

Ms. Mindel De La Torre
Chief of the International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. De La Torre:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on behalf of the Executive Branch agencies, approves the release of a draft Executive Branch proposal for WRC-12 agenda item 7. NTIA proposes a new Resolution to make permanent an existing, temporary ITU website providing satellite network notification information.

NTIA considered the Federal agencies' input toward the development of U.S. proposals for WRC-12. NTIA forwards this package for consideration and review by your WRC-12 Advisory Committee. Dr. Darlene Drazenovich is the primary contact from my staff.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed December 10, 2009)

Karl B. Nebbia
Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Agenda Item 7: to consider possible changes in response to Resolution 86 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002) of the Plenipotentiary Conference: “Advance publication, coordination, notification and recording procedures for frequency assignments pertaining to satellite networks”, in accordance with Resolution **86 (Rev.WRC-07)**

Background Information: Access to orbital locations and frequencies for satellite networks has become increasingly difficult over the years, in large part due to difficulties in applying the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations, particularly with regard to coordination. As highlighted at the recent ITU Radiocommunication Bureau *Workshop on the Efficient Use of the Spectrum/Orbit Resource*, and in ITU-R Circular Letter CR/301, some unused frequency and orbital resources remain recorded in the Master International Frequency Register, aggravating the problem. Improving the transparency of the processes for notification and bringing into use could help to improve this situation.

For non-planned satellite bands, No. **11.44** of the Radio Regulations (RR) requires that “the notified date of bringing into use of any assignment to a space station of a satellite network shall not be later than seven years following the date of receipt...of the relevant complete information under RR No. **9.1** or **9.2**, as appropriate.” Additionally, this provision states that “any frequency assignment not brought into use within the required period shall be cancelled by the Bureau....” When the notified date of bringing into use of frequency assignments is earlier than the date of submission of the notification request, the Bureau considers the request itself to be confirmation that the frequency assignments have been brought into use. Otherwise, the notifying administration must inform the Bureau when it actually brings the system into use, in accordance with RR No. **11.47**.

The potential difficulty with the current process is that it can result in uncertainty for administrations as to the status of frequency assignments. While administrations can examine the space radiocommunications stations database for details pertaining to notified frequency assignments submitted to the Bureau, or examined by the Bureau and found to be in conformity with the Radio Regulations, they cannot readily determine whether, or when, an administration has informed the Bureau that a frequency assignment has been brought into use. Other administrations may not know if frequency assignments in the Master International Frequency Register have provisional status, or if the Bureau may cancel them because the administration has missed the bringing into use deadline established by RR No. **11.44**.

The Bureau has established, on a trial basis, a web page providing information on such notifications for satellite networks: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/space/snl/listinuse/>. This web page allows an administration to readily determine whether, and when, another administration has informed the Bureau that its satellite network frequency assignment has been brought into use.

The Conference should instruct the Bureau to permanently maintain these pages, and to include thereon a hyperlink to the associated Resolution 49 information.

Proposal:

ADD USA/AI 7 (BIU)/1

DRAFT RESOLUTION [USA-7-BIU] (WRC-12)

Publication of bringing into use data for satellite networks

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012),

considering

- a) that the Master International Frequency Register contains unused frequency assignments to satellite networks, which complicate coordination and consultation for administrations seeking access to orbital resources and applying the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations;
- b) that it is currently cumbersome, and in some cases not possible, for administrations to determine whether the Bureau has been informed that frequency assignments associated with a given satellite network have been brought into use;
- c) that improving the transparency of the notification process for satellites networks would help to address some of the aforementioned difficulties;
- d) that a readily accessible website, maintained by the Bureau, displaying information related to the date of bringing into use of satellite networks, would improve administrations' access to this information,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

- 1 to take necessary steps to maintain a website, as part of the Bureau's collection of web pages, displaying data pertaining to the bringing into use of frequency assignments associated with specific satellite networks;
- 2 to post, upon receipt from a notifying administration, information indicating the date of bringing into use of frequency assignments associated with a particular satellite network, and to include on this website a hyperlink to the associated Resolution 49 data for the particular frequency assignments and satellite network, along with an indication as to whether the frequency assignments are confirmed as being brought into use; and,
- 3 to provide the website for the use of administrations and operators in their coordinations and consultations, and not as a substitute for, or adjunct to, the provisions of the Radio Regulations.

Reasons: Proposed changes would improve administrations' access to orbital resources by providing transparency to the notification process for satellite networks, and by making information on frequencies actually being used more readily available.
