



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

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February 22, 2001

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

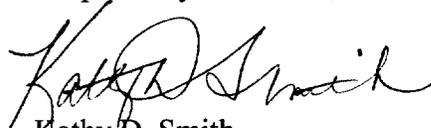
Re: Amendment of Part of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services, including Third Generation Wireless Systems, ET Docket No. 00-258

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed please an original and 4 copies of the Letter from John F. Sopko, Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, to Chairman Michael Powell in the above-referenced proceeding. Copies were hand-delivered to Chairman Powell and each of the Commissioners.

Please direct any questions you may have regarding this letter to the undersigned. Thank you for your cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,


Kathy D. Smith
Chief Counsel

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Michael Powell
The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Gloria Tristani

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
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The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Amendment of Part of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum Below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services, including Third Generation Wireless Systems, ET Docket No. 00-258

Dear Chairman Powell:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an Executive Branch agency within the Department of Commerce, manages and authorizes the Federal Government's use of the radio frequency spectrum. NTIA is the President's principal adviser on domestic and international telecommunications policy, including policies relating to the Nation's economic and technological advancement in telecommunications. NTIA's responsibilities include fostering new technology, encouraging the expansion of domestic wireless services, while ensuring that Federal agencies have adequate access to the spectrum to perform their critical missions.

NTIA is now preparing a final report that addresses the potential for accommodating 3G wireless systems in the 1710-1850 MHz band, including the estimated costs to relocate Federal systems from the 1710-1755 MHz band, and the 1755-1850 MHz band if that band were to be reallocated. The report will also address potential alternate frequency bands for displaced Federal operations and operational impacts associated with any migration of Federal operations from the 1755-1850 MHz band.

The Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on 3G accommodation requests comments on several aspects of Federal operations in the 1755-1850 MHz band. These issues are currently under study and will be addressed in the NTIA final report. To ensure the Commission has a complete record of the Federal operations, costs, and operational impacts, NTIA reserves its comments on the NPRM until the final report is complete. The final report, and other associated information regarding the establishment of 3G services, will be forwarded to the Commission to be made part of the record as soon as it is released.

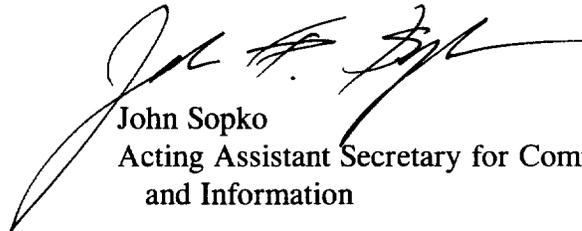
The Honorable Michael Powell
page 2

NTIA's and the Commission's final reports will be instrumental in the ability of our agencies to reach an informed decision for allocating new spectrum for advanced mobile wireless communications.

At the most recent industry outreach meeting on February 15, 2001, NTIA and Commission staff indicated that the Commission would make both reports available for public comment after their release on March 30th. NTIA believes that such public comments will also contribute significantly to the decision-making process.

I look forward to working with you and your staff on this complex, but critical issue.

Sincerely,



John Sopko
Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information