



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU GRANTS SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO ALLTEL CORPORATION ALLOWING IMPROVEMENTS IN CELLULAR COVERAGE IN COASTAL FLORIDA

By letter dated September 7, 1999, ALLTEL Corporation (ALLTEL) has requested Special Temporary Authority (STA) on behalf of its subsidiaries, 360 Communications Company of Florida and 360 Communications Company of Fort Walton Beach Limited Partnership, to temporarily modify and operate cellular facilities at 13 cell sites located within the Fort Walton Beach, Panama City, and Florida RSA No. 10 markets. ALLTEL's STA request demonstrates that at present, cellular coverage is either unreliable or not available along the coast and on numerous barrier islands located within these markets. ALLTEL has further documented that these gaps in coverage are depriving the public of access to cellular E-911 and other public safety benefits associated with cellular service. In support of its STA request, ALLTEL has submitted numerous requests for cellular service from individuals, businesses, and local government agencies responsible for providing emergency services in the affected markets. These submissions attest to the adverse impact on delivery of such emergency services caused by lack of cellular coverage along the coast. Further, ALLTEL has demonstrated that the requested STA will not interfere with adjacent cellular systems in the Gulf of Mexico Service Area (GMSA) or on land, that the proposed modifications are intended solely to provide service to terrestrial customers, and that any incursion into the GMSA is incidental and no greater than necessary to ensure adequate terrestrial service.

Upon review of ALLTEL's request, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) finds it in the public interest to grant ALLTEL an STA so that it may provide reliable service, including E-911, in the areas specified in the request. Based on ALLTEL's showing of E911/emergency communications problems caused by the lack of coverage, the Bureau concludes that ALLTEL has demonstrated extraordinary circumstances requiring operation in the public interest and that delay in the institution of such service would seriously prejudice the public interest. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 1.931(a)(2)(iv) of the Commission's rules, the Bureau finds good cause to grant the STA immediately for a period not to exceed 180 days.¹ Grant of this STA is without prejudice to and has no effect on any pending license application or proceeding concerning cellular operation in the GMSA or in any MSA or RSA adjacent to the GMSA, and is subject to any action the Commission may take in WT Docket No. 97-112.² Pursuant to Sections 309(f) and 405 of the Communications Act, any interested party objecting to this STA may file a

¹ ALLTEL may request additional extensions of the STA for periods not to exceed 180 days.

² Cellular Service and Other Commercial Mobile Radio Services in the Gulf of Mexico, WT Docket No. 97-112, Amendment of Part 22 of the Commission's Rules to Provide for Filing and Processing of Applications for Unserved Areas in the Cellular Service and to Modify Other Cellular Rules, CC Docket No. 90-6, *Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 12 FCC Rcd. 4576 (1997) (*Second Further Notice*).

petition for reconsideration within 30 days of this Public Notice.

Copies of ALLTEL's request for STA and the Commission's letter granting the STA will be available for inspection and duplication during regular business hours in the Office of Public Affairs, Public Reference Center, 445 12th Street, S.W., Suite CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. Copies may also be obtained from ITS, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. For further information, contact Michael Ferrante of the Commercial Wireless Division at (202) 418-1323 or mferrant@fcc.gov.