



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR ADDITIONAL UNLICENSED USE OF TV BAND AND 600 MHZ BAND SPECTRUM

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today proposed to modify its Part 15 rules to accommodate growing demand and encourage innovation in the provision of wireless broadband data services. The Commission’s Part 15 rules permit devices to operate on unused “white space” spectrum between TV stations. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking fulfills the Commission’s commitment in the *Incentive Auction Report and Order* to consider changes to its existing Part 15 rules to facilitate unlicensed use of the television bands, 600 MHz Band guard bands and channel 37.

Since the Commission finalized initial rules in 2010, unlicensed white space devices in the TV bands have been used primarily to provide broadband data and other services to schools and libraries. Unlicensed spectrum technologies have the potential to encourage competition in the broadband market, promote efficient delivery of broadband services in residences and businesses, and improve user experience with consumer devices needing short-range but high data rate communications.

Following the incentive auction, with the repacking of the television band and the repurposing of current television spectrum for wireless services, there will be fewer frequencies in the UHF band available for use by unlicensed fixed and personal/portable white space devices and wireless microphones. The proposed changes to Part 15 rules are designed to allow for more robust service and efficient spectral use in the frequency bands that are now and will continue to be allocated and assigned to broadcast television services, while continuing to protect authorized users from harmful interference.

The 600 MHz Band Plan adopted in the *Incentive Auction Report and Order* also provided new opportunities for unlicensed white space devices in the repurposed 600 MHz Band guard bands and channel 37. The Notice also proposes and seeks comment on rules to permit those operations, while protecting authorized licensed services from harmful interference.

Action by the Commission September 30, 2014, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 14-144). Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel and O’Rielly. Commissioner Pai approving and concurring in part. Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai and O’Rielly issuing statements. Docket No. 14-165

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