

other information services are able to understand the charges levied and are informed of their rights and responsibilities with respect to payment of such charges.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-6670 Filed 3-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission

March 9, 2000.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted on or before April 17, 2000. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Judy Boley, Federal Communications Commission, Room 1-C804, 445 12th Street, SW, DC 20554 or via the Internet to jboley@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection(s), contact Judy

Boley at 202-418-0214 or via the Internet at jboley@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control No.: 3060-XXXX.

Title: Report and Order in MM Docket No. 99-25—Creation of Low Power Radio Service.

Form No.: N/A.

Type of Review: New collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, state, local or tribal governments. *Number of Respondents:* 1,200 respondents; 9,875 responses.

Estimated Time Per Response: .0003 to 6 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement, third party disclosure requirement, recordkeeping requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 27,350 hours.

Total Annual Cost: \$9,000.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirements contained in MM Docket No. 99-25, Report and Order, will ensure that the integrity of the FM spectrum is not compromised. It will also ensure that unacceptable interference will not be caused to existing radio services and that the statutory requirements are met. These rules will ensure that the stations are operated in the public interest.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-6671 Filed 3-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-U

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[Report No. AUC-00-33-A (Auction No. 33); DA 00-559]

Auction of Licenses for the 700 MHz Guard Bands Scheduled for June 14, 2000; Comment Sought on Reserve Prices or Minimum Opening Bids and Other Auction Procedural Issues

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document seeks comment on the reserve prices or minimum opening bids and other auction procedural issues for the upcoming auction of licenses for the 700 MHz Guard Bands (Auction No. 33) scheduled to commence on June 14, 2000.

DATES: Comments are due on or before March 22, 2000, and reply comments are due on or before March 29, 2000.

ADDRESSES: An original and four copies of all pleadings must be filed with the Commission's Secretary, Magalie Roman

Salas, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, DC 20054. In addition, one copy of each pleading must be delivered to each of the following locations:

(1) Commission's duplicating contractor, International Transcription Service, Inc. (ITS), 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036;

(2) Office of Media Relations, Public Reference Center, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Suite CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554;

(3) Rana Shuler, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Suite 4-A628, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Howard Davenport or Craig Bomberger, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-0660, Kathy Garland, Project Manager, at (717) 338-2888.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of a Public Notice released March 10, 2000. The complete text of the public notice, including Attachment A, is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room CY-A257), 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. It may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc. (ITS, Inc.) 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 857-3800. It is also available on the Commission's web site at <http://www.fcc.gov>.

1. By this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("Bureau") announces the auction ("Auction No. 33") of Guard Band Manager licenses in the 700 MHz Guard Bands to commence on June 14, 2000. *See Service Rules for the 746-764 MHz Bands, and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules, WT Docket No. 99-168, FCC 00-90, released March 9, 2000 ("700 MHz Second Report and Order").* As discussed in greater detail herein, the Bureau proposes that Auction No. 33 be composed of 104 licenses in the 700 MHz Guard Bands, 746-747/776-777 and 762-764/792-794 MHz. One 4 megahertz license (paired 2 megahertz blocks) and one 2 megahertz license (paired 1 megahertz blocks) will be offered in each of 52 Major Economic Areas (MEAs).

2. The following table contains the Block/Frequency Band Cross Reference List for each MEA in Auction No. 33:

**746–747, 762–764, 776–777, AND
792–794 MHz ALLOCATIONS 746–
747, 762–764, 776–777, AND 792–
794 MHz ALLOCATIONS**

License suffix	Frequency	Frequency
A	746–747	776–777
B	762–764	792–794

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 requires the Commission to “ensure that, in the scheduling of any competitive bidding under this subsection, an adequate period is allowed * * * before issuance of bidding rules, to permit notice and comment on proposed auction procedures * * *.” Consistent with the provisions of the Balanced Budget Act and to ensure that potential bidders have adequate time to familiarize themselves with the specific rules that will govern the day-to-day conduct of an auction, the Commission directed the Bureau, under its existing delegated authority, to seek comment on a variety of auction-specific procedures prior to the start of each auction. See Memorandum Opinion and Order, and Notice of Proposed Rule Making (“*Part 1 Order*”) 62 FR 13540 (March 21, 1997) and Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules—Competitive Bidding Proceeding (“*Part 1 Third Report and Order*”) 63 FR 770 (January 1, 1998). We therefore seek comment on the following issues relating to Auction No. 33.

