

The Boeing Company
Frequency Management Services
P.O. Box 3707
Seattle, Washington 98124

July 17, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING



Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
TW-A325
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band
(WT Docket No. 02-55)**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Boeing Company ("Boeing") takes this opportunity to express its opinion on recent developments in the Commission's pending 800 MHz proceeding. As one of the larger private business users of the 800 MHz band and a user of 800 MHz spectrum in the Canadian border region, Boeing is demonstrably affected by the proposed resolutions to interference to public safety and other users in the 800 MHz band.

Boeing supports the principles underlying the 800 MHz User Coalition's Balanced Approach (hereinafter referred to as the "Balanced Approach"). Boeing believes that the Balanced Approach provides interference resolution and prevention without the accompanying detriments of forced rebanding.

The Balanced Approach will provide immediate, effective solutions that better serve the interests of the majority of users of the 800 MHz band. It provides near-term benefits that will likely provide an adequate long-term solution as well, and wisely defers drastic action pending an impartial assessment of the sufficiency of its "Step 1" measures.¹ Furthermore, because the Balanced Approach does not mandate rebanding, it avoids the complex issues that exist with respect to renegotiating border region bilateral agreements.

¹ Although Boeing supports the Balanced Approach, Boeing recommends one change to the proposal. Specifically, the Balanced Approach calls for Commission intervention 60 days after the parties fail to reach an interference resolution. Boeing would encourage the Commission to become involved in interference resolution as soon as either party considers it necessary to request the Commission's assistance.

Boeing also believes that the technical options recently advanced by Motorola (e.g., switchable attenuators and software-controlled tunable filters) can be used in conjunction with the Balanced Approach to further reduce the prospects of interference. Consistent with the current practice that interference causers pay for interference mitigation, Boeing believes that those causing harmful interference in the 800 MHz band should bear the costs of either modifying their own systems or providing these new technologies to public safety and other entities where needed.

In stark contrast, after well over a year of industry vetting, the "Consensus Proposal" remains an inadequate approach to resolve the 800 MHz problem. It is an interest group driven, overly complex, and inequitable proposal that would cause unrivaled displacement and inconvenience to incumbent users without a guarantee of funding or success. Furthermore, as detailed in Boeing's prior comments, Boeing remains critically concerned regarding the failure of the "Consensus Proposal" to address adequately issues related to the Canadian and Mexican border regions.

The time has come for the Commission to adopt a resolution to the 800 MHz interference problems raised in this proceeding. Boeing urges the Commission to maintain its focus on the overall public interest and the elimination of harmful interference to public safety operations. This goal can be attained without "reinventing the wheel" or a wholesale reorganization of the band. Through the use of the Balanced Approach and vigilant enforcement of the Commission's existing rules, the Commission has the tools and the authority necessary to perform this task.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sheldon R. Bentley
Sheldon R. Bentley
Spectrum Management and Radio Services
Shared Services Group
The Boeing Company
P.O. Box 3707, MC 3U-AJ
Seattle, WA 98124-2207
(253) 657-6713