



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## AUCTION OF LICENSES IN THE 698-746 MHz BAND SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 19, 2002

### Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments and Other Auction Procedures

Report No. AUC-02-44-B (Auction No. 44)

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## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Introduction

By this public notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (“Bureau”) announces the procedures and minimum opening bids for the upcoming auction of licenses in the 698-746 MHz (“Lower 700 MHz”) band scheduled for June 19, 2002 (Auction No. 44).<sup>1</sup> On January 24, 2002, in accordance with the Balanced Budget Act of 1997,<sup>2</sup> the Bureau released a public notice seeking comment on reserve prices or minimum opening bids and the procedures to be used in Auction No. 44.<sup>3</sup> The Bureau received eight comments<sup>4</sup> and thirteen reply comments<sup>5</sup> in response<sup>6</sup> to the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Reallocation and Service Rules for the 698-746 Spectrum MHz Band (Television Channels 52-59), GN Docket 01-74, *Report and Order*, FCC 01-364, (“*Lower 700 MHz Report & Order*”) (rel. January 18, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Pub. L. No. 105-33, 111 Stat. 251, § 3002(a) (1997) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 309(j)(4)(F)) (“Balanced Budget Act”). The Commission’s authority to establish a reserve price or minimum opening bid is set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2104(c) and (d).

<sup>3</sup> See Auction of Licenses in the 698-746 MHz Band Scheduled for June 19, 2002; Comment Sought on Reserve Prices or Minimum Opening Bids and Other Auction Procedural Issues, *Public Notice*, DA 02-200 (rel. January 24, 2002) (“*Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*”).

<sup>4</sup> Comments were filed on January 31, 2002 by Scott D. Reiter and Vincent D. McBride (“Reiter/McBride”). Comments were filed on February 6, 2002 by McBride Spectrum Partners, LLC (“McBride”), Paxson Communications Corporation (“Paxson”), Rural 700 MHz Group, Rural Telecommunications Group (“RTG”), Spectrum Exchange Group, LLC and Allen & Company Incorporated (“Spectrum Exchange/Allen”), Telcom Consulting Associates (“TCA”), and United States Cellular Corporation (“US Cellular”).

<sup>5</sup> Reply Comments were filed on February 13, 2002 by Council Tree Communications, LLC (“Council Tree”), Entravision Communications Corporation (“Entravision”), Leap Wireless International, Inc. (“Leap”), McBride Spectrum Partners, LLC (“McBride”), National Telephone Cooperative Association (“NTCA”), Norwell Television, LLC (“Norwell”), Paxson Communications Corporation (“Paxson”), Rural 700 MHz Group (“Group”), Rural Telecommunications Group (“RTG”), Spectrum Clearing Alliance (“Spectrum Alliance”), Spectrum Exchange Group, LLC and Allen & Company Incorporated (“Spectrum Exchange/Allen”), Telecom Consulting Associates (“TCA”), and United States Cellular Corporation (“US Cellular”). Spectrum Exchange Group submitted a late-filed comment on March 15, 2002.

<sup>6</sup> A substantial portion of the comments filed by Reiter/McBride and McBride address the Commission’s ownership attribution rules as applied in Auction No. 35. See Comments of Reiter/McBride at 1-3; see also Comments of McBride at 1-7. Because these rules have been adopted by the Commission in its Part 1 rulemaking proceeding and were not a matter upon which the Bureau sought comment, the Bureau will not address them in this public notice. See Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules--Competitive Bidding Procedures, WT Docket No. 97-82, *Order on Reconsideration of the Third Report and Order, Fifth Report and Order, and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 15 FCC Rcd 15293 (2000) (modified by Erratum, DA 00-2475 (rel. Nov. 3, 2000) (“*Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*”) (recons. pending).

<sup>7</sup> On February 28, 2002, the Rural 700 MHz Group submitted a “Supplement” to its Comments and Reply Comments. In its Supplement, the Rural 700 MHz Group stated that the name “PVT” should be added to the list of participants in the Rural 700 MHz Group.

## 1. Background of Proceeding

On January 18, 2002, the Commission released the *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order* which adopted allocation and service rules for the Lower 700 MHz Band.<sup>8</sup> Specifically, the Commission reallocated the entire 48 megahertz of spectrum in the Lower 700 MHz Band to fixed and mobile services and retained the existing broadcast allocation for both new broadcast services and incumbent broadcast services during their transition to digital television (“DTV”).<sup>9</sup> The Commission established technical criteria designed to protect incumbent television operations in the band during the DTV transition period, allowed low power television (“LPTV”) and TV translator stations to retain secondary status and operate in the band after the transition, and set forth a mechanism by which pending broadcast applications may be amended to provide analog or digital service in the core television spectrum or to provide digital service on TV Channels 52-58.<sup>10</sup>

In its service rules, the Commission divided the Lower 700 MHz Band into three 12-megahertz blocks, with each block consisting of a pair of 6-megahertz segments, and two 6-megahertz blocks of contiguous, unpaired spectrum. The Commission will license the five blocks in the Lower 700 MHz Band plan as follows: the two 6-megahertz blocks of contiguous unpaired spectrum, as well as two of the three 12-megahertz blocks of paired spectrum, will be assigned over six Economic Area Groupings (“EAGs”); the remaining 12 megahertz block of paired spectrum will be licensed over 734 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (“MSAs”) and Rural Service Areas (“RSAs”).<sup>11</sup> All operations in the Lower 700 MHz Band will be generally regulated under the framework of Part 27’s technical, licensing, and operating rules.<sup>12</sup> To permit both wireless services and certain new broadcast operations in the Lower 700 MHz Band, however, the Commission has amended the maximum power limits in Part 27 to permit 50 kW effective radiated power (“ERP”) transmissions in the Lower 700 MHz Band, subject to certain conditions.<sup>13</sup> Finally, the Commission established competitive bidding procedures and voluntary band-clearing mechanisms for the Lower 700 MHz Band.<sup>14</sup>

With respect to the MSA and RSA licenses, the Bureau notes that MSAs and RSAs are collectively known as Cellular Market Areas (CMAs). CMAs 1-306 are based on MSAs; CMAs 307-734 are based

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<sup>8</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order* at ¶ 1.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 13-14.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 13-14, 27-33, and 44-46.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 76-96. For the Lower 700 MHz band, the Commission adopted Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Rural Service Areas (RSAs) as defined by Public Notice Report No. CL-92-40 “Common Carrier Public Mobile Services Information, Cellular MSA/RSA Markets and Counties,” dated January 24, 1992, DA 92-109, 7 FCC Rcd 742 (1992), with the following modifications: (i) the service areas of cellular markets that border the U.S. coastline of the Gulf of Mexico extend 12 nautical miles from the U.S. Gulf coastline; and (ii) the service area of cellular market 306 that comprises the water area of the Gulf of Mexico extends from 12 nautical miles off the U.S. Gulf coast outward into the Gulf. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 27.6(c)(2).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 97-123.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 99-111.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* at ¶¶ 164-179.

on RSAs. The CMA designation, not MSA/RSA, is used in the FCC Automated Auction System and in the Universal Licensing System.

## 2. Licenses to Be Auctioned

The licenses available in Auction No. 44 will include 758 licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band. In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, the Bureau offered two options for grouping the 758 licenses. The Bureau sought comment on 1) grouping all 758 licenses together in Auction No. 44, or 2) including only the 734 MSA/RSA licenses in Auction No. 44 and including the 24 Lower 700 MHz EAG licenses in Auction No. 31 with the 12 EAG licenses in the 747-762 and 777-792 MHz bands (“Upper 700 MHz” bands). The Bureau also sought comment on this issue in a public notice addressing procedures for Auction No. 31.<sup>15</sup>

Commenters were divided on whether to include the 24 Lower 700 MHz band EAG licenses in Auction No. 31. Commenters favoring the inclusion of the Lower 700 MHz band EAG licenses in Auction No. 31 tended to focus on separating the Lower 700 MHz band EAG licenses from the 734 Lower 700 MHz band MSA/RSA licenses rather than on combining the 24 Lower 700 MHz band EAG licenses with the 12 Upper 700 MHz band EAG licenses. Commenters opposing inclusion tended to focus on the possibility that continuing rule making proceedings in the Lower 700 MHz band might delay auction of those licenses and any other licenses grouped with them, including the Upper 700 MHz band licenses.