I. Auction Structure

A. Simultaneous Multiple Round Auction Design

3. We propose to award the licenses in a single, simultaneous multiple-round auction to allow bidders to take advantage of any synergies that exist among licenses. See *700 MHz Second Report and Order*, ¶¶ 61, 62, and 71; see also 47 CFR 27.604. This methodology offers every license for bid at the same time in successive bidding rounds. We seek comment on this proposal.

B. Upfront Payments and Initial Maximum Eligibility

4. The Bureau has delegated authority and discretion to determine an appropriate upfront payment for each license being auctioned taking into account such factors as the population in each geographic license area, and the value of similar spectrum. The upfront payment is a refundable deposit made by each bidder to establish eligibility to bid on licenses. Upfront payments related to the specific spectrum subject to auction protect against frivolous or

insincere bidding and provide the Commission with a source of funds from which to collect payments owed at the close of the auction. See Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act—Competitive Bidding, PD Docket No. 93–253 (“*Second Report and Order*”) 59 FR 22980 (May 4, 1994). In this case, we have information available in the form of a congressional estimate of the value of the spectrum. Accordingly, we list all licenses, including the related license area population and the proposed upfront payment for each, in Attachment A. We seek comment on this proposal.

5. We further propose that the amount of the upfront payment submitted by a bidder will determine the initial maximum eligibility (as measured in bidding units) for each bidder. Upfront payments will not be attributed to specific licenses, but instead will be translated into bidding units to define a bidder’s initial maximum eligibility, which cannot be increased during the auction. The maximum eligibility will determine the licenses on which a bidder may bid in each round of the auction. Thus, in calculating its upfront payment amount, an applicant must determine the *maximum* number of bidding units it may wish to bid on (or hold high bids on) in any single round, and submit an upfront payment covering that number of bidding units. We seek comment on this proposal.

C. Activity Rules

6. In order to ensure that the auction closes within a reasonable period of time, an activity rule requires bidders to bid actively on a percentage of their maximum bidding eligibility during each round of the auction rather than waiting until the end to participate. A bidder that does not satisfy the activity rule will either lose bidding eligibility in the next round or use an activity rule waiver.

7. We propose to divide the auction into three stages: Stage One, Stage Two and Stage Three, each characterized by an increased activity requirement. The auction will start in Stage One. We propose that the auction will generally advance to the next stage (*i.e.*, from Stage One to Stage Two, and from Stage Two to Stage Three) when the auction activity level, as measured by the percentage of bidding units receiving new high bids, is approximately ten percent or below for three consecutive rounds of bidding in each stage. However, we further propose that the Bureau retain the discretion to change stages unilaterally by announcement during the auction. In exercising this

discretion, the Bureau will consider a variety of measures of bidder activity, including, but not limited to, the auction activity level, the percentage of licenses (as measured in bidding units) on which there are new bids, the number of new bids, and the percentage increase in revenue. We seek comment on these proposals.

8. For the 700 MHz Guard Band Auction, we propose the following activity requirements:

Stage One: In each round of Stage One, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility be required to be active on licenses encompassing at least 80 percent of its current bidding eligibility. Failure to maintain the requisite activity level will result in a reduction in the bidder’s bidding eligibility in the next round of bidding (unless an activity rule waiver is used). During Stage One, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the current round activity by five-fourths ($5/4$).

Stage Two: In each round of the second stage of the auction, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility is required to be active on at least 90 percent of its current bidding eligibility. During Stage Two, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the current round activity by ten-ninths ($10/9$).

Stage Three: In each round of Stage Three, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility is required to be active on 98 percent of its current bidding eligibility. In this final stage, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the current round activity by fifty-fortyninths ($50/49$). We seek comment on these proposals.

D. Activity Rule Waivers and Reducing Eligibility

9. Use of an activity rule waiver preserves the bidder’s current bidding eligibility despite the bidder’s activity in the current round being below the required minimum level. An activity rule waiver applies to an entire round of bidding and not to a particular license. Activity waivers are principally a mechanism for auction participants to avoid the loss of auction eligibility in the event that exigent circumstances prevent them from placing a bid in a particular round.

