

UNITED STATES

PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WRC-07

Agenda Item 1.15: to consider a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz;

ISSUE: This agenda item seeks to add a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the LF band.

BACKGROUND: Working Party 8A was given the lead to develop CPM Text for WRC-07 agenda item 1.15 which is “to consider a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz.”

The FCC addressed a request from the American Radio Relay League, Inc., for a secondary allocation for the amateur service in the band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz in ET Docket No. 02-98. In the *Report and Order* in that proceeding [FCC 03-105, released May 14, 2003] the Commission declined to adopt the requested allocation due to Power Line Carrier (PLC) use of this frequency segment. The Commission concluded that amateur service use of this frequency segment would pose the potential conflict with PLC systems protecting and controlling the national power grid. The FCC found, therefore, that a new amateur service allocation in the 135.7 – 137.8 kHz frequency segment was not justified when balanced against the greater public interest of an interference-free power grid. In addition, the Commission found that the cost to of replacing PLC systems would be significant, would be disruptive to the public, and is not justified. In declining to adopt the allocation, the Commission pointed out that alternative, albeit less attractive, radio service that would allow communications in this band were available to amateur radio operators. Specifically, the Commission noted that, consistent with Part 15 of its Rules, amateur operators may operate unlicensed transmitters in the bands 135.7-137.8 kHz and 160-190 kHz; that the band 160-190 kHz would be a better option for amateur operations; and that amateur operators desiring additional flexibility may apply for experimental licenses under Part 5 of its rules.

U.S. VIEW: The United States does not anticipate allocating the band 135.7-137.8 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis at this time. The United States will not make a proposal for this agenda item.
