc. and Radscan, Inc. in their petitions for clarification and/or reconsideration of the Commission's Report and Order in this proceeding.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, an original and nine copies of this letter have been submitted to the Secretary's office. Should the Commission require further information, it is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Wayne V. Black

cc (via regular mail):

Kathleen O'Brien Ham, Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
D'wana Terry, Chief, Public Safety & Private Wireless Division,
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Ramona Melson, Deputy Chief, Public Safety & Private Wireless Division,
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John J. Bokowski, Assistant Division Chief, Public Safety & Private Wireless Division,
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Zenji Nakazawa, Acting Branch Chief, Policy & Rules Branch,

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
October 4, 2000
Page 3

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