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For Immediate Release

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO AGREE TO PROTOCOL TO SHARE SPECTRUM IN THE 220-222 MHZ BAND ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Protocol Will Facilitate Deployment of Positive Train Control Services

WASHINGTON, December 8, 2016 – The Federal Communications Commission announces the successful negotiation of a protocol with the Mexican government that will facilitate U.S. railroads' deployment and operation of Positive Train Control systems in the U.S.-Mexico border area.

The Protocol will facilitate implementation of Positive Train Control technology in the 220-222 MHz band along the common border. The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 requires freight, commuter, and passenger railroads to implement interoperable PTC systems by December 31, 2018 on all U.S. main line track where passenger and commuter railroads operate, as well as on lines carrying certain hazardous materials.

PTC systems are intended to reduce the risk of rail accidents by enabling real-time information sharing between trains, rail wayside devices, and control centers. PTC technology is designed to automatically slow or stop a train in order to avoid a train-to-train collision or derailment.

Many PTC systems in the United States will operate in the 220-222 MHz band. Since rail lines cross the U.S.-Mexico border, and since railroads will be using PTC radios both onboard and along rail lines, implementation of PTC systems will affect use of the 220-222 MHz band in the border region. A similar agreement has been executed between the FCC and the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development of Canada covering the U.S./Canada border region. The agreement between the U.S. and Canada can be found here: <https://transition.fcc.gov/ib/sand/agree/files/can-nb/20150518103911.pdf>.

The *Protocol between the Department of State of the United States of America and the Ministry of Communications and Transportation of the United Mexican States Concerning the Allotment and Use of the Channels in the 220-222 MHz Band for Land Mobile Services Along the Common Border* is available for review in the FCC's Reference Information Center at 445 12th Street, S.W., Courtyard Level, Washington, D.C. 20554. The *Protocol* is also available here: <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/international-agreements>.

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