

November 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. Sill
Catherine Fox

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

November 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 its semi-annual 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 it has made toward compliance with the Commission’s hearing aid-compatibility requirements since its last Status Report filing on May 17, 2004.²

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.

NCR1P currently stocks eight (8) different handset models from the following equipment manufacturers: Nokia, Kyocera and Motorola. It is NCR1P’s understanding that the Motorola models (the Motorola V60s and the Motorola T731c) offer integrated earpiece speakers (“dynamic speaker”) that will couple with and be compatible with telecoil equipped hearing aids.³ In addition, Motorola offers a hands free loop-set accessory. The loop-set is a headset that plugs into a handset and is worn around the subscriber’s neck. The loop-set wirelessly retransmits the audio signals through the loop-set back to the hearing aid. NCR1P also believes that many of their other handset offerings when combined with a loop-set could be rendered compatible with a subscriber’s hearing aid. NCR1P currently offers the loop-set accessory to its subscribers. 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.

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).

² See Hearing Aid-Compatibility Status Report for North Carolina RSA 1 Partnership, filed May 17, 2004 (“May 17th Status Report”).

³ For the purpose of this Hearing Aid-Compatibility Status Report, NCR1P is considering both these Motorola models offered by NCR1P to be hearing aid-compatible.

Since filing its May 17th Status Report, NCR1P has implemented and will continue to undertake the following outreach efforts:

- Made available to NCR1P's potential subscribers and current subscribers sales displays at its retail store(s) that highlight information regarding hearing aid-compatible handsets and accessories; and
- Conducted training sessions for retail employees to make them familiar with hearing aid-compatibility compliant handsets and accessories.

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

- 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.
- Additional research covering hearing aid-compatible handsets and accessories offered by equipment manufacturers.