



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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DA 95-1093

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May 16, 1995

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO TO ENSURE PCS SERVICE ALONG THE BORDER

The United States and Mexico today signed coordination agreements for both Narrowband and Broadband Personal Communications Services (PCS). These agreements, together with those reached with Canada last fall, ensure seamless and compatible PCS services along both our southern and northern borders. They protect the value of the PCS licenses already awarded in the FCC's auctions, and will assist bidders in the remaining PCS auctions.

The agreements were signed for the U.S. by FCC Chairman Reed E. Hundt and Ambassador Vonya B. McCann, U.S. Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy (CIP) of the Department of State. They were signed for Mexico by Secretary Carlos Ruiz Sacristan of the Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT). The signing took place at the annual meeting of the US/Mexico Bi-National Consultative Commission on Telecommunications held in Washington, D.C. Under the auspices of the State Department's CIP, these agreements were negotiated this spring by the FCC's International Bureau in coordination with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

The agreements provide for use of the 901-902 MHz, 930-931 MHz and 940-941 MHz bands for Narrowband PCS and for use of the 1850-1990 MHz band for Broadband PCS along the United States and Mexico border. Both Mexico and the U.S. recognized that compatible PCS operations at the border are best assured through coordination of operating and technical parameters by the PCS operators. Therefore, the agreements allow for -- and even encourage -- PCS operators in both countries to form joint operating contracts and partnerships to expand service areas and avoid transborder conflicts. The FCC and the Mexican SCT are to be notified of such agreements, which are subject to review or approval, as appropriate, by the respective agencies.

The principal provisions of these two new agreements are:

For Narrowband PCS:

- o The United States and Mexico shall each have primary use of 24 of the 48 available channels.
- o Each Administration shall have full use of all the channels beyond 120 kilometers (75 miles) of the border.
- o Stations in the 901-902 MHz band and all mobile stations are limited to 7 watts E.R.P.

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- o Base stations in the 930-931 MHz and 940-941 MHz bands are limited to a maximum 3500 watts E.R.P. with antenna height/power restrictions similar to FCC rules.
- o Stations in each country will have limited access to the channels allotted to the other country on a secondary basis.

For Broadband PCS:

- o The frequency band 1850-1990 MHz is to be shared on an equal basis and both countries are to have full use of this spectrum for the provision of PCS services.
- o The addition of new users to the 1850-1990 MHz frequency band for fixed point-to-point service operation is not permitted.
- o The 1910-1930 MHz portion of the band has been designated for very low power PCS use in the United States and Mexico (known as Unlicensed PCS in the U.S.).
- o Any new PCS use of these frequencies must not cause harmful interference to existing fixed point-to-point microwave operations in the other country.
- o Coordination of all PCS systems within 120 km (75 miles) of the common border with existing fixed point-to-point operations is required and will be based on:
 - A technical analysis, using recognized industry procedures such as TIA/EIA Bulletin (TSB10-F), that interference is not caused to existing microwave operations; or
 - A mutually acceptable arrangement between the PCS and fixed microwave operators.
- o Licenses for PCS base station facilities within 72 km (45 miles) of the border will be conditioned to indicate that future coordination is required between Broadband PCS operators in both countries to ensure that interference is not caused to PCS operations in the other country and that the band is shared on an equal basis. This is similar to actions taken during the initial licensing of the cellular radio service.
- o The predicted or measured median field strength of any PCS base station is not to exceed 47 dBuV/m at any location at or beyond the border unless the affected PCS operators in the adjacent areas agree.

The full texts of these agreements have been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room. Copies are available from International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800. For further information, contact Joslyn Read or Henry Straube in the Planning and Negotiations Division of the International Bureau at (202) 739-0424.

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