### (a) Comments Favoring Including the Lower 700 MHz EAG Licenses in Auction No. 31

RTG and the Rural 700 MHz Group request that the Commission combine in a single auction the 24 EAG licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band with the 12 EAG licenses in the Upper 700 MHz band.<sup>16</sup> According to the Rural 700 MHz Group, it would be administratively simple for bidders interested in the EAG licenses to participate in a single auction, rather than two simultaneous auctions.<sup>17</sup> The Rural 700 MHz Group also contends that separating the EAG licenses from the MSA/RSA licenses might attract new small business entrants to Auction No. 44.<sup>18</sup> RTG believes that grouping the MSA/RSA licenses with the EAG licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band may discourage many smaller carriers from participating in Auction No. 44.<sup>19</sup> RTG also asserts that grouping the Lower 700 MHz EAG-licenses with the Upper 700 MHz EAG-licenses will avoid confusion and improve the efficiency of both Auction Nos. 31 and 44.<sup>20</sup> TCA also supports limiting Auction No. 44 to MSA/RSA licenses, believing that it will limit the amount

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<sup>15</sup> Auction of Licenses in the 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands Scheduled for June 19, 2002; Comment Sought on Adding to Auction Inventory and Further Modifying Package Bidding Procedures, DA 02-260, *Public Notice*, 17 FCC Rcd 2117 (2002).

<sup>16</sup> Comments of Rural 700 MHz Group at 2; Comments of RTG at 2-3.

<sup>17</sup> Comments of Rural 700 MHz Group at 2.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* at 2-3.

<sup>19</sup> Comments of RTG at 2-3.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 2-3.

of overall bidding eligibility and increase the number of licenses in the control of many different entities, including rural telephone companies.<sup>21</sup> TCA supports auctioning the MSA/RSA licenses separately from the EAG licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band, to further the opportunities for small and rural carriers.<sup>22</sup> McBride also does not want the larger EAG licenses to be grouped with MSA/RSA licenses that are likely to be of interest to smaller carriers.<sup>23</sup> Finally, NTCA agrees with RTG, the Rural 700 MHz Group and TCA that auctioning the MSA/RSA licenses separately may increase rural carrier and other small business participation.<sup>24</sup>

Leap believes that grouping the EAG licenses in the Upper and the Lower 700 MHz bands in the same auction is the most efficient way to conduct the auction, because bidders will perceive EAG licenses in the two bands as relatively substitutable and will implicitly place values on these licenses with reference to the price and availability of all others.<sup>25</sup> Leap also contends that combining Auction Nos. 31 and 44 would produce an unmanageable situation in a package bidding environment and thus, recommends that the MSA/RSA licenses be auctioned separately, without package bidding features.<sup>26</sup>

**(b) Comments Opposing Including the 24 Lower 700 MHz Band EAG Licenses in Auction No. 31**

In its comments, Paxson opposes grouping the 24 EAG licenses in Auction No. 44 with the 12 EAG licenses in Auction No. 31.<sup>27</sup> Paxson asserts that there is no chance of clearing the Lower 700 MHz band for many years to come, and thus, it recommends that the EAG licenses in Auction No. 31 be kept separate from the EAG licenses in Auction No. 44 to assure that a delay in conducting Auction No. 44 does not result in a delay in the start of Auction No. 31.<sup>28</sup> Paxson also argues there are no real administrative efficiencies to be achieved by linking Auction Nos. 31 and 44, because all of the prospective bidders have been planning their software and tracking tools based on current auction inventory.<sup>29</sup> Spectrum Exchange/Allen agrees that all 758 licenses should be sold together, adding that

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<sup>21</sup> Comments of TCA at 2.

<sup>22</sup> Reply Comments of TCA at 2-3.

<sup>23</sup> Reply Comments of McBride at 1-2. *But see* Reply Comments of McBride at 3, in which McBride supports consolidation of licenses into a single auction.

<sup>24</sup> Reply Comments of the NTCA at 1-2.

<sup>25</sup> Reply Comments of Leap at 1-2.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.* at 2-5. Leap also requests that the Commission create more MSA/RSA licenses from the Lower 700 MHz spectrum. *Id.* The Commission decided on a band plan for the Lower 700 MHz band in the *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order*. See *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order* ¶¶ at 7-36. Because this issue has been addressed by the Commission and was not an issue on which the Bureau sought comment, we will not address it in this public notice.

<sup>27</sup> Comments of Paxson at 7; *see also* Reply Comments of Paxson at 3-5.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.* at 8-9.

<sup>29</sup> Reply Comments of Paxson at 3-5

the Bureau should use package bidding provisions similar to those employed for Auction No. 31.<sup>30</sup> The Spectrum Alliance also supports Paxson’s position that the Bureau should not risk delaying the Upper 700 MHz auction by linking it with the Lower 700 MHz auction in any regard.<sup>31</sup> Finally, Entravision agrees with Paxson that the Bureau’s proposal to group the EAG licenses from both the Upper 700 MHz and Lower 700 MHz auctions would delay the Upper 700 MHz auction because postponement of the Lower 700 MHz auction is likely due to the heavily encumbered status of the Lower 700 MHz spectrum.<sup>32</sup>

**(c) Comments Advocating Including All Lower and Upper 700 MHz Band Licenses in a Single Auction**

One commenter, US Cellular, recommends that the Bureau include in a single auction all 12 licenses in the Upper 700 MHz band and 758 licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band.<sup>33</sup> According to US Cellular, a consolidation of the auction of the 700 MHz spectrum will help avoid the “effects of the head-start advantage” of licensing EAGs before licensing MSAs/RSAs in the 700 MHz band.<sup>34</sup>

After careful review of the comments, the Bureau concludes that it will not include the 24 Lower 700 MHz EAG licenses in Auction No. 31 with the Upper 700 MHz EAG licenses. The Bureau is not persuaded that grouping the MSA/RSA licenses in an auction with the Lower 700 MHz EAG licenses will create a disadvantage to small businesses and rural telephone companies. We do not agree with those commenters that believe that separating the 734 MSAs/RSAs from the 24 EAGs would provide greater opportunities for small businesses and rural telephone companies.<sup>35</sup> Larger entities that do not qualify for bidding credits would continue to be eligible to participate in an auction of the 734 MSA/RSA licenses. In the *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*, the Commission adopted MSAs/RSAs as the licensing area for a portion of the Lower 700 MHz band to promote opportunities for a wide variety of applicants, including small and rural wireless providers, to obtain spectrum.<sup>36</sup> However, the Commission did not decide to restrict eligibility for these licenses to small and rural service providers.<sup>37</sup> Because the Commission adopted licensing rules for the Lower 700 MHz band that provide for open eligibility, the Bureau declines to consider license groupings for the purpose of discouraging participation in the auction by any particular class of bidders. We disagree with those commenters who suggest that grouping the MSA/RSA licenses with the EAG licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band may discourage many smaller carriers from participating in Auction No. 44. The Commission has sought to provide small businesses with an opportunity to successfully compete against larger, well-financed bidders by defining three tiers of small-

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<sup>30</sup> Comments of Spectrum Exchange/Allen at 5-7; see also Reply Comments of Spectrum Exchange/Allen at 1-2.

<sup>31</sup> Reply Comments of Spectrum Alliance at 1-2.

<sup>32</sup> Reply Comments of Entravision at 1-2.

<sup>33</sup> Comments of US Cellular at 2.

<sup>34</sup> *Id.*

<sup>35</sup> Comments of TCA at 2; see also Comments of RTG at 2-3, and Reply Comments of the NTCA at 1-2.

