



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

MAY - 7 2009

Mr. John Giusti
Acting Chief of the International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Giusti:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), on behalf of the executive branch agencies, has approved the release of an additional draft Executive Branch preliminary view that addresses WRC-11 agenda item 1.15.

This draft preliminary view considers the Federal agency inputs toward the development of U.S. Preliminary Views for WRC-11. This preliminary view is forwarded for your consideration and review by your WRC-11 Advisory Committee. Ms. Darlene Drazenovich of my staff is the primary contact for NTIA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karl B. Nebbia".

Karl B. Nebbia
Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management

Enclosure

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DRAFT PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-11

AGENDA ITEM 1.15: to consider possible allocations in the range 3-50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications, taking into account the results of ITU-R studies, in accordance with Resolution **612 (WRC-07)**

ISSUE: Under WRC-11 agenda item 1.15 administrations will consider possible allocations for the radiolocation service to support the operation of low power oceanographic radars in bands between 3 and 50 MHz. A network of these radars currently operates around the globe on an experimental, non-interference basis. There is global interest in the long-term operation of oceanographic radars for measurement of coastal sea surface conditions to support environmental, oceanographic, meteorological, climatological, maritime, and disaster mitigation operations.

BACKGROUND: The frequency allocations between 3 and 50 MHz are to the fixed, mobile, amateur, amateur-satellite, space research, radio astronomy, broadcasting, and standard frequency and time signal services. ITU-R reports are under development within Working Party 5B to document the characteristics and operations of oceanographic radars, and to address the sharing studies required in accordance with Resolution **612 (WRC-07)**. The ITU-R will study sub-bands around 4.5 MHz, 13 MHz, 27 MHz, and 42 MHz to meet both long-range (lower frequencies) and high-resolution data (higher frequencies) requirements. Work is also under way within the ITU-R to refine the bandwidth requirements of oceanographic radars as well as to narrow the bands where studies should concentrate. Oceanographic radars providing long-range data typically operate with emission bandwidths approximately 25 to 30 kHz wide, whereas systems providing high-resolution data operate with emission bandwidths approximately 150 to 170 kHz wide.

The ITU-R is conducting studies with an objective of achieving a primary radiolocation allocation for oceanographic radars, where possible, in certain portions of the 3-50 MHz band. Due to the difficult sharing conditions in these bands, the outcome of sharing studies will determine the requirements to protect existing services without causing harmful interference.

U.S. VIEW: If the outcome of studies identified in Resolution **612 (WRC-07)** demonstrate that oceanographic radar systems can protect incumbent services and systems in the 3-50 MHz bands, the United States supports creation of new allocations, to include primary allocations for the radiolocation service, limited to oceanographic radars, as defined in Resolution **612**.¹ The United States supports studies of the sub-bands near 4.5 MHz, 13 MHz, 27 MHz, and 42 MHz. (*RCS-2153/2*)

¹ Resolution **612 (WRC-07)** states that high-frequency oceanographic radars operate with peak power levels on the order of 50 Watts (*recognizing d*), and through the use of ground-wave propagation (*considering c*).