ROBERT J. BUTLER HARRY F COLF ANNE GOODWIN CRUMP PAUL L FELDMAN CHRISTINE GOEPP KEVIN M. GOLDBERG FRANK R. JAZZO M. SCOTT JOHNSON DANIEL A. KIRKPATRICK MITCHELL LAZARUS STEPHEN T. LOVELADY SUSAN A. MARSHALL HARRY C. MARTIN MICHELLE A. McCLURE MATTHEW H. McCORMICK FRANCISCO R. MONTERO **RAYMOND J. OUIANZON** JAMES P. RILEY DAVINA SASHKIN PETER TANNENWALD KATHI FEN VICTORY HOWARD M. WEISS

Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth

1300 NORTH 17th STREET, 11th FLOOR ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209

> OFFICE: (703) 812-0400 FAX: (703) 812-0486 www.fhhlaw.com www.commlawblog.com

January 17, 2012

RETIRED MEMBERS VINCENT J. CURTIS, JR. RICHARD HILDRETH GEORGE PETRUTSAS

OF COUNSEL ALAN C. CAMPBELL THOMAS J. DOUGHERTY, JR. DONALD J. EVANS ROBERT M. GURSS* ROBERT J. SCHILL RICHARD F. SWIFT

MITCHELL LAZARUS

(703) 812-0440

LAZARUS@FHHLAW.COM

* NOT ADMITTED IN VIRGINIA

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Re: 2,457 Part 101 Licenses Held by Metropolitan Area Networks, Inc.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing on behalf of the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition (FWCC), many of whose members are adversely affected by the situation described below.¹

During the period from January 11, 2008, to March 3, 2009, the Commission granted some 2,457 Part 101 licenses to Metropolitan Area Networks, Inc. (MAN).² These have since been consolidated under call sign WQJE757, file number 0003869908.

² See "Request for Waiver and Extension of Construction Deadline for Part 101 Fixed Microwave Services Licenses" of Metropolitan Area Networks, Inc. (filed June 11, 2009) (MAN Extension Request).

¹ The FWCC is a coalition of companies, associations, and individuals interested in the Fixed Service—i.e., in terrestrial fixed microwave communications. Our membership includes manufacturers of microwave equipment, fixed microwave engineering firms, licensees of terrestrial fixed microwave systems and their associations, and communications service providers and their associations. The membership also includes railroads, public utilities, petroleum and pipeline entities, public safety agencies, cable TV providers, backhaul providers, and/or their respective associations, communications carriers, and telecom attorneys and engineers. Our members build, install, and use both licensed and unlicensed point-to-point, point-to-multipoint, and other fixed wireless systems, in frequency bands from 900 MHz to 95 GHz. For more information, see <u>www.fwcc.us</u>.

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary January 17, 2012 Page 2

The Commission's Part 101 Rules provide: "Each Station [with exceptions not relevant here] must be in operation within 18 months from the initial date of grant."³ Further, "[f]ailure to timely begin operation means the authorization cancels automatically."⁴

On June 11, 2009, MAN sought an extension of the construction deadlines for its 2,457 licenses until March 3, 2011.⁵ Its stated ground for the extension was the "lengthy delay in the Commission's actions in the White Spaces proceeding."⁶

The requested extension date has long since passed. The "white space" rules are in effect, with service scheduled to begin this month.⁷ Yet the MAN facilities remain unbuilt.

Under the terms of Section 101.63(c), the licenses should have canceled automatically on March 4, 2011. But they inexplicably remain in the Commission's licensing database. Their continuing presence in the database impedes the frequency coordination of links that, if licensed, will actually begin operation.

⁷ Office of Engineering and Technology Announces the Approval of Spectrum Bridge, Inc.'s TV Bands Database System for Operation, ET Docket No. 04-186, DA 11-2043 (released Dec. 22, 2011).

³ 47 C.F.R. § 101.63(a).

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 101.63(c).

⁵ MAN Extension Request.

⁶ *Id.* at i.

Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary January 17, 2012 Page 3

The FWCC asks the Commission to follow the plain language of its own rules by promptly canceling and deleting from the database any MAN licenses for facilities that had not commenced operation on or before March 3, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Mutchell Rozara

Mitchell Lazarus Counsel for the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition

 cc: Rick Kaplan, Chief, Wireless Telecom. Bur. Blaise Scinto, Chief, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecom. Bur. John Schauble, Deputy Chief, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecom. Bur. Stephen Buenzow, Deputy Chief, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecom. Bur. Barry Friedman and Michelle Cohen, Counsel for Metropolitan Area Networks, Inc.