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May 16, 2002

EX PARTE

Marlene H. Dortch, Esquire
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 01-339
Family Radio Service Enhancements

Dear Ms. Dortch:

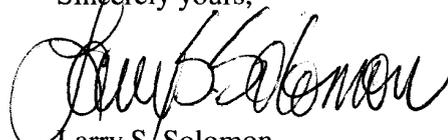
On May 15, 2002, Andrew Etkind, Esquire, General Counsel of Garmin International, Inc., Hank Straub, Design Engineer, Garmin International, Inc., and Henry Rivera, Edgar Class and I from this office, met with D'Wana Terry, Chief, Scot Stone and William Cross of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to discuss Garmin's position in this proceeding.

The discussions closely followed Garmin's Comments and Reply Comments filed in the proceeding. In addition, copies of the attached presentation were used during the discussions.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 (b)(1) of the Commission's rules, , this *ex parte* notice is being filed electronically.

Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions in connection with this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Larry S. Solomon

Attachment

cc: D'Wana Terry
Scott Stone
William Cross

Garmin International, Inc.

WT Docket No. 01-339

Location Enhanced FRS Radios

Andrew Etkind -- General Counsel

Hank Straub -- Design Engineer

May 15, 2002

Washington, D.C.

Rule Waiver

- September 29, 2000 -- FCC grants Garmin a waiver to transmit GPS location data on FRS frequencies (waiver expires September 29, 2002)
 - GPS information transmitted only for personal and public safety purposes
 - Data transmissions limited to not more than 1 second
 - Data transmissions not more frequent than once every 10 seconds
 - No automatic polling of units

Notice of Proposed Rule Making

- December 20, 2001, FCC issues Notice of Proposed Rule Making in response to Garmin Petition for Rule Making
 - Proposed rules are substantially similar to the Rule Waiver

Comments on NPRM

- Overwhelming Support For NPRM
 - Clear recognition of important safety aspects
 - Garmin endorses FCC position that it is not necessary or desirable to specify methods or standards for providing the location service
 - Garmin suggests additional rule proposals
 - “Manual key press requirement” should be replaced with “manual action or command of the user”
 - Provide for the interrogation of specific location enhanced FRS units through the manual action or command of a user -- most requested feature of radio
 - Significantly enhances safety benefits
 - Impractical for vehicle tracking due to limited range

Reply Comments re NPRM

- All Comments agreed that digital transmission of location information in the FRS is desirable and will benefit the public interest
- Garmin demonstrates:
 - FRS digital transmissions will not cause additional interference - should reduce voice conversations
 - Digital location transmissions should not be limited or restricted in bandwidth or channel usage
 - Objections to digital transmissions as proposed really address *existing* FRS/GMRS sharing issues
 - Current rules allow transmission of 15 second audible tone
 - There is no need to make the rules overly complicated

Reply Comments re NPRM (cont'd)

- “Listen before talk” requirement
 - Not required for voice
 - Short burst - not likely to cause significant interference
 - Data transmission no more than once every 10 seconds
- Numeric ID
 - Not useful and overly burdensome
- Security Issues
 - No expectation of security in FRS
- Cumulative effects of digital transmissions
 - No greater than voice -- will lessen conversation times

Need For Extension of Waiver

- Current Waiver expires September 29, 2002
- Will current Rule Making be completed by that time?
- If current Rule Making will not be completed by that time, Garmin requires additional time, until the Rule Making is completed, to manufacture and market its GPS enhanced FRS radios