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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

MAR 18 2004

ET Doc. No. 01-278

Mr. Edmond J. Thomas  
Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Review of Part 15 and Other Parts of the Commission's Rules, ET Docket No. 01-278

Dear Mr. Thomas,

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), through its Office of Spectrum Management, on October 15, 2002, provided comments in response to the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) rulemaking proceeding in ET Docket No. 01-278.<sup>1</sup> In those comments, NTIA presented an analysis based on internationally recommended interference criteria for radar systems. Our analysis showed radio frequency identification (RFID) systems, operating under the rules proposed by the Commission could cause interference to fixed and mobile Department of Defense (DoD) radar operations in the 425-435 MHz band.

In response to the comments submitted by NTIA, the Commission revised its proposed rules to: decrease the amount of spectrum for RFID operations from 10 MHz to 1 MHz in the 425-435 MHz band; reduce the maximum allowable peak power from 110,000  $\mu\text{V}/\text{m}$  to 55,000  $\mu\text{V}/\text{m}$ ; and increase the maximum on-time from 1 second to 60 seconds in lieu of the previously proposed 120 second on-time.

The DoD has reviewed the Commission's revised proposal and determined that, though RFID systems will impact mobile radar operations, the DoD can accept the operation of these devices. DoD bases this acceptance on the following factors:<sup>2</sup>

- The Commission's proposal reduces the amount of spectrum requested for RFID operations.
- Only a small number of DoD fixed-radar assets located in the U.S. will require protection from RFID operations. The DoD has reviewed the fixed-radar sites and believes a

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Fredrick R. Wentland, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, National Telecommunications and Information Administration to Edmond J. Thomas, Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, (October 15, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Badri A. Younes, Department of Defense, OASD, Director, Spectrum Management to Karl Nebbia, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (March 15 2004).

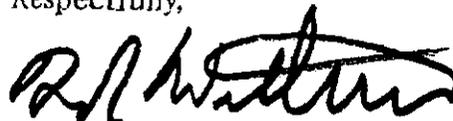
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protection zone of 40 km around these sites, where the FCC will not authorize RFID operation, will provide adequate protection.

- The DoD believes that international acceptance of RFID operations at 433.92 MHz will allow for procurement and operation on a harmonized basis. This presents DoD with the reality that mobile radars will need to operate in the presence of RFID systems. Such harmonization would allow DoD to implement its own RFID uses worldwide consistent with current DoD RFID policy. DoD and the Department of Homeland Security both have a stake in the successful development of RFID technology.
- Undesired signals received by radars do decrease capabilities as shown by NTIA's analysis. The loss of this frequency will impact the flexibility and performance of current and future radar systems. However, the DoD states that the ability of its mobile radiolocation systems to operate in frequency-hopping modes or with frequency agility, significantly decreases the probability of interference from RFID systems.

After consideration of the rule changes proposed by the Commission and the subsequent evaluation and views expressed by the DoD, NTIA withdraws its previous objections and endorses the RFID rules as proposed.

Respectfully,



Fredrick R. Wentland  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Spectrum Management