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May 17, 2004

Filed Electronically

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary of the Commission
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Hearing Aid-Compatibility Report (WT Docket No. 01-309)*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to the Commission's *Hearing Aid-Compatibility Report and Order*,¹ attached please find a Hearing Aid-Compatibility Report submitted on behalf of North Carolina RSA 1 Partnership.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions that you may have at (202) 783-4141.

Sincerely,

WILKINSON BARKER KNAUER, LLP

By:



William J. Sjll

Attachment

¹ Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones, WT Docket No. 01-309, Report and Order, 18 FCC Rcd 16753 (2003).

HEARING AID-COMPATIBILITY STATUS REPORT

May 17, 2004

**North Carolina RSA 1 Partnership
Licensee of:**

**(NC1) North Carolina 1 (B) - Cherokee RSA
Call Sign: KNKN890**

North Carolina RSA 1 Partnership (“NCR1P”) hereby provides the Commission with the Hearing Aid-Compatibility Status Report (“Report”), as required by the Commission’s *Hearing Aid-Compatible Report and Order*.¹ NCR1P is submitting this report in order to provide the Commission with the current status of NCR1P’s efforts and progress toward compliance with the Commission’s hearing aid-compatibility requirements.

NCR1P is the licensee of the B portion of the North Carolina 1 – Cherokee RSA. NCR1P is a very small cellular carrier operating a cellular system covering eight sparsely populated counties in the state of North Carolina. As such it is dependent on third party vendors, rather than handset manufacturers, for its supply of handsets. Because NCR1P cannot deal directly with handset manufacturers, NCR1P must rely on third parties for handset information and it experiences significant delays in obtaining the latest handsets.

It is NCR1P’s belief that it currently does not have access to any hearing aid compliant handsets, but NCR1P will continue to monitor developments through its contacts with its vendors and its counsel.

NCR1P is cognizant of the hearing aid-compatibility requirements and will strive to meet them in a timely manner. For example, NCR1P will take steps to comply with the Commission’s requirement that service providers ensure that information concerning hearing aid-compatible handsets, including the handset’s U-rating, is visible to a potential subscriber.

In terms of NCR1P’s outreach efforts, it plans to do the following:

- Make available to NCR1P’s potential subscribers and current subscribers fact sheets or brochures at its retail store(s) that highlight which handsets are hearing aid-compatibility compliant, and direct interested individuals to ask retail store personnel for more information;

¹ Section 68.4(a) of the Commission’s Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones, WT Docket No. 01-309, *Report and Order*, 18 FCC Rcd 16753 (2003).

- Conduct training sessions for retail employees to make them familiar with hearing aid-compatibility compliant handsets; and
- Place hearing aid-compatible related information on NCR1P's web site, including the hearing aid-compatible handsets NCR1P will offer, their capabilities and pricing information.