10. The FCC auction system assumes that bidders with insufficient activity would prefer to use an activity rule waiver (if available) rather than lose bidding eligibility. Therefore, the system will automatically apply a

waiver (known as an "automatic waiver") at the end of any bidding period where a bidder's activity level is below the minimum required unless:

- (i) There are no activity rule waivers available; or
- (ii) The bidder overrides the automatic application of a waiver by reducing eligibility, thereby meeting the minimum requirements.

11. A bidder with insufficient activity may wish to reduce its bidding eligibility rather than use an activity rule waiver. If so, the bidder must affirmatively override the automatic waiver mechanism during the bidding period by using the reduce eligibility function in the software. In this case, the bidder's eligibility is permanently reduced to bring the bidder into compliance with the activity rules as described. Once eligibility has been reduced, a bidder will not be permitted to regain its lost bidding eligibility.

12. A bidder may proactively use an activity rule waiver as a means to keep the auction open without placing a bid. If a bidder submits a proactive waiver (using the proactive waiver function in the bidding software) during a bidding period in which no bids are submitted, the auction will remain open and the bidder's eligibility will be preserved. An automatic waiver invoked in a round in which there are no new valid bids will not keep the auction open.

13. We propose that each bidder in Auction No. 33 be provided with five activity rule waivers that may be used at the bidder's discretion during the course of the auction. We seek comment on this proposal.

E. Information Relating to Auction Delay, Suspension or Cancellation

14. For Auction No. 33, we propose that, by public notice or by announcement during the auction, the Bureau may delay, suspend or cancel the auction in the event of natural disaster, technical obstacle, evidence of an auction security breach, unlawful bidding activity, administrative or weather necessity, or for any other reason that affects the fair and competitive conduct of competitive bidding. In such cases, the Bureau, in its sole discretion, may elect to: resume the auction starting from the beginning of the current round; resume the auction starting from some previous round; or cancel the auction in its entirety. Network interruption may cause the Bureau to delay or suspend the auction. We emphasize that exercise of this authority is solely within the discretion of the Bureau, and its use is not intended to be a substitute for situations in which bidders may wish to apply

their activity rule waivers. We seek comment on this proposal.

II. Bidding Procedures

A. Round Structure

15. The Commission will use its Automated Auction System to conduct the electronic simultaneous multiple round auction format for Auction No. 33. The initial bidding schedule will be announced in a public notice to be released at least one week before the start of the auction, and will be included in the registration mailings. The simultaneous multiple round format will consist of sequential bidding rounds, each followed by the release of round results. Details regarding the location and format of round results will be included in the same public notice.

16. The Bureau has discretion to change the bidding schedule in order to foster an auction pace that reasonably balances speed with the bidders' need to study round results and adjust their bidding strategies. The Bureau may increase or decrease the amount of time for the bidding rounds and review periods, or the number of rounds per day, depending upon the bidding activity level and other factors. We seek comment on this proposal.

B. Reserve Price or Minimum Opening Bid

17. The Balanced Budget Act calls upon the Commission to prescribe methods by which a reasonable reserve price will be required or a minimum opening bid established when FCC licenses are subject to auction (*i.e.*, because the Commission has accepted mutually exclusive applications for those licenses), unless the Commission determines that a reserve price or minimum bid is not in the public interest. Consistent with this mandate, the Commission has directed the Bureau to seek comment on the use of a minimum opening bid and/or reserve price prior to the start of each auction.

18. Normally, a reserve price is an absolute minimum price below which an item will not be sold in a given auction. Reserve prices can be either published or unpublished. A minimum opening bid, on the other hand, is the minimum bid price set at the beginning of the auction below which *no bids* are accepted. It is generally used to accelerate the competitive bidding process. Also, in a minimum opening bid scenario, the auctioneer generally has the discretion to lower the amount later in the auction. It is also possible for the minimum opening bid and the reserve price to be the same amount.