<sup>36</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order* at ¶ 173.

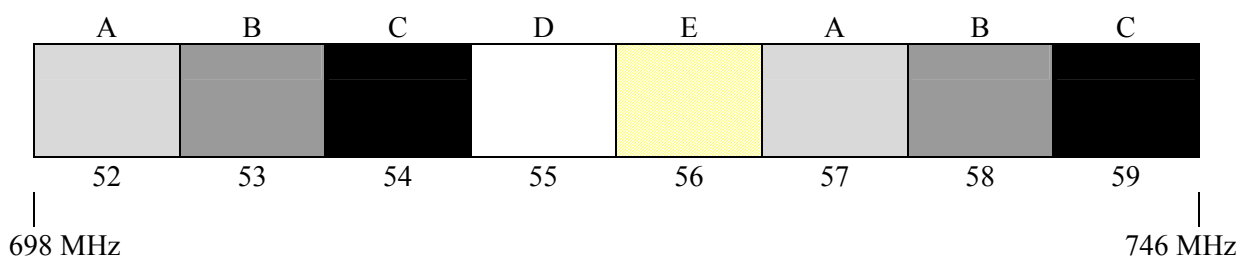
<sup>37</sup> *Id.* at ¶ 95.



businesses that are eligible for bidding credits. As the Commission noted in the *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order*, the use of a third small entity definition may result in the dissemination of licenses among an even wider range of small business entities, consistent with its obligations under Section 309(j)(3)(B) of the Act.<sup>38</sup>

Therefore, Auction No. 44 will include all 758 licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band. Two 12-megahertz blocks consisting of a pair of 6-megahertz segments and two 6-megahertz blocks of contiguous, unpaired spectrum will be offered in each of the six 700 MHz band EAGs. Additionally, one 12-megahertz block consisting of a pair of 6-megahertz segments will be offered in each of 734 MSAs/RSAs. A complete list of licenses available in Auction No. 44 and their descriptions is included in Attachment A of this Public Notice.

The following table contains the block/frequency cross-reference for the 698-746 MHz band and also shows the current television channelization:



Block	Frequencies	Bandwidth	Pairing	Geographic Area Type	No. of Licenses
A	698-704, 728-734	12 MHz	2 x 6 MHz	700 MHz EAG	6
B	704-710, 734-740	12 MHz	2 x 6 MHz	700 MHz EAG	6
C	710-716, 740-746	12 MHz	2 x 6 MHz	MSA/RSA	734
D	716-722	6 MHz	unpaired	700 MHz EAG	6
E	722-728	6 MHz	unpaired	700 MHz EAG	6

## B. Rules and Disclaimers

### 1. Relevant Authority

Prospective bidders must familiarize themselves thoroughly with the Commission’s rules relating to the Lower 700 MHz band contained in Title 47, Part 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and those relating to application and auction procedures, contained in Title 47, Part 1 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Prospective bidders must also be thoroughly familiar with the procedures, terms and conditions (collectively, "Terms") contained in this Public Notice; the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*; and the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order* (as well as prior and subsequent Commission proceedings regarding competitive bidding procedures).<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order* at ¶ 174.

<sup>39</sup> *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*. The Commission has further amended Section 1.2105 of the Competitive Bidding Rules. See *In the Matter of Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules--Competitive Bidding Procedures, Seventh Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 17546, 17555, ¶ 17 (2001) (“*Part 1 Seventh Report and*

Auction participants bidding on licenses in the 698-746 MHz spectrum band should also be familiar with the *Lower 700 MHz Notice of Proposed Rule Making*,<sup>40</sup> and the *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order*.<sup>41</sup>

The terms contained in the Commission's rules, relevant orders, and public notices are not negotiable. The Commission may amend or supplement the information contained in our public notices at any time, and will issue public notices to convey any new or supplemental information to bidders. It is the responsibility of all prospective bidders to remain current with all Commission rules and with all public notices pertaining to this auction. Copies of most Commission documents, including public notices, can be retrieved from the FCC Auctions Internet site at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/auctions>. Additionally, documents are available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC, 20554 or may be purchased from the Commission's duplicating contractor, Qualex International, Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone 202-863-2893, facsimile 202-863-2898, or via e-mail [qualexint@aol.com](mailto:qualexint@aol.com). When ordering documents from Qualex, please provide the appropriate FCC number (for example, FCC 01-364 for the *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*).

## 2. Prohibition of Collusion

To ensure the competitiveness of the auction process, the Commission's rules prohibit applicants for the same geographic license area from communicating with each other during the auction about bids, bidding strategies, or settlements.<sup>42</sup> This prohibition begins at the short-form application filing deadline and ends at the down payment deadline after the auction. Bidders competing for licenses in the same geographic license areas are encouraged not to use the same individual as an authorized bidder. A violation of the anti-collusion rule could occur if an individual acts as the authorized bidder for two or more competing applicants, and conveys information concerning the substance of bids or bidding strategies between the bidders he or she is authorized to represent in the auction. A violation could similarly occur if the authorized bidders are different individuals employed by the same organization (e.g., law firm or consulting firm). In such a case, at a minimum, applicants should certify on their applications that precautionary steps have been taken to prevent communication between authorized bidders and that applicants and their bidding agents will comply with the anti-collusion rule.<sup>43</sup>

However, the Bureau cautions that merely filing a certifying statement as part of an application will not

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*Order*”). See *infra* note 49. On February 8, 2002, the Commission further amended Section 1.2110 of the Competitive Bidding Rules. Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules – Competitive Bidding Procedures, *Eighth Report and Order*, FCC 02-34 (rel. February 13, 2002). These further amendments do not take effect until 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

<sup>40</sup> See Reallocation and Service Rules for the 698-746 MHz Spectrum Band (Television Channels 52-59) GN Docket No. 01-74, *Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, FCC 01-91 (“*Lower 700 MHz NPRM*”) (rel. March 28, 2001).

<sup>41</sup> See note 1 *supra*.

<sup>42</sup> See *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15297-98, ¶¶ 7-8; see also 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105.

<sup>43</sup> See *In re Application of Nevada Wireless for a License to Provide 800 MHz Specialized Mobile Radio Service in the Farmington, NM-CO Economic Area (EA-155) Frequency Band A*, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 13 FCC Rcd. 11973, 11977 ¶ 11 (1998) (“*Nevada Wireless*”).

outweigh specific evidence that collusive behavior has occurred, nor will it preclude the initiation of an investigation when warranted.<sup>44</sup> In Auction No. 44, for example, the rule would apply to any applicants bidding for the same MSA/RSA or EAG. Furthermore, the rule would apply to an applicant bidding for an EAG and another applicant bidding for an MSA/RSA within that EAG.<sup>45</sup> In addition, applicants that apply to bid for “all markets” would be precluded from communicating with all other applicants until after the down payment deadline. However, applicants may enter into bidding agreements *before* filing their FCC Form 175, as long as they disclose the existence of the agreement(s) in their Form 175.<sup>46</sup> If parties agree in principle on all material terms prior to the short-form filing deadline, those parties must be identified on the short-form application pursuant to Section 1.2105(c), even if the agreement has not been reduced to writing. If the parties have not agreed in principle by the filing deadline, an applicant would not include the names of those parties on its application, and may not continue negotiations with other applicants for licenses covering the same geographic areas.<sup>47</sup> By signing their FCC Form 175 short-form applications, applicants are certifying their compliance with Section 1.2105(c).

In addition, Section 1.65 of the Commission’s rules requires an applicant to *maintain* the accuracy and completeness of information furnished in its pending application and to notify the Commission within 30 days of any substantial change that may be of decisional significance to that application.<sup>48</sup> Thus, Sections 1.65 and 1.2105 requires an auction applicant to notify the Commission of any violation of the anti-collusion rules upon learning of such violation. Bidders therefore are required to make such notification to the Commission immediately upon discovery.<sup>49</sup>

A summary listing of documents from the Commission and the Bureau addressing the application of the anti-collusion rules may be found in Attachment G.

