authority, a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Washington and the Region 10 office of the Environmental Protection Agency, and MOUs between the Department of Ecology and the Department of Health; the Department of Ecology and the Department of Natural Resources; and the Department of Ecology and the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.


Daniel D. Opalski,
Acting Regional Administrator, Region 10.

[FR Doc. 2013–05213 Filed 3–7–13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 2

[IB Docket No. 12–376; FCC 12–161]

Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft Communicating with Fixed-Satellite Service Geostationary-Orbit Space Stations

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeks comment on a proposal to elevate the allocation status of Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft (ESAA) in the 14.0–14.5 GHz band from secondary to primary and whether giving ESAA licensees primary status in the 14.0–14.5 GHz band would require a change to the technical rules.

DATES: Submit comments on or before April 8, 2013, and replies on or before April 29, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by IB Docket No. 12–376, by any of the following methods:

- People with Disabilities: Contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by email to FCC504@fcc.gov, phone: 202–418–0530 (voice), tty: 202–418–0432.

For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:


Comment Filing Procedures

Pursuant to §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates indicated above. Comments may be filed using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS Web site at http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/.

Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All filings must be addressed to the Commission’s Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission’s Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., SW., Room TW–A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building.

- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 445 12th Street SW., Washington DC 20554.

Summary of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

In the Report and Order released simultaneously with this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, IB Docket No. 12–376, the Commission adopts footnotes to the Table of Allocations indicating that ESAA is an application of the FSS and may be authorized to communicate with GSO space stations on a primary basis in the 11.7–12.2 GHz band (space-to-Earth), on an unprotected basis in 10.95–11.2 GHz and 11.45–11.7 GHz (space-to-Earth), and on a secondary basis in the 14.0–14.5 GHz band (Earth-to-space). A number of parties argue, however, that regulatory parity between ESV, VMES and ESAA suggests that ESAA as an application of the FSS should also be authorized on a primary basis in the 14.0–14.5 GHz uplink band. The Commission believes that the technical rules adopted in the Report and Order would support such a regulatory change. Accordingly, the Commission tentatively concurs with this recommendation and seeks comment on the proposal to elevate ESAA as an application of the FSS to primary status in the 14.0–14.5 GHz band (Earth-to-space) band. Specifically, we propose to revise non-Federal government (NG) footnote 55 to include a primary allocation for ESAA in the 14.0–14.5 GHz (Earth-to-space) band. The proposed footnote reads as follows:

NG55 In the bands 11.7–12.2 GHz (space-to-Earth) and 14–14.5 GHz (Earth-to-space), Earth Stations on Vessels (ESV), Vehicle-Mounted Earth Stations (VMES), and Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft (ESAA) as regulated under 47 CFR part 25 are applications of the fixed-satellite service and may be authorized to communicate with geostationary satellites in the fixed-satellite service on a primary basis.

This proposed footnote would grant primary status to ESAA in the 14.0–14.5 GHz band, and as a ministerial matter, would consolidate the text from footnotes NG54, NG183, and NG187, which the Commission proposes to eliminate. The Commission requests comment on these proposals, including on all costs and benefits. Further, the Commission also seeks comment on whether changing ESAA operations in the uplink band from secondary status...
to primary status requires any adjustment to our technical rules.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Analyses

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking contains no new or modified information collection requirements as it merely proposes a change to the Table of Allocations.

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, as amended (RFA), the Commission has prepared this present Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) of the possible significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities by the policies and rules proposed in this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in IB Docket No. 12–376. Written public comments are requested on this IRFA. Comments must be identified as responses to the IRFA and must be filed by the deadlines specified in the NPRM for comments.

The NPRM seeks to promote innovative and flexible use of satellite technology to provide advanced communications capabilities from earth stations that would operate on board aircraft as a licensed application of the Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) in the 10.95–11.2 GHz, 11.45–11.7 GHz, 11.7–12.2 GHz, and 14.0–14.5 GHz bands within the United States. This application is called Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft (ESAA). The NPRM seeks comment on a proposal to elevate the allocation status of ESAA in the band from secondary to primary.

The proposed action is authorized pursuant to sections 1, 2, 4(i), 301, 302, 303, and 324 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 152, 154(i), 301, 302, 303, and 324.

