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

SEP 11 2002

Mr. Donald Abelson
Chief of the International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Abelson:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, on behalf of the Executive Branch Agencies, has approved the release of an additional draft Executive Branch (NTIA) proposal for WRC-03. This proposal considers the federal agency inputs toward the development of U.S. Proposals for WRC-03.

The enclosed proposal, which addresses agenda item 1.38, is forwarded for your consideration and review by your WRC-03 Advisory Committee. Jim Vorhies from my staff will contact Alexander Roytblat and reconcile any differences between NTIA and FCC views.

Sincerely,

Fredrick R. Wentland
Acting Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management

Enclosure

United States of America

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Agenda Item 1.38: to consider provision of up to 6 MHz of frequency spectrum to the Earth exploration-satellite service (active) in the frequency band 420-470 MHz, in accordance with Resolution **727 (Rev.WRC-2000)**;

Background Information: A similar agenda item was debated at WRC-97 resulting in a decision not to adopt proposed allocations for the Earth exploration-satellite service in the 420-470 MHz band. The Earth sensing community has identified that the need for such an allocation, at a radio spectrum wavelength of approximately one meter, is important because experiments have shown good correlation of backscatter radiation with biomass and soil moisture, which are parameters needed for forest monitoring. The need for such forest monitoring was emphasized at the United Nations Conference on Economic Development (UNCED) (Buenos Aires - 1992). Subsequent to UNCED 1992, studies have identified a minimum bandwidth requirement of 6 MHz to satisfy mission objectives.

The bands 420-430 and 440-450 MHz are allocated to the radiolocation service on a primary basis in several countries, the band 430-440 MHz is allocated to the radiolocation service on a primary basis worldwide and are used for telemetry, telecommand and long-range surveillance by land, ship and airborne stations for early missile warning, detection of low-observable targets, and the tracking of all objects in Earth orbit. Studies to date have shown the potential for interference between EESS (active) sensors and ground-based radars when in the line of sight of the ground-based radars. Preliminary studies have also shown that there is a potential for interference from EESS (active) to airborne radars operating worldwide.

The amateur community is concerned with the possibility of harmful interference to amateur operations in the 430-440 MHz portion of the band. There are currently 16 amateur satellites in orbit that use frequencies within the band 435-438 MHz for both up and down links internationally. The band 430 – 440 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a co-primary basis in Region 1, and on a primary basis in eight Region 2 countries: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela (No. **5.278**). Elsewhere in Region 2 and in Region 3, the amateur service allocation is secondary. Additionally, the bands 420 – 430 MHz and 440 – 450 MHz are allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis in Australia, the United States, Jamaica and the Philippines (No.**5.270**). Studies to date have shown the potential for interference between EESS (active) sensors, and amateur stations when the SAR is in the line of sight of amateur stations, and specifically in the band 435-438 MHz, which would be the worst-case scenario for the amateurs.

Proposal:

Article 5

Frequency Allocations

420-450 MHz

	Allocation to services		
	Region 1	**Region 2**	**Region 3**
USA/ / 1 **NOC**	**420-430** FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile Radiolocation 5.269 5.270 5.271		
USA/ / 2 **NOC**	**430-440** AMATEUR RADIOLOCATION 5.138 5.271 5.272 5.273 5.274 5.275 5.276 5.277 5.280 5.281 5.282 5.283	**430-440** RADIOLOCATION Amateur 5.271 5.276 5.277 5.278 5.279 5.281 5.282	
USA/ / 3 **NOC**	**440-450** FIXED MOBILE except aeronautical mobile Radiolocation 5.269 5.270 5.271 5.284 5.285 5.286		

Reasons: ITU-R studies have not shown compatibility between EES and radiolocation, nor between EES and the amateur service in the bands.