

for a single license, authorizing operations throughout the contiguous and overlapping 40 dB $\mu$ V/m field strength contours of the multiple sites. Incumbents exercising this license exchange option must submit specific information on Form 601 for each of their external base sites after the close of the 800 MHz SMR auction. The incumbent's geographic license area is defined by the contiguous and overlapping 22 dB $\mu$ V/m contours of its constructed and operational external base stations and interior sites that are constructed within the construction period applicable to the incumbent. Once the geographic license is issued, facilities that are added within an incumbent's existing footprint and that are not subject to prior approval by the Commission will not be subject to construction requirements.

(2) *Special Provisions for Spectrum Blocks F1 through V.* Incumbent licensees that have received the consent of all affected parties or a certified frequency coordinator to utilize an 18 dB $\mu$ V/m signal strength interference contour operating at multiple sites may, after grant of EA licenses has been completed, exchange multiple site licenses for a single license. This single site license will authorize operations throughout the contiguous and overlapping 36 dB $\mu$ V/m field strength contours of the multiple sites. Incumbents exercising this license exchange option must submit specific information on Form 601 for each of their external base sites after the close of the 800 SMR auction. The incumbent's geographic license area is defined by the contiguous and overlapping 18 dB $\mu$ V/m contours of its constructed and operational external base stations and interior sites that are constructed within the construction period applicable to the incumbent. Once the geographic license is issued, facilities that are added within an incumbent's existing footprint and that are not subject to prior approval by the Commission will not be subject to construction requirements.

[64 FR 71055, Dec. 20, 1999, as amended at 69 FR 67852, Nov. 22, 2004; 70 FR 6761, Feb. 8, 2005; 70 FR 61062, Oct. 20, 2005]

**§ 90.699 Transition of the upper 200 channels in the 800 MHz band to EA licensing.**

In order to facilitate provision of service throughout an EA, an EA licensee may relocate incumbent licensees in its EA by providing "comparable facilities" on other frequencies in the 800 MHz band. Such relocation is subject to the following provisions:

(a)-(c) [Reserved]

(d) *Comparable facilities.* The replacement system provided to an incumbent during an involuntary relocation must be at least equivalent to the existing 800 MHz system with respect to the following four factors:

(1) *System.* System is defined functionally from the end user's point of view (*i.e.*, a system is comprised of base station facilities that operate on an integrated basis to provide service to a common end user, and all mobile units associated with those base stations). A system may include multiple-licensed facilities that share a common switch or are otherwise operated as a unitary system, provided that the end user has the ability to access all such facilities. A system may cover more than one EA if its existing geographic coverage extends beyond the EA borders.

(2) *Capacity.* To meet the comparable facilities requirement, an EA licensee must relocate the incumbent to facilities that provide equivalent channel capacity. We define channel capacity as the same number of channels with the same bandwidth that is currently available to the end user. For example, if an incumbent's system consists of five 50 kHz (two 25 kHz paired frequencies) channels, the replacement system must also have five 50 kHz channels. If a different channel configuration is used, it must have the same overall capacity as the original configuration. Comparable channel capacity requires equivalent signaling capability, baud rate, and access time. In addition, the geographic coverage of the channels must be coextensive with that of the original system.

(3) *Quality of service.* Comparable facilities must provide the same quality of service as the facilities being replaced. Quality of service is defined to mean that the end user enjoys the same level of interference protection

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on the new system as on the old system. In addition, where voice service is provided, the voice quality on the new system must be equal to the current system. Finally, reliability of service is considered to be integral to defining quality of service. Reliability is the degree to which information is transferred accurately within the system. Reliability is a function of equipment failures (*e.g.*, transmitters, feed lines, antennas, receivers, battery back-up power, etc.) and the availability of the frequency channel due to propagation characteristics (*e.g.*, frequency, terrain, atmospheric conditions, radio-frequency noise, etc.) For digital data systems, this will be measured by the percent of time the bit error rate exceeds the desired value. For analog or digital voice transmissions, this will be measured by the percent of time that audio signal quality meets an established threshold. If analog voice system is replaced with a digital voice system the resulting frequency response, harmonic distortion, signal-to-noise ratio, and reliability will be considered.

(4) *Operating costs.* Operating costs are those costs that affect the delivery of services to the end user. If the EA licensee provides facilities that entail higher operating cost than the incumbent's previous system, and the cost increase is a direct result of the relocation, the EA licensee must compensate the incumbent for the difference. Costs associated with the relocation process can fall into several categories. First, the incumbent must be compensated for any increased recurring costs associated with the replacement facilities (*e.g.*, additional rental payments, increased utility fees). Second, increased maintenance costs must be taken into consideration when determining whether operating costs are comparable. For example, maintenance costs associated with analog systems may be higher than the costs of digital equipment because manufacturers are producing mostly digital equipment and analog replacement parts can be difficult to find. An EA licensee's obligation to pay increased operating costs will end five years after relocation has occurred.

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(e)–(f) [Reserved]

[62 FR 41217, July 31, 1997, as amended at 77 FR 28798, May 16, 2012]

### Subpart T—Regulations Governing Licensing and Use of Frequencies in the 220–222 MHz Band

SOURCE: 56 FR 19603, Apr. 29, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 90.701 Scope.

(a) Frequencies in the 220–222 MHz band are available for land mobile and fixed use for both Government and non-Government operations. This subpart supplements part 1, subpart F of this chapter which establishes the requirements and conditions under which commercial and private radio stations may be licensed in the Wireless Telecommunications Services. The provisions of this subpart contain additional pertinent information for current and prospective licensees specific to the 220–222 MHz band.

(b)(1) Licensees granted initial authorizations for operations in the 220–222 MHz band from among applications filed on or before May 24, 1991 are referred to in this subpart as “Phase I” licensees;

(2) Applicants that filed initial applications for operations in the 220–222 MHz band on or before May 24, 1991 are referred to in this subpart as “Phase I” applicants; and

(3) All assignments, operations, stations, and systems of licensees granted authorizations from among applications filed for operations in the 220–222 MHz band on or before May 24, 1991 are referred to in this subpart as “Phase I” assignments, operations, stations, and systems, respectively.

(c)(1) Licensees granted initial authorizations for operations in the 220–222 MHz band from among applications filed after May 24, 1991 are referred to in this subpart as “Phase II” licensees;

(2) Applicants that filed initial applications for operations in the 220–222 MHz band after May 24, 1991 are referred to in this subpart as “Phase II” applicants; and

(3) All assignments, operations, stations, and systems of licensees granted