19. In light of the Balanced Budget Act, the Bureau proposes to establish minimum opening bids for Auction No. 33. The Bureau believes a minimum opening bid, which has been utilized in other auctions, is an effective bidding tool. *See* Auction of 800 MHz Upper 10 MHz Band, Minimum Opening Bids or Reserve Prices ("800 MHz SMR Order") 62 FR 55252 (October 23, 1997) and Auction of the Phase II 220 MHz Service Licenses, Auction Notice and Filing Requirements for 908 Licenses Consisting of Economic Area (EA), Economic Area Grouping (EAG), and Nationwide Licenses, Scheduled for September 15, 1998, Minimum Opening Bids and Other Procedural Issues, ("Phase II 220 MHz Public Notice") 63 FR 35213 (June 29, 1998). A minimum opening bid, rather than a reserve price, will help to regulate the pace of the auction and provides flexibility. For Auction No. 33, we have information available in the form of a congressional estimate of the value of the spectrum. Accordingly, we list all licenses, including the related license area population and the proposed minimum opening bid for each, in Attachment A. We seek comment on this proposal.

20. If commenters believe that these minimum opening bids will result in substantial numbers of unsold licenses, or are not reasonable amounts, or should instead operate as reserve prices, they should explain why this is so, and comment on the desirability of an alternative approach. Commenters are advised to support their claims with valuation analyses and suggested reserve prices or minimum opening bid levels or formulas. In establishing the minimum opening bids, we particularly seek comment on such factors as, among other things, the amount of spectrum being auctioned, levels of incumbency, the availability of technology to provide service, the size of the geographic service areas, issues of interference with other spectrum bands and any other relevant factors that could reasonably have an impact on valuation of the 700 MHz Guard Bands. Alternatively, comment is sought on whether, consistent with the Balanced Budget Act; the public interest would be served by having no minimum opening bid or reserve price.

C. Minimum Accepted Bids and Bid Increments

21. Once there is a standing high bid on a license, a bid increment will be applied to that license to establish a minimum acceptable bid for the following round. For Auction No. 33, we propose to use a smoothing methodology to calculate bid

increments, as we have done in several other auctions. The Bureau retains the discretion to change the minimum bid increment if it determines that circumstances so dictate. The Bureau will do so by announcement in the Automated Auction System. We seek comment on these proposals.

22. The exponential smoothing formula calculates the bid increment for each license based on a weighted average of the activity received on each license in all previous rounds. This methodology will tailor the bid increment for each license based on activity, rather than setting a global increment for all licenses. For every license that receives a bid, the bid increment for the next round for that license will be established using the exponential smoothing formula.

23. The calculation of the percentage bid increment for each license in a given round is made at the end of the previous round. The computation is based on an activity index, which is calculated as the weighted average of the activity in that round and the activity index from the prior round. The activity index at the start of the auction (round 0) will be set at 0. The current activity index is equal to a weighting factor times the number of new bids received on the license in the most recent bidding round plus one minus the weighting factor times the activity index from the prior round. The activity index is then used to calculate a percentage increment by multiplying a minimum percentage increment by one plus the activity index with that result being subject to a maximum percentage increment. The Commission will initially set the weighting factor at 0.5, the minimum percentage increment at 0.1, and the maximum percentage increment at 0.2.

Equations

$$A_i = (C * B_i) + ((1 - C) * A_{i-1})$$

I_{i+1} = smaller of $((1 + A_i) * N)$ and M
where,

A_i = activity index for the current round (round i)

C = activity weight factor

B_i = number of bids in the current round (round i)

A_{i-1} = activity index from previous round (round $i-1$), A_0 is 0

I_{i+1} = percentage bid increment for the next round (round $i+1$)

N = minimum percentage increment or bid increment floor

M = maximum percentage increment or bid increment ceiling

Under the exponential smoothing methodology, once a bid has been received on a license, the minimum acceptable bid for that license in the following round will be the new high

bid plus the dollar amount associated with the percentage increment (variable I_{i+1} from above times the high bid). This result will be rounded to the nearest thousand if it is over ten thousand or to the nearest hundred if it is under ten thousand.