### 3. Interference Protection of Television Services

Among other licensing and technical rules, new Lower 700 MHz licensees must comply with the interference protection requirements set forth in Section 27.60 of the Commission’s rules.<sup>50</sup> Generally, Section 27.60 establishes standards for protection of co- and adjacent-channel analog TV and DTV facilities. Thus, for example, a new licensee seeking to operate on the 698-740 MHz portion of the Lower 700 MHz band must provide co-channel protection to nearby TV and DTV operations on Channel 59 and adjacent-channel protection to stations on Channels 58 and 60. In addition, Appendix D of the *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order* describes additional adjacent-channel interference considerations that are designed to mitigate the

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<sup>44</sup> *See id.*, at 11978.

<sup>45</sup> *See* Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Clarifies Spectrum Auction Anti-Collusion Rules, *Public Notice*, DA 95-2244 , 11 FCC Rcd 9645 (1995).

<sup>46</sup> *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(c).

<sup>47</sup> *See* Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Clarifies Spectrum Auction Anti-Collusion Rules, *Public Notice*, 11 FCC Rcd 9645 (1995).

<sup>48</sup> *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.65.

<sup>49</sup> The Commission amended Section 1.2105 to require auction applicants to report prohibited communications in writing to the Commission immediately, but in no case later than five business days after the communication occurs. *Part 1 Seventh Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd at 17555, ¶ 17.

<sup>50</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 27.60 (co- and adjacent-channel interference protection to analog TV and DTV facilities).

possibility of base-to-base interference that may arise at base receive stations that are in close proximity to high power transmitters operating on adjacent channels.<sup>51</sup> Moreover, licensees intending to operate a facility at a power level of greater than 1 kilowatt must provide advance notice to the Commission and to licensees authorized in their area of operation.<sup>52</sup> New Lower 700 MHz licensees also will have to comply with any additional technical requirements or interference protection requirements that may be adopted in the future as a result of pending and future rulemaking proceedings.<sup>53</sup>

Potential bidders should recognize that the interference protection requirements for the Lower 700 MHz band are more stringent in certain respects relative to the interference standards that apply to the Upper 700 MHz band.<sup>54</sup> These interference obligations will remain in force until the end of the DTV transition period at which time analog TV and DTV broadcasters will be required to vacate both the Upper and Lower 700 MHz bands.<sup>55</sup>

Potential bidders should be aware that a greater number of broadcast incumbents exist in the Lower 700 MHz band relative to the Upper 700 MHz band. The Commission has also observed that, although there is approximately the same number of analog incumbents in both the Upper and Lower 700 MHz bands, the Lower 700 MHz consists of less spectrum and, therefore, incumbent licensees are more densely situated across the band.<sup>56</sup> Further, there is a significantly greater number of DTV assignments on the eight television channels in the Lower 700 MHz band, including licenses, construction permits, pending applications, and pending allotment petitions, than exist in the Upper 700 MHz band.<sup>57</sup> The Commission may also permit certain Channel 60-69 broadcasters to relocate temporarily into Channels 52-58 pursuant to a voluntary clearing arrangement.<sup>58</sup>

#### **a. Negotiations with Incumbent Broadcast Licensees**

The Commission has established a policy of facilitating voluntary clearing of the 700 MHz bands to allow for the introduction of new wireless services and to promote the transition of incumbent analog television licensees to DTV service.<sup>59</sup> Generally speaking, this policy provides that the Commission will consider specific regulatory requests needed to implement voluntary agreements between incumbent broadcasters and new licensees to clear the Lower 700 MHz Band early, if consistent with the public interest. The

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<sup>51</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*, 17 FCC Rcd at 1121, Appendix D.

<sup>52</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 27.50(c)(5).

<sup>53</sup> A Due Diligence Announcement that includes a listing of some of the pending matters that may relate to the 698-746 MHz band will be released shortly. The Bureau does not represent that this list will include all pending matters that may relate to the 698-746 MHz band.

<sup>54</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*, 17 FCC Rcd at 1045-47 ¶¶ 52-57; 47 C.F.R. § 27.60(a).

<sup>55</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*, 17 FCC Rcd at 1033 n. 73. Because broadcast operations will exist in the core TV spectrum (on and below Channels 51), which is sub-adjacent to the Lower 700 MHz band, adjacent-channel and other interference protections may apply beyond the end of the DTV transition period.

<sup>56</sup> *Id.* at 1039 ¶ 39.

<sup>57</sup> *Id.* at 1039 ¶ 39 and n. 111.

<sup>58</sup> *Id.* at 1034 ¶ 24.

<sup>59</sup> *Id.* at 1094-95 ¶¶ 182-184.

fundamentals of the Commission's voluntary clearing policy for the 700 MHz bands were established in a series of decisions beginning with the adoption of the *Upper 700 MHz First Report and Order* in January 2000.<sup>60</sup> However, in light of certain differences between the Upper and Lower 700 MHz Bands, the Commission decided not to extend certain aspects of its voluntary clearing policy to the Lower 700 MHz band, including the presumptions that were established in the Upper 700 MHz Band for analyzing voluntary band-clearing proposals and the extended DTV construction period that was provided to certain single-channel broadcasters in connection with the arrangements for early clearing of the Upper 700 MHz band.<sup>61</sup> In considering such regulatory requests, the Commission will consider whether grant of the request would result in public interest benefits, such as making new or expanded public safety or other wireless services available to consumers or deploying wireless service to rural or other underserved communities.<sup>62</sup> The Commission intends to weigh these benefits against any likely public interest costs, such as the loss of any of the four stations in the designated market area with the largest audience share, the loss of the sole service licensed to the local community, the loss of a community's sole service on a channel reserved for noncommercial educational broadcast service, or a negative effect on the pace of the DTV transition in the market.<sup>63</sup>

#### **b. Canadian and Mexican Border Regions (Auction # 44)**

The United States has bilateral agreements with both Canada and Mexico setting forth allotment and assignment plans for TV broadcast stations covering the 698-746 MHz band (Channels 52-59). While the

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<sup>60</sup> The Commission initially stated that it would "consider specific regulatory requests needed to implement voluntary agreements" between incumbent broadcasters and new licensees to clear the Upper 700 MHz Band early, if consistent with public interest. See Service Rules for the 746-764 and 776-794 MHz Bands, and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules, WT Docket No. 99-168, *Upper 700 MHz First Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd 476 (2000) ("*Upper 700 MHz First Report and Order*"). Subsequently, the Commission established a rebuttable presumption favoring the grant of requests that would both result in certain specific benefits and avoid specific detriments. See Service Rules for the 746-764 and 776-794 MHz Bands, and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules, WT Docket No. 99-168, *Memorandum Opinion and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 15 FCC Rcd 20845 at 20870-71 ¶ 61 (2000) ("*Upper 700 MHz MO&O and FNPRM*"). These policies were later extended to "three-way" band clearing arrangements, in which non-Channel 59-69 broadcasters were also potential parties. See Service Rules for the 746-764 and 776-794 MHz Bands, and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules, WT Docket No. 99-168, Carriage of the Transmissions of Digital Broadcast Stations, CS Docket No. 98-120, Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television, MM Docket No. 00-39, *Third Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 2703, 2718 at ¶ 36 (2001) ("*Upper 700 MHz Third Report and Order*"). Subsequently, the Commission provided certain additional flexibility to facilitate voluntary agreements for early clearing and granted a request for relief from two specific DTV-related requirements. See Service Rules for the 746-764 and 776-794 MHz Bands, and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules, WT Docket No. 99-168, Carriage of the Transmissions of Digital Broadcast Stations, CS Docket No. 98-120, Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television, MM Docket No. 00-39, *Order on Reconsideration of the Third Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 21633 (2001). The fundamentals of this policy were extended to the Lower 700 MHz in the *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*. See *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*, 17 FCC Rcd at 1094 n. 537 and 1095 ¶ 184.

