

**-Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	DA 12-701
Amendment of the Commission's Rules)	
Governing Radiated Power Limits in)	RM-11660
the Cellular Radio Service)	
Frequency Bands)	

**REPLY COMMENTS
OF
UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION**

United States Cellular Corporation ("USCC") hereby files its Reply Comments in the above-captioned proceeding. USCC reiterates its support for the Petition filed by AT&T Services, Inc. ("AT&T") proposing that the FCC should amend Section 22.913 of its Rules to allow the permissible effective radiated power (ERP) for cellular base stations to be restated in terms of power spectral density (PSD).¹

I. The Comments Underscore The Need for Action in The AT&T Petition

The AT&T Petition demonstrates that the current ERP limits should be restated, at a licensee's option, as PSD limits to eliminate an unintended consequence of the current rules, which will prevent the deployment on cellular frequencies of fourth generation digital broadband services, such as Long Term Evolution ("LTE"). Current power emission rules for the cellular service will not allow cellular licensees to employ sufficient signal strength to operate LTE networks successfully, because those rules permit cellular systems operating with narrower bandwidths to operate with much higher spectral densities than those operating with wider bandwidths, such as LTE networks. The rule change, allowing for a PSD model for measuring

¹ See, AT&T Petition For Expedited Rulemaking and Request for Waiver, filed February 28, 2012 ("AT&T Petition").

affective radiated power, which is sought by AT&T, would be the same as that previously implemented by the PCS and AWS services.² None of the comments filed in this proceeding in any way disprove AT&T's cogent analysis.

A coalition of cellular carriers not planning immediate implementation of LTE³ supports the AT&T proposal for broadband systems, but also proposes allowing GSM-EDGE "2G" systems to continue to use the existing rules for cellular ERP measurement.⁴ USCC supports that modification, which is not contrary to AT&T's proposal concerning 4G systems. Furthermore, USCC generally supports the changes proposed by the coalition⁵ that allow for the following:

1) Allowing EIRP to be used rather than ERP, since EIRP is the measurement used for the PCS, AWS and 700 bands.

2) Breaking carriers into groups using less than 1 MHz of bandwidth and those using more than 1 MHz of bandwidth, as was done with the other bands. Carriers using less than 1 MHz should be able to use 1640 W EIRP in rural areas and 820 W EIRP in non-rural areas. This will keep signal coverage at present levels and not force reductions in coverage by GSM carriers.

3) Allowing carriers using more than 1 MHz of bandwidth to have a PSD limit set at 1640 W/MHz EIRP for rural areas and 820 W/MHz EIRP for non-rural areas. This is similar to the method used for AWS, except that this would be half the power, making the system equal when looking at the differences in effective coverage due to propagation characteristics.

² In April, 2007, the FCC also extended certain relief requested by CTIA to the 700 MHz band. That relief included implementation of a PSD model for measuring effective radiated power, based on "watts per megahertz of spectrum bandwidth," rather than on "watts per emission," and permitting radiated power to be measured using "average" rather than "peak" values. See, Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762, and 777-792 MHz Bands, WT Docket No. 06-150, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 22 FCC 8064 (2007).

³ See, Joint Comments of Broadpoint, LLC; Cincinnati Bell Wireless, LLC; NE Colorado Cellular, Inc.; Smith Bagley, Inc.; and Union Telephone Company, filed June 1, 2012 ("Joint Comments").

⁴ Joint Comments, p. 8.

⁵ *Id.* at pg. 9.

Another carrier, Bluegrass Cellular, Inc., opposes AT&T's waiver request, upon which the FCC did not seek comment and thus is not going to grant.⁶ Bluegrass also alleges that there may be interference to its facilities from neighboring AT&T markets if AT&T uses its proposed power limits and PSD measurements. From Bluegrass's comments, it appears that this is linked to the idea that only AT&T would be able to employ these modifications. If the rules are changed, all cellular licenses could measure PSD as AT&T proposes. Also, we would note that all cellular carriers can protect their CGSAs from interference by forbidding signal extensions into their markets. Thus, if interference to Bluegrass resulted from AT&T operations, the rules require AT&T to negotiate with Bluegrass. If Bluegrass was not satisfied, it could order AT&T's signal removed from its CGSA. Also, AT&T's Petition and its accompanying engineering showing demonstrates that interference to neighboring cellular licenses would be less from wideband deployments such as LTE than from existing cellular networks.

II. The FCC Should Move As Quickly As Possible

The AT&T Petition clearly demonstrates the urgent need for the requested rule change to permit LTE to be deployed on cellular frequencies. We believe that the FCC's May 1, 2012 Public Notice, which explicitly sought comment on "the proposed rule change and associated technical issues" furnished sufficient notice to interested parties to allow the FCC to change the rules now to permit (but not require) the use of the proposed PSD measurement method. However, if the FCC considers it necessary to proceed to a formal rulemaking proceeding, we respectfully ask that the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking be issued very promptly and that comment and reply comment dates occur within a month of the NPRM's issuance. We also request that the FCC and Wireless Bureau consider and rule on the NPRM as soon after the pleading cycle closes as possible, and by no later than the end of this year. Failure to act in an

⁶ See Comments of Bluegrass Cellular, Inc., filed June 1, 2012 ("Bluegrass Comments"), p. 8.

expedited manner may needlessly delay the rapid deployment of LTE services and broadband, contrary to the FCC's national broadband deployment plan and the public interest. This is a matter of considerable urgency to affected carriers and we respectfully submit that there will prove to be no significant technical issues which need to be resolved in adopting AT&T's proposal, any more than existed when this rule change was implemented in the PCS and AWS services.

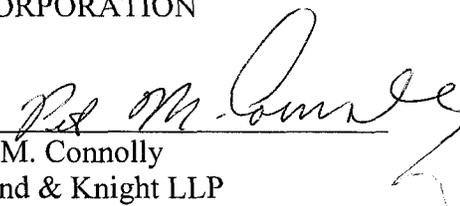
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, and those cited by AT&T, we ask that the FCC move expeditiously to adopt the proposal of AT&T that the current ERP limits for cellular base stations be restated as power spectral density limits at the power levels proposed by AT&T.

Respectfully submitted,

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