Examples

License 1

$C = 0.5$, $N = 0.1$, $M = 0.2$

Round 1 (2 new bids, high bid = \$1,000,000)

i. Calculation of percentage increment for round 2 using exponential smoothing:

$$A_1 = (0.5 * 2) + (0.5 * 0) = 1$$

The smaller of $I_2 = (1 + 1) * 0.1 = 0.2$ or 0.2 (the maximum percentage increment)

ii. Minimum bid increment for round 2 using the percentage increment (I_2 from above)

$$0.2 * \$1,000,000 = \$200,000$$

iii. Minimum acceptable bid for round 2 = \$1,200,000

Round 2 (3 new bids, high bid = \$2,000,000)

i. Calculation of percentage increment for round 3 using exponential smoothing:

$$A_2 = (0.5 * 3) + (0.5 * 1) = 2$$

The smaller of $I_3 = (1 + 2) * 0.1 = 0.3$ or 0.2 (the maximum percentage increment)

ii. Minimum bid increment for round 3 using the percentage increment (I_3 from above)

$$0.2 * \$2,000,000 = \$400,000$$

iii. Minimum acceptable bid for round 3 = \$2,400,000

Round 3 (1 new bid, high bid = \$2,400,000)

i. Calculation of percentage increment for round 4 using exponential smoothing:

$$A_3 = (0.5 * 1) + (0.5 * 2) = 1.5$$

The smaller of $I_4 = (1 + 1.5) * 0.1 = 0.25$ or 0.2 (the maximum percentage increment)

ii. Minimum bid increment for round 4 using the percentage increment (I_4 from above)

$$0.2 * \$2,400,000 = \$480,000$$

iii. Minimum acceptable bid for round 4 = \$2,880,000

D. Information Regarding Bid Withdrawal and Bid Removal

24. For Auction No. 33, we propose the following bid removal and bid withdrawal procedures. Before the close of a bidding period, a bidder has the option of removing any bids placed in that round. By using the remove bid

function in the software, a bidder may effectively "unsubmit" any bid placed within that round. A bidder removing a bid placed in the same round is not subject to withdrawal payments.

25. Once a round closes, a bidder may no longer remove a bid. However, in the next round, a bidder may withdraw standing high bids from previous rounds using the withdraw bid function. A high bidder that withdraws its standing high bid from a previous round is subject to the bid withdrawal payment provisions. We seek comment on these bid removal and bid withdrawal procedures.

26. In the *Part 1 Third Report and Order*, the Commission explained that allowing bid withdrawals facilitates efficient aggregation of licenses and the pursuit of efficient backup strategies as information becomes available during the course of an auction. The Commission noted, however, that, in some instances, bidders may seek to withdraw bids for improper reasons. The Bureau, therefore, has discretion, in managing the auction, to limit the number of withdrawals to prevent any bidding abuses. The Commission stated that the Bureau should assertively exercise its discretion, consider limiting the number of rounds in which bidders may withdraw bids, and prevent bidders from bidding on a particular market if the Bureau finds that a bidder is abusing the Commission's bid withdrawal procedures.

27. Applying this reasoning, we propose to limit each bidder in Auction No. 33 to withdraw standing high bids in no more than two rounds during the course of the auction. To permit a bidder to withdraw bids in more than two rounds would likely encourage insincere bidding or the use of withdrawals for anti-competitive strategic purposes. The two rounds in which withdrawals are utilized will be at the bidder's discretion; withdrawals otherwise must be in accordance with the Commission's rules. There is no limit on the number of standing high bids that may be withdrawn in either of the rounds in which withdrawals are utilized. Withdrawals will remain subject to the bid withdrawal payment provisions specified in the Commission's rules. We seek comment on this proposal.

E. Stopping Rule

28. For Auction No. 33, the Bureau proposes to employ a simultaneous stopping rule approach. The Bureau has discretion "to establish stopping rules before or during multiple round auctions in order to terminate the auction within a reasonable time." A

simultaneous stopping rule means that all licenses remain open until the first round in which no new acceptable bids, proactive waivers or withdrawals are received. After the first such round, bidding closes simultaneously on all licenses. Thus, unless circumstances dictate otherwise, bidding would remain open on all licenses until bidding stops on every license.

29. The Bureau seeks comment on a modified version of the simultaneous stopping rule. The modified stopping rule would close the auction for all licenses after the first round in which no bidder submits a proactive waiver, a withdrawal, or a new bid on any license on which it is not the standing high bidder. Thus, absent any other bidding activity, a bidder placing a new bid on a license for which it is the standing high bidder would not keep the auction open under this modified stopping rule. The Bureau further seeks comment on whether this modified stopping rule should be used unilaterally or only in stage three of the auction.

