Federal Spectrum Management at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration -NTIA-

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NTIA’s Mission

• President’s principal advisor on telecommunications issues
  http://www.ntia.doc.gov

• Manager of federal use of the radio spectrum
  http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/osmhome.html
The law provides FCC and NTIA authority over users, not over specific parts of the spectrum.
Where does NTIA get advice?

- Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee
- Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee
- Communications representatives direct contact
- Administration views
• Formal access via CSMAC
• Direct access to Assistant Secretary
• Direct access to OSM Associate Administrator and staff
• Access to IRAC
  – Limited time available during meetings
  – Focus on spectrum management implications
• Access to federal agencies
Components of the Presidential Memo

- DOC (NTIA) directed to complete a plan and timetable, in collaboration with the FCC, making available 500 MHz over 10 years suitable for wireless broadband on an exclusive or shared basis.
  - In addition, at request of the White House, NTIA is evaluating 4 “fast track” bands to determine whether spectrum can be made available for wireless broadband within 5 years.
- OMB directed to incorporate in the plan adequate funding, incentives and assistance to enable agencies to accomplish the actions specified in the Memo.
- NTIA directed to create and implement, in consultation with NIST, NSF, DOD, DOJ, NASA and other agencies, a plan to facilitate research, development, experimentation testing of spectrum-sharing technologies.
- October 1, 2010 Deliverables
  - 10-year Plan and Timetable
  - Fast Track Report
Plan and Timetable for 500 MHz Over 10 Years

- Plan identifies over 2200 MHz below 4.4 GHz for evaluation
  - 638.9 MHz exclusive Federal
  - 790 MHz exclusive non-Federal
  - 835 MHz shared
- Plan focuses on the steps and timelines required to identify and make the spectrum available.
- The plan is structured around prioritization of candidate bands for analysis, and detailed study of prioritized bands on a rolling basis.
- The band industry wants most is 1755-1780 MHz and 1780-1850 MHz remains a prime candidate. Recent interest by the UTC may conflict with this.
- Increased emphasis on sharing and less exclusivity.
• **1675-1710 MHz** – NTIA recommends that top 15 MHz (1695-1710 MHz) be reallocated.

• **1755-1780 MHz** – NTIA removed it from fast track consideration because there are too many agencies, sensitive uses, and uses requiring redesign in the band to have completed the analysis by the October 1 fast track deadline. However, it remains the industry band of interest.

• **3500-3650 MHz** – NTIA recommends that 100 MHz of this band be made available for wireless broadband. This is band is used for DOD tactical radars. Commercial use will be subject to exclusion zones along coasts and near a number of DOD training sites inland.

• **4200-4220 and 4380-4400 MHz** – NTIA recommends that the Administration consider further the reallocation of these 40 MHz. To do so will require international regulatory action, which will not be completed before 2016. The bands are used for radio altimeters for aircraft safety.
• Drafted in 2010 but not passed
• Separate versions in the House and Senate
• Web-Accessible Information and Report to Congress
• Security Issues for the Federal Government
• What is the Purpose and what Information is needed?