



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Telecommunications and**  
**Information Administration**  
INTERDEPARTMENT RADIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Mindel De La Torre  
Chief of the International Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. De La Torre:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on behalf of the Executive Branch agencies, approves the release of the attached Executive Branch preliminary view for WRC-15. The enclosed draft preliminary view addresses agenda item 9.1.1 for the protection of systems operating in the mobile-satellite service in the band 406-406.1 MHz.

This draft preliminary view considers the federal agency inputs toward the development of U.S. proposals for WRC-15. NTIA forwards this package for your consideration and review by your WRC-15 Advisory Committee. Dr. Darlene Drazenovich is the primary contact from my staff.

Sincerely,

*(Original Signed August 13, 2013)*

Karl B. Nebbia  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Spectrum Management

Enclosure

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### DRAFT PRELIMINARY VIEWS FOR WRC-15

**Agenda Item 9.1.1 - Resolution 205 (Rev.WRC-12):** *to consider and approve the Report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, on the activities of the Radiocommunication Sector since WRC-12 on the protection of systems operating in the mobile-satellite service in the band 406-406.1 MHz*

**Background Information:** Resolution 205 invites the ITU-R to conduct, and complete in time for WRC-15, the appropriate regulatory, technical and operational studies with a view to ensuring the adequate protection of mobile-satellite service systems in the frequency band 406-406.1 MHz from any emissions that could cause harmful interference (see No. 5.267), taking into account the current and future deployment of services in adjacent bands. This Resolution also instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau to include the results of these studies in his Report to WRC-15.

In the band 406-406.1 MHz, Search and Rescue beacons transmit uplink signals to search and rescue satellite systems such as the Cospas-Sarsat system. Forty-one nations participate in the Cospas-Sarsat program. The objective of the Cospas-Sarsat system is to reduce, as far as possible, delays in the provision of distress alerts to search and rescue services, and the time required for locating and providing assistance to people in distress. Location and response time have a direct impact on the probability of survival of the person in distress at sea or on land.

Search and rescue satellites in low-earth and geostationary orbits carry receivers which detect emergency beacons operating in the band 406-406.1 MHz. The satellites relay distress signals from emergency beacons, activated by users in distress (aviators, mariners, land-based), to a network of ground stations and ultimately to a mission control center (MCC). The MCC processes the distress signal and alerts the appropriate search and rescue authorities to who is in distress and where they are located.

**U.S. VIEW:** The United States supports the ongoing ITU-R studies with a view of having an adequate protection of the MSS band 406-406.1 MHz in order to detect and successfully process 406 MHz distress signals.