30. The Bureau proposes to retain the discretion to keep an auction open even if no new acceptable bids or proactive waivers are submitted and no previous high bids are withdrawn. In this event, the effect will be the same as if a bidder had submitted a proactive waiver. The activity rule, therefore, will apply as usual, and a bidder with insufficient activity will either lose bidding eligibility or use a remaining activity rule waiver.

31. Finally, we propose that the Bureau reserve the right to declare that the auction will end after a specified number of additional rounds ("special stopping rule"). If the Bureau invokes this special stopping rule, it will accept bids in the final round(s) only for licenses on which the high bid increased in at least one of the preceding specified number of rounds. The Bureau proposes to exercise this option only in certain circumstances, such as, for example, where the auction is proceeding very slowly, there is minimal overall bidding activity, or it appears likely that the auction will not close within a reasonable period of time. Before exercising this option, the Bureau is likely to attempt to increase the pace of the auction by, for example, moving the auction into the next stage (where bidders would be required to maintain a higher level of bidding activity), increasing the number of bidding rounds per day, and/or increasing the amount of the minimum bid increments for the limited number of licenses where there is still a high level of bidding activity. We seek comment on these proposals.

Federal Communications Commission.

Louis J. Sigalos,

Deputy Chief, Auctions & Industry Analysis Division.

[FR Doc. 00-6652 Filed 3-16-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 00-546]

Public Safety National Coordination Committee

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document advises interested persons of a meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee ("NCC"), which will be held in Washington, D.C. The Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, requires public notice of all meetings of the NCC. This notice advises interested persons of the seventh meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee.

DATES: April 7, 2000 at 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Designated Federal Officer, Michael J. Wilhelm, (202) 418-0680, e-mail mwilhelm@fcc.gov. Press Contact, Meribeth McCarrick, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 202-418-0600, or e-mail mmccarri@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following is the complete text of the Public Notice: This Public Notice advises interested persons of the seventh meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee ("NCC"), which will be held in Washington, D.C. The Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended, requires public notice of all meetings of the NCC.

Date: April 7, 2000

Meeting Time: General Membership Meeting—1 p.m.-4 p.m.

ADDRESS: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Commission Meeting Room, Washington, D.C. 20554.

The NCC Subcommittees will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., continuing their meetings from the previous day. The NCC General Membership Meeting will commence at 1 p.m. and continue until 4 p.m. The agenda for the NCC membership meeting is as follows:

1. Introduction and Welcoming Remarks

2. Administrative Matters

3. Report from the Interoperability Subcommittee

4. Report from the Technology Subcommittee

5. Report from the Implementation Subcommittee

6. Public Discussion

7. Other Business

8. Upcoming Meeting Dates and Locations

9. Closing Remarks

The FCC has established the Public Safety National Coordination Committee, pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to advise the Commission on a variety of issues relating to the use of the 24 MHz of spectrum in the 764-776/794-806 MHz frequency bands (collectively, the 700 MHz band) that has been allocated to public safety services. See The Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements For Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communications Requirements Through the Year 2010 and Establishment of Rules and Requirements For Priority Access Service, WT Docket No. 96-86, First Report and Order and Third Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 98-191, 14 FCC Rcd 152 (1998), 63 FR 58645 (11-2-98).

The NCC has an open membership. Previous expressions of interest in membership have been received in response to several Public Notices inviting interested persons to become members and to participate in the NCC's processes. All persons who have previously identified themselves or have been designated as a representative of an organization are deemed members and are invited to attend. All other interested parties are hereby invited to attend and to participate in the NCC processes and its meetings and to become members of the Committee. This policy will ensure balanced participation. Members of the general public may attend the meeting. To attend the seventh meeting of the Public Safety National Coordination Committee, please RSVP to Joy Alford or Bert Weintraub of the Policy and Rules Branch of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau of the FCC by calling (202) 418-0680, by faxing (202) 418-2643, or by E-mailing at jalford@fcc.gov or bweintra@fcc.gov. Please provide your name, the organization you represent, your phone number, fax number and e-mail address. This RSVP is for the purpose of determining the number of people who will attend this seventh meeting. The FCC will attempt to accommodate as many people as possible. However,