The RFA directs agencies to provide a description of and, where feasible, an estimate of the number of small entities that may be affected by the rules adopted herein. The RFA generally defines the term “small entity” as having the same meaning as the terms “small business,” “small organization,” and “small governmental jurisdiction.” In addition, the term “small business” has the same meaning as the term “small business concern” under the Small Business Act. A small business concern is one that: (1) Is independently owned and operated; (2) is not dominant in its field of operation; and (3) satisfies any additional criteria established by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Two economic census categories address the satellite industry. The first category has a small business size standard of $15 million or less in average annual receipts, under SBA rules. The second has a size standard of $25 million or less in annual receipts. The category of Satellite Telecommunications “comprises establishments primarily engaged in providing telecommunications services to other establishments in the telecommunications and broadcasting industries by forwarding and receiving communications signals via a system of satellites or reselling satellite telecommunications.” Census Bureau data for 2007 show that 512 Satellite Telecommunications firms that operated for that entire year. Of this total, 464 firms had annual receipts of under $10 million, and 18 firms had receipts of $10 million to $24,999,999. Consequently, the Commission estimates that the majority of Satellite Telecommunications firms are small entities that might be affected by our action.

The second category, i.e., “All Other Telecommunications” comprises “establishments primarily engaged in providing specialized telecommunications services, such as satellite tracking, communications telemetry, and radar station operation. This industry also includes establishments primarily engaged in providing satellite terminal stations and associated facilities connected with one or more terrestrial systems and capable of transmitting telecommunications to, and receiving telecommunications from, satellite systems. For this category, Census Bureau data for 2007 show that there were a total of 2,383 firms that operated for the entire year. Of this total, 2,347 firms had annual receipts of under $25 million and 12 firms had annual receipts of $25 million to $49,999,999. Consequently, the Commission estimates that the majority of All Other Telecommunications firms are small entities that might be affected by our action.

Commission records reveal that there are approximately 20 space station licensees and operators in the 10.95–11.2 GHz, 11.45–11.7 GHz, 11.7–12.2 GHz and 14.0–14.5 GHz bands. We do not request or collect annual revenue information concerning such licensees and operators, and thus are unable to estimate the number of geostationary space station licensees and operators that would constitute a small business under the SBA definition cited above, or apply any rules providing special consideration for geostationary space station licensees and operators that are small businesses.

Currently there are approximately 2,879 operational Fixed-Satellite Service transmit/receive earth stations authorized for use in the band. The Commission does not request or collect annual revenue information, and thus is unable to estimate the number of earth stations that would constitute a small business under the SBA definition. The rules proposed here merely propose a change to the Table of Frequency Allocations, and therefore the Commission does not project any new reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements for the licensees.

The RFA requires that, to the extent consistent with the objectives of applicable statutes, the analysis shall discuss significant alternatives such as: (1) The establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance and reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standards; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.

The NPRM solicits comment on alternatives to elevation of the status of ESAA in the 14.0–14.5 GHz band to primary status.

Ordering Clauses

It is further ordered that pursuant to the authority contained in sections 4(i), 303(j), and 303(t) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), 303(j), and 303(t) the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in IB Docket No. 12–376 is adopted.

It is further ordered that the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center SHALL SEND a copy of the related Report and Order and this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, including the final regulatory flexibility analysis and initial regulatory flexibility analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, in accordance with section 603(a) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, et seq.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 2

Frequency allocations.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,
Secretary.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR part 2 as follows:
PART 2—FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS AND RADIO TREATY MATTERS; GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 2 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 302a, 303, and 336, unless otherwise noted.

2. Amend §2.106, the Table of Frequency Allocations, as follows:

a. Pages 47 and 49 are revised.

b. In the list of non-Federal Government (NG) Footnotes, footnote NG55 is revised and footnotes NG54, NG183 and NG187 are removed.

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§2.106 Table of Frequency Allocations.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region 1 Table</th>
<th>Region 2 Table</th>
<th>Region 3 Table</th>
<th>Federal Table</th>
<th>Non-Federal Table</th>
<th>FCC Rule Part(s)</th>
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<td>Fixed Microwave (101)</td>
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**Notes:**
- **Region 1 Table:**
  - FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) 5.457A 5.457B 5.484A 5.506 5.506B
  - RADIONAVIGATION 5.504
  - Mobile-satellite (Earth-to-space) 5.504B 5.506A 5.506B
  - Space research

- **Region 2 Table:**
  - FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) 5.457A 5.457B 5.484A 5.506 5.506B
  - RADIONAVIGATION 5.504
  - Mobile-satellite (Earth-to-space) 5.504B 5.506A 5.506B
  - Space research

- **Region 3 Table:**
  - FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) 5.457A 5.457B 5.484A 5.506 5.506B
  - Mobile-satellite (Earth-to-space) 5.504B 5.506A 5.506B
  - Mobile-satellite (Earth-to-space) 5.504B 5.506A 5.506B
  - Space research