<sup>61</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report and Order*, 17 FCC Rcd at 1095 ¶ 184.

<sup>62</sup> *Id.* at 1096 n. 549.

<sup>63</sup> *Id.*

U.S. has identified this band for reallocation to new services, neither Canada nor Mexico has done so to date.<sup>64</sup> Pursuant to these agreements, the U.S. must protect the signals of Canadian and Mexican TV broadcast stations located in the border areas, and such operations will therefore affect U.S. non-broadcast use and services in this band. Accordingly, licenses issued for this band will be subject to whatever future agreements the U. S. develops with these two countries. Furthermore, until such time as existing agreements are replaced or modified to reflect the new uses, licensees in the band will be subject to existing agreements and the condition that harmful interference not be caused to, and must be accepted from, television broadcast operations in those countries.<sup>65</sup>

#### 4. Due Diligence

Potential bidders are reminded that there are a number of incumbent broadcast television licensees already licensed and operating in the 698-746 MHz band (television Channels 52-59) that will be subject to the upcoming auction. As discussed above in greater detail, the Commission made clear that geographic area licensees operating on the spectrum associated with Channels 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59 must comply with the co-channel and the adjacent channel provision of Section 27.60 of the Commission's rules.<sup>66</sup> These limitations may restrict the ability of such geographic licensees to use certain portions of the electromagnetic spectrum or provide service to certain regions in their geographic license areas.

**Potential bidders are solely responsible for identifying associated risks and for investigating and evaluating the degree to which such matters may affect their ability to bid on, otherwise acquire, or make use of licenses available in Auction No. 44.**

To aid potential bidders, the Bureau will issue shortly a Due Diligence Announcement listing incumbent licensees operating in these bands. The Commission makes no representations or guarantees that the matters listed in this Due Diligence Announcement are the only pending matters that could affect spectrum availability in these services.

Potential bidders also should be aware that certain applications (including those for modification), petitions for rulemaking, requests for special temporary authority ("STA"), waiver requests, petitions to deny, petitions for reconsideration, and applications for review may be pending before the Commission

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<sup>64</sup> A Letter of Understanding ("LOU") with Canada recognized U.S. plans to use this band for other than broadcasting services, and notes that Canada is independently considering a reduction of the spectrum in this band allocated to television. This LOU also specifically provides for non-broadcast allocations and services in the 746-806 MHz bands (Channels 60-69) by establishing criteria to protect DTV stations and analog TV stations established in accordance with the existing TV Agreement (Nov. 3, 1993 – Jan. 5, 1994). The FCC and Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transportation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") that establishes procedures for implementing digital television (DTV) service along the United States/Mexico border and approves all five DTV stations in the U.S./Mexico border area slated to begin service in November 1998 and May 1999. The MOU, which covers DTV operations in the area extending 275 kilometers on either side of the U.S./Mexico common border, contains the following provisions: a list of mutually acceptable second channel DTV allotments for each country; procedures to be used for notifying each administration of plans to implement DTV service relative to an allotment; and the methods to be used by each administration in evaluating the acceptability of proposed DTV facilities.

<sup>65</sup> Agreements affecting the use of this band between the United States, Canada and Mexico may be referenced on the internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/pnd/agree/>.

<sup>66</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 27.60; See also Section I.B.3 of this Public Notice.

and relate to particular applicants or incumbent licensees. In addition, certain decisions reached in this proceeding may be subject to judicial appeal and may be the subject of additional reconsideration or appeal. We note that resolution of these matters could have an impact on the availability of spectrum in Auction No. 44. In addition, although the Commission will continue to act on pending applications, requests and petitions, some of these matters may not be resolved by the time of the auction. To aid potential bidders, the Bureau will issue shortly a Due Diligence Announcement listing matters pending before the Commission that relate to licenses or applications in these services. The Commission makes no representations or guarantees that the listed matters are the only pending matters that could affect spectrum availability in these services.

In addition, potential bidders may research the licensing database for the Mass Media Bureau on the Internet in order to determine which frequencies are already licensed to incumbent licensees. The Commission makes no representations or guarantees regarding the accuracy or completeness of information in its databases or any third party databases, including, for example, court docketing systems. Furthermore, the Commission makes no representations or guarantees regarding the accuracy or completeness of information that has been provided by incumbent licensees and incorporated into the database. **Potential bidders are strongly encouraged to physically inspect any sites located in, or near, the EAG, MSA, or RSA for which they plan to bid.**

Licensing records for the Mass Media Bureau are contained in the Mass Media Bureau's Consolidated Data Base System (CDBS) and may be researched on the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/mmb/>. Potential bidders may query the database online and download a copy of their search results if desired. Detailed instructions on using Search for Station Information, Search for Ownership Report Information and Search for Application Information and downloading query results are available online by selecting the CDBS Public Access (main) button at the bottom of the Electronic Filing and Public Access list section. The database searches return either station or application data. The application search provides an application link that displays the complete electronically filed application in application format. An AL/TC search under the application search link permits searching for Assignment of License/Transfer of Control groups using the AL/TC group lead application. For further details, click on the [Help](#) file.

Potential bidders should direct questions regarding the search capabilities of CDBS to the Mass Media Bureau help line at (202) 418-2662, or via e-mail at [mmbinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:mmbinfo@fcc.gov).

## 5. Bidder Alerts

All applicants must certify on their FCC Form 175 applications under penalty of perjury that they are legally, technically, financially and otherwise qualified to hold a license, and not in default on any payment for Commission licenses (including down payments) or delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency.<sup>67</sup> Prospective bidders are reminded that submission of a false certification to the Commission is a serious matter that may result in severe penalties, including monetary forfeitures, license revocations, exclusion from participation in future auctions, and/or criminal prosecution.

**The FCC makes no representations or warranties about the use of this spectrum for particular services. Applicants should be aware that an FCC auction represents an opportunity to become an FCC licensee in this service, subject to certain conditions and regulations. An FCC auction does not constitute an endorsement by the FCC of any particular services, technologies or products, nor**

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<sup>67</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105.

**does an FCC license constitute a guarantee of business success. Applicants and interested parties should perform their own due diligence before proceeding, as they would with any new business venture.**

As is the case with many business investment opportunities, some unscrupulous entrepreneurs may attempt to use Auction No. 44 to deceive and defraud unsuspecting investors. Common warning signals of fraud include the following:

- The first contact is a “cold call” from a telemarketer, or is made in response to an inquiry prompted by a radio or television infomercial.
- The offering materials used to invest in the venture appear to be targeted at IRA funds, for example, by including all documents and papers needed for the transfer of funds maintained in IRA accounts.
- The amount of investment is less than \$25,000.
- The sales representative makes verbal representations that: (a) the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”), Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), FCC, or other government agency has approved the investment; (b) the investment is not subject to state or federal securities laws; or (c) the investment will yield unrealistically high short-term profits. In addition, the offering materials often include copies of actual FCC releases, or quotes from FCC personnel, giving the appearance of FCC knowledge or approval of the solicitation.

Information about deceptive telemarketing investment schemes is available from the FTC at (202) 326-2222 and from the SEC at (202) 942-7040. Complaints about specific deceptive telemarketing investment schemes should be directed to the FTC, the SEC, or the National Fraud Information Center at (800) 876-7060. Consumers who have concerns about specific proposals regarding Auction No. 44 may also call the FCC Consumer Center at (888) CALL-FCC ((888) 225-5322).

## **6. National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) Requirements**

Licensees must comply with the Commission’s rules regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).<sup>68</sup> The construction of a wireless antenna facility is a federal action and the licensee must comply with the Commission’s NEPA rules for each such facility.<sup>69</sup> The Commission’s NEPA rules require, among other things, that the licensee consult with expert agencies having NEPA responsibilities, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Army Corp of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (through the local authority with jurisdiction over floodplains). The licensee must prepare environmental assessments for facilities that may have a significant impact in or on wilderness areas, wildlife preserves, threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats, historical or archaeological sites, Indian religious sites, floodplains, and surface features. The licensee must also prepare environmental assessments for facilities that include high intensity white lights in residential neighborhoods or excessive radio frequency emission.

