



Donald C. Brittingham
Assistant Vice President
Spectrum Policy

Verizon Wireless
1300 I Street, N.W.
Suite 400 West
Washington, D.C. 20005

Phone 202 589-3785
Fax 202 589-3750

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: ***Ex Parte Presentation***
“700 MHz D Block”; WT Docket No. 06-150 and PS Docket No. 06-229
“Applications of Alltel & Verizon Wireless”; WT Docket No. 08-95

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 17, 2008, Steve Zipperstein, General Counsel of Verizon Wireless, Susanne Guyer, Senior Vice President – Federal Regulatory Affairs for Verizon, and the undersigned met with Commissioner Deborah Tate and her special advisor, Wayne Leighton, to discuss the pending adoption of a *Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in FCC dockets WT Docket No. 06-150 and PS Docket No. 06-229.

During the meeting, Verizon Wireless acknowledged the challenges raised by the D Block proceeding, as the Commission considers the best means for providing public safety with the interoperable communications services they need. Consistent with its Reply Comments filed July 7, 2008, Verizon Wireless agrees with the positions of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the cities of Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. that the adoption of advanced broadband technologies by public safety will yield considerable benefits. That outcome can best be achieved by licensing the 700 MHz spectrum on a regional basis, and providing local jurisdictions with control over how the spectrum is used and how partnerships are formed. Both Verizon Wireless and the NYPD have advocated previously that Congress reallocate the D Block directly to public safety, and that the D Block and the adjoining public safety broadband spectrum be licensed to public safety on a regional basis.

In my testimony before the Commission in Brooklyn, New York on July 30, 2008, I highlighted four key principles that Verizon Wireless believes have emerged from this proceeding and should be advanced in any Commission action. First, the D Block should be reallocated to public safety. Second, the D Block and the adjoining public safety spectrum should be licensed to public safety agencies on a regional basis. Third, regional public safety licensees should be urged to achieve interoperability through technical standards and IP-based solutions to create a nationwide “network of networks.” Fourth and finally, the regional public safety licensees should be able to select their commercial partner or partners using a “request for proposal” (RFP) or similar approach that best meets their individual needs.

We noted further that these principles were supported by testimony provided by NYPD Deputy Chief Charles Dowd to the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response of the House Homeland Security Committee on September 16, 2008. Chief Dowd also announced at that hearing that New York City would make an official proposal to the Commission this week to implement a “proof of concept” project using the 20 MHz of combined D Block and public safety broadband spectrum to help demonstrate the viability of using next generation wireless technologies for mission critical emergency communications.

If the D Block is to be used in a manner designed to achieve public safety objectives, then it is important that local public safety officials have more control over how the spectrum is used. As a policy matter, we support the recommendation of New York City to reallocate the D Block directly to public safety.

At the end of the meeting, we urged the Commission to move promptly on approval of applications filed by Alltel and Verizon Wireless to transfer control of licenses associated with their proposed merger.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission’s Rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed for inclusion in the above-referenced docket.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald C. Brittingham
Donald C. Brittingham

cc: Commissioner Deborah Tate
Wayne Leighton