



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

JAN 19 2011

Mr. Julius Knapp
Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Knapp:

President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum on June 28, 2010, directing the Department of Commerce, working through National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to make available 500 megahertz of spectrum over the next ten years for wireless broadband use.¹ In furtherance of this 500 megahertz goal, NTIA, with the assistance of the affected Federal agencies through the Policy and Plans Steering Group (an advisory group of senior, political-level Federal officials serving as an advisor to the NTIA Administrator), completed a study recommending that 115 megahertz of spectrum currently used by Federal agencies be made available for wireless broadband in the next five years.² Reallocating this 115 megahertz moves us one step toward meeting the President's goal of freeing spectrum for wireless broadband that will help trigger the creation of jobs and innovative new businesses, provide cost-effective connections in rural areas, increased productivity, improve public safety, and allow for the increase use of mobile telemedicine, telework, distance learning, and other new applications that will transform Americans' lives.

NTIA recommends that the FCC take the necessary regulatory actions to make available for wireless broadband 15 megahertz at 1695-1710 MHz, and 100 megahertz at 3550-3650 MHz to be shared with currently allocated services. As discussed more fully in the study, sharing these bands will require geographic limitations on wireless broadband operations to make them available within the next five years and to ensure that there is no loss of critical existing and planned Federal Government capabilities. NTIA determined these limitations based on FCC staff input regarding the broadband system technical parameters. These technical characteristics provide the basis for developing the wireless broadband system service rules to make these two bands available. If the FCC envisions changes to the technical parameters or deployment data

¹ Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies. Unleashing the Wireless Broadband Revolution. (Presidential Memorandum), released June 28, 2010, 75 Fed. Reg. 38387 (July 1, 2010), available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-unleashing-wireless-broadband-revolution>.

² National Telecommunications and Information Administration. *An Assessment of the Near-Term Viability of Accommodating Wireless Broadband Systems in the 1675-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz, 3500-3650 MHz, and 4200-4220 MHz, 4380-4400 MHz Bands* (November 15, 2010), available at http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2010/FastTrackEvaluation_11152010.pdf.

for the wireless broadband systems used in NTIA's analysis, protection distances or other aspects will need to change. In such event, NTIA, in collaboration with the affected Federal agencies, will need to determine needed changes to the sharing conditions and service rules required to protect Federal systems.

NTIA looks forward to working with you on this important spectrum management issue. Should questions arise, please contact me at (202) 482-0536 (knebbia@ntia.doc.gov).

Sincerely,



Karl B. Nebbia
Associate Administrator
Office of Spectrum Management