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<sup>68</sup> See 47 C.F.R. Ch. 1, Subpart I.

<sup>69</sup> See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1305-1.1319.



**C. Auction Specifics**

**1. Auction Date**

The auction will begin on Wednesday, June 19, 2002.<sup>70</sup> The initial schedule for bidding will be announced by public notice at least one week before the start of the auction. Unless otherwise announced, bidding on all licenses will be conducted on each business day until bidding has stopped on all licenses.

**2. Auction Title**

Auction No. 44 – Lower 700 MHz Band

**3. Bidding Methodology**

The bidding methodology for Auction No. 44 will be simultaneous multiple round bidding. The Commission will conduct this auction over the Internet. Telephonic bidding will also be available. As a contingency, the FCC Wide Area Network, which requires access to a 900 number telephone service, will be available as well. Qualified bidders are permitted to bid telephonically or electronically.

**4. Pre-Auction Dates and Deadlines**

Auction Seminar .....	May 1, 2002
Short-Form Application (FCC FORM 175) .....	May 8, 2002; 6:00 p.m. ET
Upfront Payments (via wire transfer) .....	May 28, 2002; 6:00 p.m. ET
Mock Auction .....	June 14, 2002
Auction Begins.....	June 19, 2002

**5. Requirements For Participation**

Those wishing to participate in the auction must:

- Submit a short-form application (FCC Form 175) electronically by 6:00 p.m. ET, May 8, 2002.
- Submit a sufficient upfront payment and an FCC Remittance Advice Form (FCC Form 159) by 6:00 p.m. ET, May 28, 2002.
- Comply with all provisions outlined in this public notice.

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<sup>70</sup> Although the Bureau did not seek comment on the issue, several commenters stated their opposition to any delay of Auction No. 44. See Reply Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 1-2; Reply Comments of RTG at 1-2; Reply Comments of TCA at 4-5, Reply Comments of Norwell at 1-2; see also Reply Comments of Paxson at 6 where it opposes US Cellular’s proposal to delay both auctions. US Cellular favored postponement of Auction No. 44 to permit development of band clearing agreements. See Comments of US Cellular at 2. Leap Wireless suggests that Auction No. 44 not be held until the status of Auction No. 35 is resolved. See Reply Comments of Leap at 6. Spectrum Exchange/Allen recommends that Auction No. 44 be delayed at least until September 2002. See Comments of Spectrum Exchange/Allen at 5. As noted above, Auction No. 44 is scheduled to begin concurrently with Auction No. 31 on June 19, 2002, as previously announced.

## 6. General Contact Information

### GENERAL AUCTION INFORMATION

General Auction Questions  
Seminar Registration

FCC Auctions Hotline  
(888) 225-5322, Press Option #2  
or direct (717) 338-2888  
Hours of service: 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. ET

### AUCTION LEGAL INFORMATION

Auction Rules, Policies, Regulations

Auctions and Industry Analysis Division  
Legal Branch (202) 418-0660

### LICENSING INFORMATION

Rules, Policies, Regulations  
Licensing Issues  
Due Diligence  
Incumbency Issues

Commercial Wireless Division  
(202) 418-0620

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Electronic Filing  
Automated Auction System

FCC Auctions Technical Support Hotline  
(202) 414-1250 (Voice),  
(202) 414-1255 (TTY)  
Hours of service: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to  
10:00 p.m. ET, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.,  
Sunday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Wire Transfers  
Refunds

FCC Auctions Accounting Branch  
(202) 418-1995  
(202) 418-2843 (Fax)

### TELEPHONIC BIDDING

Will be furnished only to qualified bidders

### FCC COPY CONTRACTOR

Additional Copies of  
Commission Documents

Qualex International  
Portals II, 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554  
(202) 863-2893  
(202) 863-2898 (Fax)  
qualexint@aol.com (E-mail)

### PRESS INFORMATION

Meribeth McCarrick (202) 418-0654

### FCC FORMS

(800) 418-3676 (outside Washington, DC)  
(202) 418-3676 (in the Washington Area)  
<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>

### FCC INTERNET SITES

<http://www.fcc.gov>  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/auctions>  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>

## **II. SHORT-FORM (FCC FORM 175) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Guidelines for completion of the short-form (FCC Form 175) are set forth in Attachment D to this public notice. The short-form application seeks the applicant's name and address, legal classification, status, small, very small business or entrepreneur bidding credit eligibility, identification of the license(s) sought, the authorized bidders and contact persons. All applicants must certify on their FCC Form 175 applications under penalty of perjury that they are legally, technically, financially and otherwise qualified to hold a license and, as discussed below in Section II.E (Provisions Regarding Defaulters and Former Defaulters), that they are not in default on any payment for Commission licenses (including down payments) or delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency.

### **A. License Selection**

In Auction No. 44, Form 175 will include a mechanism that allows an applicant to filter the licenses by License Area (either "EAG" or "CMA"),<sup>71</sup> Market Number, and/or Block to create customized lists of licenses. The applicant will make selections for one or more of the filter criteria and the system will produce a list of licenses satisfying the specified criteria. The applicant may apply for all the licenses in the customized list by using the "Save all filtered licenses" option; select and save individual licenses separately from the list; or create a second customized list without selecting any of the licenses from the first list. Applicants also will be able to select licenses from one customized list and then create a second customized list to select additional licenses.

### **B. Ownership Disclosure Requirements (FCC Form 175 Exhibit A)**

All applicants must comply with the uniform Part 1 ownership disclosure standards and provide information required by Sections 1.2105 and 1.2112 of the Commission's rules. Specifically, in completing FCC Form 175, applicants will be required to file an "Exhibit A" providing a full and complete statement of the ownership of the bidding entity. The ownership disclosure standards for the short-form are set forth in Section 1.2112 of the Commission's rules.<sup>72</sup>

### **C. Consortia And Joint Bidding Arrangements (FCC Form 175 Exhibit B)**

Applicants will be required to identify on their short-form applications any parties with whom they have entered into any consortium arrangements, joint ventures, partnerships or other agreements or understandings which relate in any way to the licenses being auctioned, including any agreements relating to post-auction market structure.<sup>73</sup> Applicants will also be required to certify on their short-form applications that they have not entered into any explicit or implicit agreements, arrangements or understandings of any kind with any parties, other than those identified, regarding the amount of their

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<sup>71</sup> As previously stated, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and Rural Service Areas (RSAs) are collectively known as Cellular Market Areas (CMAs).

<sup>72</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105 requires the disclosure on the short-form of the applicant's ownership information as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112. Note that both of these sections were revised in the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*.

<sup>73</sup> See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2105(a)(2)(viii), (c)(1).

bids, bidding strategies, or the particular licenses on which they will or will not bid.<sup>74</sup> As discussed above, if an applicant has had discussions, but has not reached a joint bidding agreement by the short-form deadline, it would not include the names of parties to the discussions on its applications and may not continue discussions with applicants for the same geographic license area(s) after the deadline.<sup>75</sup> Where applicants have entered into consortia or joint bidding arrangements, applicants must submit an “Exhibit B” to the FCC Form 175.

A party holding a non-controlling, attributable interest in one applicant will be permitted to acquire an ownership interest in, form a consortium with, or enter into a joint bidding arrangement with other applicants for licenses in the same geographic license area provided that (i) the attributable interest holder certifies that it has not and will not communicate with any party concerning the bids or bidding strategies of more than one of the applicants in which it holds an attributable interest, or with which it has formed a consortium or entered into a joint bidding arrangement; and (ii) the arrangements do not result in a change in control of any of the applicants.<sup>76</sup> While the anti-collusion rules do not prohibit non-auction related business negotiations among auction applicants, bidders are reminded that certain discussions or exchanges could touch upon impermissible subject matters because they may convey pricing information and bidding strategies.

