

Response to ET Docket No. 02-135

Public comment addressed to the Spectrum Policy Task Force
on issues related to FCC spectrum allocation policies

Dear Sir or Madam,

Since its inception in 1934 the FCC has provided the much needed regulatory ground on which the twin stalks of US industry and US science have flourished. In implementing market-oriented allocation policies the FCC should not favor the first in detriment the second, the value of which is impossible to cast in purely economical terms.

I urge the commission to work together with representatives of the Radio Astronomy and Remote Sensing communities to develop sensible arrangements to determine guarded frequency bands, out of band emission limits, and protected geographic demarcations ("electromagnetic parks"). If sensitive portions of the spectrum are to be open to unlicensed use, it is also important to establish clear enforcement procedures and means to identify offending devices. On its side, the Radio Astronomy community is doing its part, developing RF interference mitigation techniques and learning to cope with interferers. Because of the extremely faint nature of astronomical sources, however, these techniques cannot cope with arbitrary amounts of power. It is the role of the FCC to implement clear safeguard policies, lest we deafen ourselves to the universe that surrounds us.

Thanks for your consideration.
Sincerely,

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