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June 23, 2005

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation
WT Docket No. 02-353

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's ex parte rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1206, this letter is to notify you that on June 22, 2005 representatives of United States Cellular Corporation ("USCC"), Joseph R. Hanley, Vice President – Technology, Telephone and Data Systems, Inc., and the undersigned, met with Paul Margie, Legal Advisor in the office of Commissioner Copps, to discuss issues arising in the above-referenced proceeding.

The positions expressed in these meetings were consistent with USCC Comments and reply comments in this proceeding. In particular, USCC supported proposed revisions to the channelization and geographic service area plan for 1.7/2.1 GHz AWS spectrum. A copy of its written presentation is attached.

In the event there are questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

George Y. Wheeler

Cc via e-mail:

Paul Margie (Paul.Margie@fcc.gov)

3013269_v3

U.S. Cellular

Ex Parte Discussion
Advanced Wireless Services Band Plan (02-353)

June 22, 2005

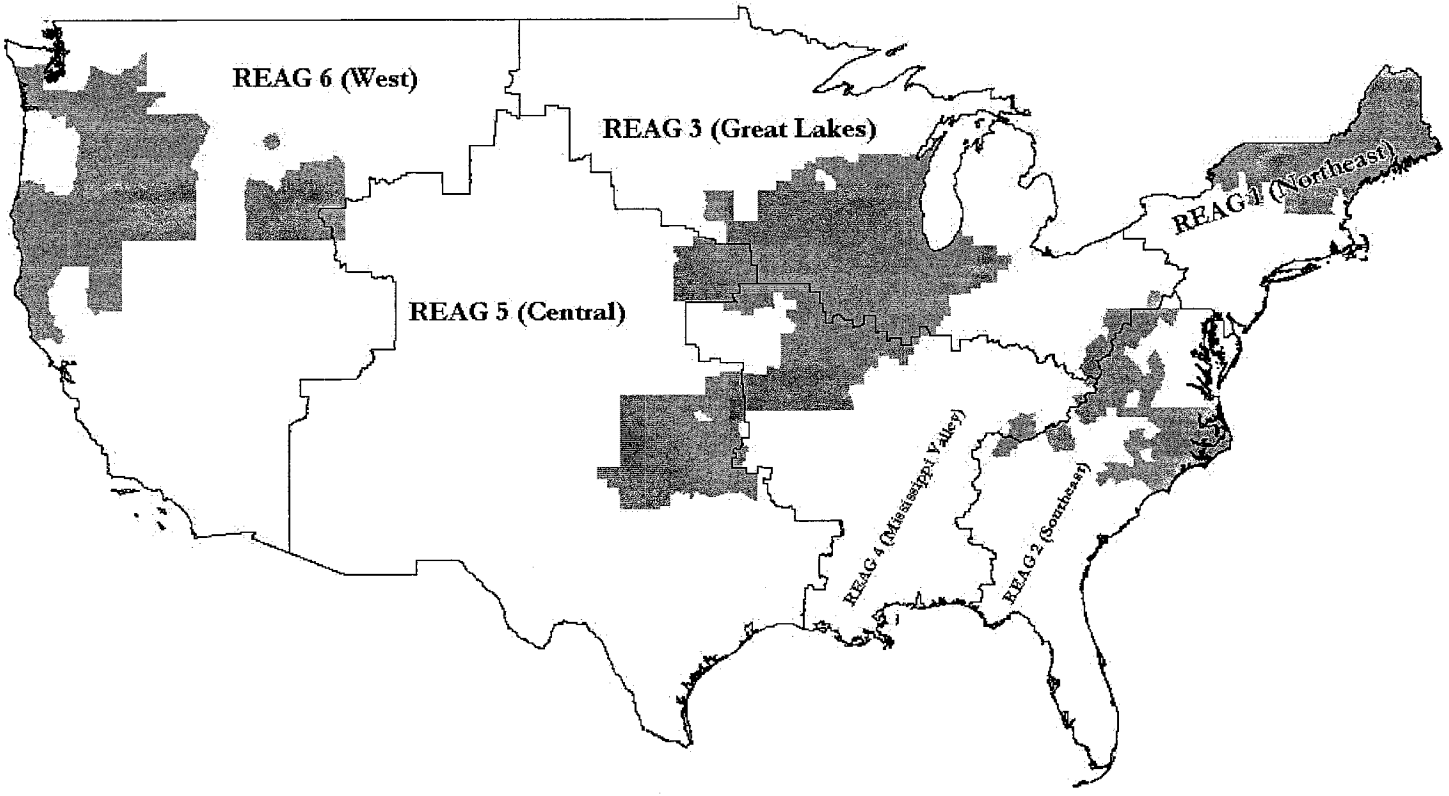
About U.S. Cellular

U.S. Cellular

- Publicly traded company, 82% owned by Telephone and Data Systems (TDS)
- 7th largest wireless service provider and 2nd largest regional carrier serving over 5 million customers
- Regional provider serving both metro areas and some of the most rural corners of the country
- Focused on exceptional customer experience enabled by superior customer care and network infrastructure
- One of the lowest customer churn rates in the industry and lowest rate of FCC complaints of the eight largest wireless carriers in the U.S. (Consumers Union)
- Continually investing in the expansion and improvement of service - $655 million invested in 2004

