

Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C.

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and) PS Docket No. 13-42
Public Safety and Homeland Security)
Bureau Seek Comment on Options for)
470-512 MHz (T-Band))

Comments
on Behalf of
Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C.

The following comments are submitted on behalf of Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C. (“CDE”) and is in response to the Public Notice released by the Commission on February 11, 2013. CDE and its predecessors have practiced before the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) for over 75 years in broadcast and telecommunications matters. The firm or its predecessors have been located in Washington, DC since 1937 and performed professional consulting engineering services to the communications industry.

The undersigned is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the District of Columbia and has been in continuous employment with this firm or its predecessors for over fifty (50) years.

The frequencies 470-512 MHz covers the TV Channels 14 through 20 per Section 73.603 of the FCC Rules. Further Section 73.623(e) entitled, “Protection of Land Mobile Operations on Channels 14-20” covers the limited use on Channels 14-20 by broadcast stations in various largest metropolitan areas. The importance of these channels is noted in Paragraph 19 of the

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in Docket No. 12-268¹ released October 2, 2012.

Currently, broadcast entities are relying on the present rules to complete construction. The Public Notice dated February 11, 2013 (DA 13-187) entitled, “Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seek Comment on Options for 470-512 MHz (T-Band), PS Docket No. 13-42 indicates that the spectrum will ultimately be subject to competitive bidding. The broadcast industry over the past 25 years has had considerable experience with Section 73.623(e) in the analog world. Some of the history is as follows:

- In FCC Docket 18261, concerning sharing of UHF-TV channels with land-mobile radio, a land-mobile protected contour of 128 km (80 miles) in radius was provided. Under FCC Rule 90.305(a) and (b) land-mobile base stations are permitted to operate up to 80 km (50 miles) from the city-center reference coordinates while associated mobile stations may operate within 48 km (30 miles) of the respective base stations.
- This firm has found that the Commission has licensed scores of Channel 18 land-mobile base stations, more than 30 miles outside of the permitted 50-mile radius.
- Section 73.687(e) places a heavy burden on new TV broadcast station permittees operating on Channel 14 to undertake special precautions to avoid interference to adjacent land-mobile radio service operations. Application of this “last-in” rule for any DTV allotment may well render that channel as useless for any DTV

¹*In the Matter of Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, Docket No. 12-268, Adopted: September 28, 2012, Released: October 2, 2012.

operation.

- Regularly used land-mobile signals at field strengths well below 39 dBu will continue to a problem. Note that Section 73.687(e)(4)(ii) requires that a TV permittee must identify potential interference to normal land-mobile operation.
- Following full-power tests WVEU-TV, Channel 69, Atlanta, Georgia was initially required to reduce power by 30 dB due to its interference problems. Following installation of a higher power filter, WVEU tested under special temporary authority two weeks at half power. Following more interference complaints, the broadcast bureau modified WVEU's limited authority to 166 kW (-12 dB).

Summary

Cohen, Dippell and Everist, P.C. urges the Commission to review the history of these assignments so as in the reconfiguration and possible TV repacking that these allocation imperfections do not reoccur.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donald G. Everist

May 13, 2013
Date