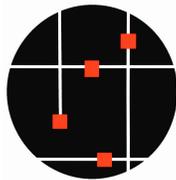


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Xpressweb
Internet Services

681 Chinle Drive
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September 13, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: TV White Spaces
ET Docket Nos. 04-186 and 02-380

Dear Ms. Dortch:

My company, Xpressweb Internet Services, Inc., provides fixed wireless broadband service in Kane County in rural southern Utah, as well as in Fredonia, a very small community located in northern Arizona. We rely primarily on unlicensed spectrum to deliver broadband services to consumers that have few, and in some cases, no other, broadband choices. We built our network from scratch using devices authorized under Part 15 rules the FCC adopted to open up 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz spectrum for unlicensed broadband devices. Thanks to the Commission's initiatives, consumers in the Kane County/Fredonia area have been able to get broadband service since the year 2000.

Xpressweb is very interested in utilizing television white spaces so that we can both expand and improve service. There are some locations within our service area that would benefit greatly from the use of white spaces. Specifically, in some areas, we have difficulty providing service due to trees, hills, or other obstacles. In the past, we have relied on unlicensed 900 MHz spectrum to serve these customers. However, 900 MHz is fraught with disadvantages. There is an increasing amount of interference present in these bands, due to the prevalence of consumer electronic devices that use this band, such as cordless telephones, baby monitors, etc. In most areas, it is difficult or impossible to find a clean channel on which to operate. Additionally, because the 900 MHz band, and channel sizes are so small, it's difficult to provide service in excess of 1 megabit per second. In most of our service area, using 5 GHz spectrum, we provide service in excess of 5 Mbps. Unfortunately, for our 900 MHz customers, this is not possible. In spite of these limitations, we have deployed in this band, and we have been grateful to have that option. We are finding, however, that we have utilized the 900 MHz band to its maximum. There are simply no more available channels, and we have reached our subscriber limit on the channels we are currently using. Having white spaces available to us will greatly expand our options for providing quality service to non line-of-sight customers. We are committed to deploying as soon as equipment for point-to-multipoint service is commercially available.

I am pleased that the FCC will be acting on TV white space petitions for reconsideration in the near future. There are several proposals that would help us to deploy service:

First, the FCC should allow WISPs to operate using base station antennas mounted higher than 30 meters, and we should be allowed to install customer antennas (CPE) at heights below 10 meters. If we could increase our base station antenna height to 100 meters, we could cover three times more area with a base station and reduce our equipment, tower acquisition and tower lease fees by a large amount – an amount that could be the difference between deploying or not deploying in an area. We support the WISPA and Motorola proposals to increase base station height. By removing any minimum CPE height restrictions, we would not have to put tall masts on residences and we would be able to provide service at a lower cost.

Second, we believe we should be allowed to operate with power in excess of 4 Watts EIRP in rural areas. As is the case with tower height, operating with higher power will give us a greater coverage area and we will not need to spend as much money on infrastructure.

Third, we are very concerned about a proposal made by FiberTower and others to license white space spectrum for point-to-point wireless backhaul. Not only would adopting this proposal take six channels (36 MHz) and perhaps more channels away from us, but WISPs also would have to protect these licensed links. Moreover, channels and areas far beyond the links would be blocked because the signals from the licensed links would overshoot the path and the endpoints. This is due to the low-cost, low-gain antennas FiberTower wants to use. We also would not deploy if a licensed point-to-point user could come along later and put us out of business with a licensed link. We support the views expressed by WISPA in their September 8 letter and ask the FCC to reject the FiberTower proposal.

We truly believe that WISPs are the best option for delivery of advanced Internet services to many rural areas. Deployment costs and time to deploy for WISPs are usually far less than wireline carriers, and the fact that WISPs are generally local companies tends to lead to better customer service levels. Allowing WISPs efficient use of white space spectrum will significantly and positively impact broadband deployment in rural areas. We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Craig Baird
President
Xpressweb Internet Services, Inc.