#### **D. Eligibility**

##### **1. Bidding Credit Eligibility (FCC Form 175 Exhibit C)**

Bidding credits will be available to small and very small businesses and entrepreneurs, or consortia, thereof, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 27.702 for the Lower 700 MHz band.<sup>77</sup> A bidding credit represents the amount by which a bidder’s winning bids are discounted.<sup>78</sup> The size of the bidding credit depends on the average of the aggregated annual gross revenues for each of the preceding three years of the bidder, its affiliates, its controlling interests, and the affiliates of its controlling interests:

- A bidder with attributed average annual gross revenues of not more than \$40 million for the preceding three years (“small business”) receives a 15 percent discount on its winning bids for the Lower 700 MHz licenses;<sup>79</sup>
- A bidder with attributed average annual gross revenues of not more than \$15 million for the preceding three years (“very small business”) receives a 25 percent discount on its winning bids for

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<sup>74</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(a)(2)(ix).

<sup>75</sup> See Section I.B.2, above.

<sup>76</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(c)(4)(i), (ii).

<sup>77</sup> Reiter/McBride and McBride state that the Commission should revisit its definition of very small businesses. Comments of Reiter/McBride at 2; Reply Comments of McBride at 2. The Commission adopted small business definitions for licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band in the *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order* at ¶¶ 169-179, and therefore the Bureau did not seek comment on this issue. Because this issue has been addressed by the Commission, we will not address it in this public notice.

<sup>78</sup> See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2110(f), 27.702

<sup>79</sup> *Id.*

the Lower 700 MHz licenses;<sup>80</sup>

- A bidder with attributed average annual gross revenues of not more than \$3 million for the preceding three years (“entrepreneur”) receives a 35 percent discount on its winning bids for the 734 MSA/RSA licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band. This definition applies only with respect to licenses in Block C (710-716 MHz and 740-746 MHz) as specified in § 27.5(c)(1).

A bidder that qualifies as an entrepreneur may bid on EAG licenses, but will receive a 25 percent bidding credit on any EAG license that it wins. Bidding credits are not cumulative; a qualifying applicant receives either the 15 percent, 25 percent, or 35 percent bidding credit on its winning bid, but only one of them per license.

## 2. Tribal Land Bidding Credit

To encourage the growth of wireless services in federally recognized tribal lands the Commission has implemented a tribal land bidding credit. *See* Part V.C. of this Public Notice.

## 3. Applicability of Part 1 Attribution Rules

**Controlling interest standard.** On August 14, 2000, the Commission released the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*,<sup>81</sup> in which the Commission, *inter alia*, adopted a “controlling interest” standard for attributing to auction applicants the gross revenues of their investors and affiliates in determining small business eligibility for future auctions.<sup>82</sup> The Commission observed that the rule modifications adopted in the various Part 1 orders would result in discrepancies and/or redundancies between certain of the new Part 1 rules and existing service-specific rules, and the Commission delegated to the Bureau the authority to make conforming edits to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) consistent with the rules adopted in the Part 1 proceeding.<sup>83</sup> Part 1 rules that superseded inconsistent service-specific rules will control in Auction No. 44.<sup>84</sup> *Accordingly, the “controlling interest” standard as set forth in the Part 1 rules will be in effect for Auction No. 44, even if conforming edits to the CFR are not made prior to the auction.*

**Control.** The term “control” includes both *de facto* and *de jure* control of the applicant. Typically, *ownership of at least 50.1 percent of an entity’s voting stock evidences de jure control. De facto control*

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<sup>80</sup> *Id.*

<sup>81</sup> A substantial portion of the comments filed by Reiter/McBride and McBride are devoted to criticism of the attribution rules as applied in Auction No. 35. (*see* note 6)

<sup>82</sup> The eligibility for small business preferences will be determined based on the attribution rules in effect at the short-form application deadline. *See Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15327, ¶ 67.

<sup>83</sup> *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15330, ¶ 78.

<sup>84</sup> *See* Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules-Competitive Bidding Procedures, Allocation of Spectrum Below 5 GHz Transferred from Federal Government Use, 4660-4685 MHz, WT Docket No. 97-82, ET Docket No. 94-32, *Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 13 FCC Rcd 374, 382, ¶ 5 (1997) (“*Part 1 Third Report and Order*”); *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15330, ¶ 78.

is determined on a case-by-case basis.<sup>85</sup> The following are some common indicia of *de facto* control:

- the entity constitutes or appoints more than 50 percent of the board of directors or management committee;
- the entity has authority to appoint, promote, demote, and fire senior executives that control the day-to-day activities of the licensee; or
- the entity plays an integral role in management decisions.

***Attribution for small, very small business and entrepreneur eligibility.*** In determining which entities qualify as small, very small businesses or entrepreneur, the Commission will consider the gross revenues of the applicant, its affiliates, its controlling interests, and the affiliates of its controlling interests. The Commission does not impose specific equity requirements on controlling interest holders. Once the principals or entities with a controlling interest are determined, only the revenues of those principals or entities, the affiliates of those principals or entities, the applicant and its affiliates, will be counted in determining small business eligibility.

A consortium of small, very small businesses or entrepreneurs is a “conglomerate organization formed as a joint venture between or among mutually independent business firms,” each of which *individually* must satisfy the definition of small, very small business and entrepreneur in Sections 1.2110(f), 27.702. Thus, each consortium member must disclose its gross revenues along with those of its affiliates, its controlling interests, and the affiliates of its controlling interests. We note that although the gross revenues of the consortium members will not be aggregated for purposes of determining eligibility for small, very small business or entrepreneur credits, this information must be provided to ensure that each individual consortium member qualifies for any bidding credit awarded to the consortium.

#### 4. Supporting Documentation

Applicants should note that they will be required to file supporting documentation to their FCC Form 175 short-form applications to establish that they satisfy the eligibility requirements to qualify as small, very small businesses or entrepreneurs (or consortia of small, very small businesses or entrepreneurs) for this auction.<sup>86</sup>

Applicants should further note that submission of an FCC Form 175 application constitutes a representation by the certifying official that he or she is an authorized representative of the applicant, has read the form’s instructions and certifications, and that the contents of the application and its attachments are true and correct. Submission of a false certification to the Commission may result in penalties, including monetary forfeitures, license forfeitures, ineligibility to participate in future auctions, and/or

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<sup>85</sup> For further guidance on the issue of *de facto* control, see the Commission’s affiliation rule at 47 C.F.R. § 1.2110(b)(5); *see also* Ellis Thompson Corp., *Summary Decision of Administrative Law Judge Joseph Chachkin*, 10 FCC Rcd. 12554, 12555-56 (1994), in which the Commission identified the following factors used to determine control of a business: (1) use of facilities and equipment; (2) control of day-to-day operations; (3) control of policy decisions; (4) personnel responsibilities; (5) control of financial obligations; and (6) receipt of monies and profits; Intermountain Microwave, 12 FCC 2d. 559 (1963), and Application of Baker Creek Communications, L.P., for Authority to Construct and Operate Local Multipoint Distribution Services in Multiple Basic Trading Areas, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 13 FCC Rcd. 18709 (1998).

<sup>86</sup> *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105.

criminal prosecution.

**Small business, very small business, or entrepreneur eligibility (Exhibit C).** Entities applying to bid as small or very small businesses or entrepreneurs (or consortia of small or very small businesses or entrepreneurs) will be required to disclose on Exhibit C to their FCC Form 175 short-form applications, *separately and in the aggregate*, the gross revenues for the preceding three years of each of the following: (1) the applicant, (2) its affiliates, (3) its controlling interests, and (4) the affiliates of its controlling interests. **Certification that the average annual gross revenues for the preceding three years do not exceed the applicable limit is not sufficient. A statement of the total gross revenues for the preceding three years is also insufficient. The applicant must provide separately for itself, its affiliates, its controlling interests, and the affiliates of its controlling interests, a schedule of gross revenues for each of the preceding three years, as well as a statement of total average gross revenues for the three-year period.** If the applicant is applying as a consortium of small, very small businesses or entrepreneur, this information must be provided for each consortium member.