REAGs and U.S. Cellular Licensed Markets

U.S. Cellular



Policy Principles for Advanced Wireless Services

U.S. Cellular

U.S. Cellular supports balanced, accessible, and flexible band plans for future spectrum auctions --- especially for AWS

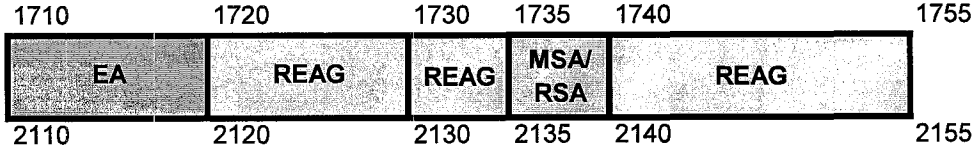
- Spectrum licensed in small geographic sizes. For the AWS auction, at least 50 MHz licensed using EAs, MSAs and RSAs
- Blocks placed within the band plan to allow carriers with a variety of business plans to aggregate spectrum from adjacent blocks
- Use of proven simultaneous, multi-round auctions without package bidding

U.S. Cellular endorses the T-Mobile/RTG Joint Proposal and could support other alternatives based on the above principles

AWS Band Plan Variations

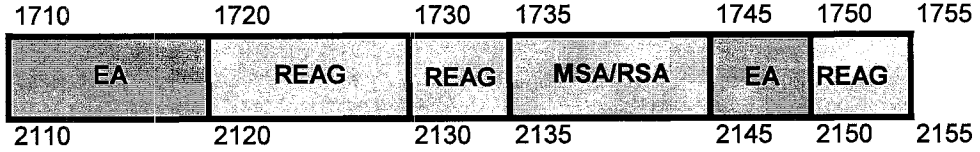
U.S. Cellular

Band Plan from AWS Order - 10/16/2003

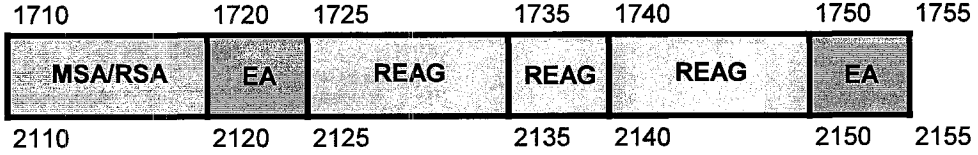


T-Mobile/RTG Proposal - 3/11/2005

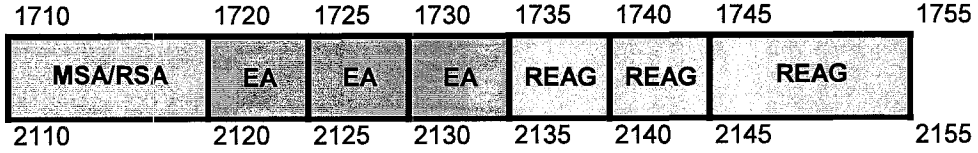
(endorsed by USCC at 4/29/05 ex parte meeting)



Verizon Proposal - 5/26/2005



Additional Example



Accessible License Sizes Are Also Important for 700 MHz

U.S. Cellular

- Band plans for the upper and lower 700 MHz bands are now more than three years old --- much has changed in the industry
- The entire 66 MHz of spectrum yet to be auctioned is configured on an EAG basis – only six areas for the entire contiguous U.S.
- Congress is considering legislation to set a date certain for the Digital TV transition – possibly allowing auctions in 2008
- The FCC should update its band plans for the upper and lower 700 MHz bands to make them more accessible to regional and smaller wireless carriers

Summary

U.S. Cellular

- U.S. Cellular and other regional and small operators are providing value, quality and choice to American consumers
- Regional and smaller wireless service providers need continued access to spectrum to provide advanced services and meet demands for growth
- Band plans for future spectrum auctions should reflect the principles of balance, accessibility, and flexibility
- The AWS band plan should contain at least 50 MHz of spectrum licensed in small areas and should allow for flexible aggregation of spectrum
- U.S. Cellular endorses the T-Mobile/RTG Joint Proposal and would support other alternatives based on these principles
- The FCC should also update its band plan for the 700 MHz bands to reflect these principles.