

Subcommittee Update: Federal Access to Non-Federal Bands

CSMAC Meeting

March 18, 2016

NTIA Question

- What elements should a regulatory framework include for enabling flexible federal access to non-federal spectrum on a shared basis across a broad range of short-, mid-, and long-range time frames?
 - How could this framework balance the "regulatory certainty" that commercial spectrum users and federal agencies need to make longer-term investment decisions for shared access to be viable?
 - What options are available for the Federal Government to incentivize exclusive-use licensees to engage in shared access?

Subcommittee Members

- Audrey Allison (co-chair)
- Charla Rath (co-chair)
- Michael Calabrese
- Mark Crosby
- Tom Dombrowsky
- David Donovan
- Paul Kolodzy
- Janice Obuchowski
- Carl Povelites
- Steve Sharkey
- Mariam Sorond
- Bryan Tramont
- Jennifer Warren

NTIA Liaison:

- Rich Orsulak

Progress

- Six meetings (two with agencies)
- Separated use cases into two sections: public safety and DoD
 - Met with most agencies public safety stakeholders (list) and National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)
 - Met with DoD CIO's office

Preliminary Recommendations on Public Safety Use Cases

- Because the process to share non-Federal spectrum is not universally known by Federal Agencies, NTIA/FCC should prepare a reference document describing the existing protocols for Federal agencies to gain access, for shared mission critical communication applications, to non-Federal public safety spectrum.
- NTIA or the FCC should develop and maintain a database that reports pending and executed bi-directional MOUs as both a reference and evidence of best practices.
- NTIA /FCC should explore whether and how Federal Agencies could directly hold a license for non-Federal government spectrum.

Next Steps

- Meet again with DoD CIO's office (tentatively scheduled for mid-April)
- Draft short one to two page white paper defining current process for Federal agencies to gain access to non-Federal public safety spectrum
- Full draft recommendations for CSMAC review