- **Federal Table:**
  - 14-14.2 Space research US133
  - 14-14.2 FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) NG55
  - 14-14.4 FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) NG55
  - 14-14.47 FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) NG55

- **Non-Federal Table:**
  - 14-14.2-14.47 FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) NG55
  - 14-14.2-14.47 FIXED-SATELLITE (Earth-to-space) NG55

- **FCC Rule Part(s):**
  - Satellite Communications (25)
**Non-Federal Government (NG) Footnotes**

NG55 In the bands 11.7–12.2 GHz (space-to-Earth) and 14–14.5 GHz (Earth-to-space), Earth Stations on Vessels (ESV), Vehicle-Mounted Earth Stations (VMES), and Earth Stations Aboard Aircraft (ESA) as regulated under 47 CFR part 25 are applications of the fixed-satellite service and may be authorized to communicate with geostationary satellites in the fixed-satellite service on a primary basis.

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

47 CFR Part 54

[WC Docket No. 10–90; DA 13–276]

Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Further Discussion Topics and Seeks Additional Comment in Connect America Cost Model Virtual Workshop

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Wireline Competition Bureau seeks public input on three newly added virtual workshop discussion topics and further comment on two existing topics.

DATES: Comments are due on or before March 25, 2013. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by WC Docket No. 10–90, by any of the following methods:

- Federal Communications Commission’s Web Site: http://jfgloss.fcc.gov/ecfs2/. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- Virtual Workshop: In addition to the usual methods for filing electronic comments, the Commission is allowing comments, reply comments, and ex parte comments in this proceeding to be filed by posting comments at http://www.fcc.gov/blog/wcb-cost-model-virtual-workshop-2012.
- People with Disabilities: Contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by email: FCC504@fcc.gov or phone: (202) 418–0530 or TTY: (202) 418–0432.

For detailed instructions for submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katie King, Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418–7491 or TTY (202) 418–0484.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Wireline Competition Bureau’s Public Notice in WC Docket Nos. 10–90; DA 13–276 released February 22, 2013, as well as information posted online in the Wireline Competition Bureau’s Virtual Workshop. The complete text of the Public Notice is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street SW., Room CY–A257, Washington, DC 20554. These documents may also be purchased by the Commission’s duplicating contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc. (BCPI), 445 12th Street SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone (800) 378–3160 or (202) 863–2893, facsimile (202) 863–2896, or via the Internet at http://www.bcpiweb.com. In addition, the Virtual Workshop may be accessed via the Internet at http://www.fcc.gov/blog/wcb-cost-model-virtual-workshop-2012.

1. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announced the commencement of a virtual workshop to solicit input and facilitate discussion on topics related to the development and adoption of the forward-looking cost model for Connect America Phase II. To date, parties have commented on 18 different topics in the virtual workshop. On January 17, 2013, the Bureau announced the release of version two of the Connect America Cost Model.

2. Today, the Bureau seeks public input on three newly added virtual workshop discussion topics:

- Income and Property Tax
- Fiber-to-the-Premises Capital Cost Inputs
- Determining the Fraction of Supported Locations that will Receive Speeds of 6 Mbps/1.5 Mbps or Greater

3. In addition, the Bureau seeks public input on additional questions relating to plant mix input values and the busy hour offered load value when it adopts the final version of the model. Coalition and asks whether it should use that plant mix data when it adopts the final version of the model.

4. Responses should be submitted in the virtual workshop no later than March 25, 2013.

5. The Bureau may continue to add discussion topics or follow-up questions, which will be announced by Public Notice. Parties can participate in the virtual workshop by visiting the Connect America Fund Web page, http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/connecting-america, and following the link to the virtual workshop.

6. Comments from the virtual workshop will be included in the official public record of this proceeding. The Bureau will not rely on anonymous comments posted during the workshop in reaching decisions regarding the model. Participants should be aware that identifying information from parties that post material in the virtual workshop will be publicly available for inspection upon request, even though such information may not be posted in the workshop forums.

I. Procedural Matters

A. Initial Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis

7. As required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, as amended (RFA), the Bureau prepared an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), included as part of the Model Design PN, 77 FR 38804, June 29, 2012, of the possible significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities by the policies and rules proposed in these Public Notices and the information posted online in the Virtual Workshops. We have reviewed the IRFA and have determined that is does not need to be supplemented.

B. Paperwork Reduction Act

8. This document does not contain proposed information collection(s) subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104–13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any new or modified information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees, pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107–198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4).

C. Filing Requirements

9. Comments and Replies. Pursuant to sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the