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November 26, 2003

**Re: Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition and National Spectrum  
Managers Association, Request for Waiver of Sections  
101.31(b)(1)(iii) and 101.147(r) of the Commission's Rules to Promote  
More Efficient Use of Spectrum (18 GHz Narrowband Waiver Request)**

Catherine Seidel, Deputy Chief  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Ms. Seidel:

We thank you and your colleagues for meeting with us on November 14 about the above-referenced waiver request. As you know, the request seeks a blanket waiver to permit the coordination and licensing of Fixed Service licenses in the 18 GHz band at bandwidths of 2.5, 5, 6, 30, and 50 MHz, in addition to the 10, 20, 40, and 80 MHz bandwidths presently allowed. It was filed jointly by the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition and the National Spectrum Managers Association on May 29, 2002.

At the meeting, I promised to provide the information below.

***1. Current Narrowband 18 GHz Users***

The following table covers 18 GHz users occupying either 5 MHz bandwidths in the 340 MHz split (since reallocated to satellite services) or 10 MHz channels in the 1560 MHz split.<sup>1</sup> Wider bandwidth users are omitted. Comsearch's database shows a breakdown of the links as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> The 340 MHz split previously covered 18580-18820 and 18920-19160 MHz. The 1560 MHz split covers 17700-18140 and 19260-19700 MHz.

59%	cellular/PCS carriers
26%	county/local governments
15%	CLECs, utilities, public safety, railroads, industrial/business

**2. Relocation from 2 GHz**

Approximately 7,200 licensed links in the 2.1 GHz band are subject to potential relocation. The maximum bandwidth of these systems is 3.5 MHz. Many operate in 1.6 MHz bandwidths. Depending on path length, many of these are candidates for narrowband channels at 18 GHz.

**3. Addition of 6 MHz Channels to Waiver Request**

As we indicated previously, the Second Order on Reconsideration in IB Docket No. 98-172 eliminated co-primary Fixed Service at 18.3-18.58 GHz.<sup>2</sup> Most of the affected users are private cable operators delivering analog video in 6 MHz channels. To accommodate these users elsewhere at 18 GHz, we amend the waiver petition to allow coordinators to assign 6 MHz channels (in addition to the 2.5, 5, 30, and 50 MHz previously requested).

**4. Interim Waiver**

We understand the Bureau is presently considering our waiver request in the context of other issues that may take some time to resolve. We respectfully ask the Bureau to grant the waiver on an interim basis, subject to withdrawal if it is ultimately inconsistent with the resolution of other issues.

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<sup>2</sup> 17 FCC Rcd 24248 (released Nov. 26, 2002).

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If we can provide any further information that can help to expedite consideration of the waiver request, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Lazarus  
Counsel to the Fixed Wireless Communications  
Coalition

Chris Hardy  
Director, National Spectrum Managers Association

cc: Shellie Blakeney, Legal Advisor, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Uzoma Onyeije, Legal Advisor, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
D'Wana Terry, Chief, Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division  
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