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Informal Working Group 6

PRELIMINARY VIEW ON WRC-03

WRC-2003 Agenda item 1.36: *to examine the adequacy of the frequency allocations for HF broadcasting from about 4 MHz to 10 MHz taking into account the seasonal planning procedures adopted by WRC-97.*

ISSUE: To determine the amount of additional spectrum required by the broadcasting service in the lower portion of the HF spectrum and likely bands within the 4–10 MHz band where an allocation might be made.

BACKGROUND: 790 kHz of additional frequency bands were allocated at WARC-92 to the HF broadcasting service. Of this amount, only 200 kHz were allocated in frequencies below 10 MHz. Frequencies below 10 MHz are the most desirable, for propagation reasons, for many circuit applications, particularly during the several years of low sunspot activity. This is encountered during the seasonal planning coordination meetings that precede every 6-month HF broadcasting schedule development. Further, it is manifest in actual broadcasting where interference is a severe problem at these lower frequencies and there also results lower service levels for those broadcasts that have to accept poorer propagation conditions at the higher frequencies because of limited capacity below 10 MHz.

Therefore, after WARC-92, broadcasters proposed an agenda item to deal with this problem. Agenda item 1.36 for WRC-03 is the final, approved version of this attempt.

Any additional allocation for HF broadcasting will impact on the fixed service, either by removing the allocation over a period of time or permitting some level of sharing between the services. This assumes that the studies on capacity vs. demand, etc. that will be completed for inclusion in the CPM-02 report show a clear inadequacy of the existing HF broadcasting service allocations in the HF bands below 10 MHz.

Parenthetically, agenda item 1.23, on alignment of the amateur/amateur-satellite and broadcasting services around 7 MHz, might be considered to be a “subset” of this agenda item.

U.S. VIEWS:

1. The US recognizes that there is a concern among HF broadcasters that they are prevented from providing a good quality service under many propagation conditions because there is an undersupply of spectrum for the Broadcasting Service in the bands below 10 MHz. Thus, the US agrees with the need for a thorough study of the consequences of the current situation, augmented with projections of future use of HF bands for broadcasting. There should be a clear set of findings from this study of the maximum amount of spectrum desired, as well as what can be accomplished with lesser amounts, including the consequence if no new spectrum.
2. Concomitantly, the US believes that study work is required on the current situation and projections of the use of the 4–10 MHz spectral region for the other Services that have allocations there.
3. Furthermore, the US believes that the bands allocated on an exclusive basis to the maritime mobile, aeronautical mobile (OR), and aeronautical mobile (R) services should not be considered for any reallocation. (04.09.01)