#### **E. Provisions Regarding Defaulters and Former Defaulters (FCC Form 175 Exhibit D)**

Each applicant must certify on its FCC Form 175 application that it is not in default on any Commission licenses and that it is not delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency.<sup>87</sup> In addition, each applicant must attach to its FCC Form 175 application a statement made under penalty of perjury indicating whether or not the applicant, its affiliates, its controlling interests, or the affiliates of its controlling interest have ever been in default on any Commission licenses or have ever been delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency. The applicant must provide such information for itself, for each of its controlling interests and affiliates, and for each affiliate of its controlling interests, as defined by Section 1.2110 of the Commission's rules (as amended in the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*).<sup>88</sup> **Applicants must include this statement as Exhibit D of the FCC Form 175.** Prospective bidders are reminded that the statement must be made under penalty of perjury and, further, submission of a false certification to the Commission is a serious matter that may result in severe penalties, including monetary forfeitures, license revocations, exclusion from participation in future auctions, and/or criminal prosecution.

“Former defaulters” — *i.e.*, applicants, including their attributable interest holders, that in the past have defaulted on any Commission licenses or been delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency, but that have since remedied all such defaults and cured all of their outstanding non-tax delinquencies — are eligible to bid in Auction No. 44, provided that they are otherwise qualified. However, as discussed *infra* in Section III.D.3, former defaulters are required to pay upfront payments that are fifty percent more than the normal upfront payment amounts.<sup>89</sup>

#### **F. Installment Payments**

Installment payment plans will not be available in Auction No. 44.

#### **G. Other Information (FCC Form 175 Exhibits E and F)**

Applicants owned by minorities or women, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2110(c)(2), may attach an exhibit

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<sup>87</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(a)(2)(x).

<sup>88</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(a)(2)(xi).

<sup>89</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.2106(a).

(Exhibit E) regarding this status. This applicant status information is collected for statistical purposes only and assists the Commission in monitoring the participation of “designated entities” in its auctions. Applicants wishing to submit additional information may do so on Exhibit F (Miscellaneous Information) to the FCC Form 175.

#### **H. Minor Modifications to Short-Form Applications (FCC Form 175)**

After the short-form filing deadline (May 8, 2002), applicants may make only minor changes to their FCC Form 175 applications. Applicants will not be permitted to make major modifications to their applications (*e.g.*, change their license selections or proposed service areas, change the certifying official or change control of the applicant or change bidding credits). *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105. Permissible minor changes include, for example, deletion and addition of authorized bidders (to a maximum of three) and revision of exhibits. Applicants should make these modifications to their FCC Form 175 electronically and submit a letter, briefly summarizing the changes, by electronic mail to the attention of Margaret Wiener, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, at the following address: [auction44@fcc.gov](mailto:auction44@fcc.gov). The electronic mail summarizing the changes must include a subject or caption referring to Auction No. 44. The Bureau requests that parties format any attachments to electronic mail as Adobe<sup>®</sup> Acrobat<sup>®</sup> (pdf) or Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Word documents.

A separate copy of the letter should be faxed to the attention of Kathryn Garland at (717) 338-2850. Questions about other changes should be directed to Howard Davenport of the Auctions and Industry Analysis Division at (202) 418-0660.

#### **I. Maintaining Current Information in Short-Form Applications (FCC Form 175)**

Applicants have an obligation under 47 C.F.R. §1.65, to maintain the completeness and accuracy of information in their short-form applications. Amendments reporting substantial changes of possible decisional significance in information contained in FCC Form 175 applications, as defined by 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(b)(2), will not be accepted and may in some instances result in the dismissal of the FCC Form 175 application.

### **III. PRE-AUCTION PROCEDURES**

#### **A. Auction Seminar**

On Wednesday, May 1, 2002, the FCC will sponsor a free seminar for Auction No. 44 at the Federal Communications Commission, located at 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington, DC. The seminar will provide attendees with information about pre-auction procedures, conduct of the auction, the FCC Automated Auction System, and the lower 700 MHz and auction rules. The seminar will also provide an opportunity for prospective bidders to ask questions of FCC staff.

To register, complete the registration form attached hereto as Attachment B and submit it by Monday, April 29, 2002. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### **B. Short-Form Application (FCC Form 175) — Due May 8, 2002**

In order to be eligible to bid in this auction, applicants must first submit an FCC Form 175 application. This application must be submitted electronically and received at the Commission no later than 6:00 p.m. ET on May 8, 2002. Late applications will not be accepted.



There is no application fee required when filing an FCC Form 175. However, to be eligible to bid, an applicant must submit an upfront payment. *See Part III.D, below.*

### **1. Electronic Filing**

Applicants must file their FCC Form 175 applications electronically.<sup>90</sup> Applications may generally be filed at any time beginning at noon ET on May 1, 2002, until 6:00 p.m. ET on May 8, 2002. Applicants are strongly encouraged to file early and are responsible for allowing adequate time for filing their applications. Applicants may update or amend their electronic applications multiple times until the filing deadline on May 8, 2002.

Applicants must press the “SUBMIT Application” button on the “Submission” page of the electronic form to successfully submit their FCC Form 175s. Any form that is not submitted will not be reviewed by the FCC. Information about accessing the FCC Form 175 is included in Attachment C. Technical support is available at (202) 414-1250 (voice) or (202) 414-1255 (text telephone (TTY)); the hours of service Monday through Friday, from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM ET, Saturday, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM ET, and Sunday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM ET. In order to provide better service to the public, *all calls to the hotline are recorded.*

Applicants can also contact Technical Support via e-mail. To obtain the address, click the **Support** tab on the Form 175 Homepage.

### **2. Completion of the FCC Form 175**

Applicants should carefully review 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105, and must complete all items on the FCC Form 175. Instructions for completing the FCC Form 175 are in Attachment D of this public notice. Applicants are encouraged to begin preparing the required attachments for FCC Form 175 prior to submitting the form. Attachments C and D to this public notice provide information on the required attachments and appropriate formats.

### **3. Electronic Review of FCC Form 175**

The FCC Form 175 electronic review system may be used to locate and print applicants’ FCC Form 175 information. Applicants may also view other applicants’ completed FCC Form 175s after the filing deadline has passed and the FCC has issued a public notice explaining the status of the applications. NOTE: Applicants should not include sensitive information (*i.e.*, TIN/EIN) on any exhibits to their FCC Form 175 applications. There is no fee for accessing this system. *See Attachment C for details on accessing the review system.*

### **C. Application Processing and Minor Corrections**

After the deadline for filing the FCC Form 175 applications has passed, the FCC will process all timely submitted applications to determine which are acceptable for filing, and subsequently will issue a public notice identifying: (1) those applications accepted for filing; (2) those applications rejected; and (3) those applications which have minor defects that may be corrected, and the deadline for filing such corrected applications.

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<sup>90</sup> *See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(a).*

As described more fully in the Commission's rules, after the May 8, 2002, short-form filing deadline, applicants may make only minor corrections to their FCC Form 175 applications. Applicants will not be permitted to make major modifications to their applications (*e.g.*, change their license selections, change the certifying official, change control of the applicant, or change bidding credit eligibility).<sup>91</sup>

#### **D. Upfront Payments — Due May 28, 2002**

In order to be eligible to bid in the auction, applicants must submit an upfront payment accompanied by an FCC Remittance Advice Form (FCC Form 159). After completing the FCC Form 175, filers will have access to an electronic version of the FCC Form 159 that can be printed and faxed to Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, PA. All upfront payments must be received at Mellon Bank by 6:00 p.m. ET on May 28, 2002.

Please note that:

- All payments must be made in U.S. dollars.
- All payments must be made by wire transfer.
- Upfront payments for Auction No. 44 go to a lockbox number different from the lockboxes used in previous FCC auctions, and different from the lockbox number to be used for post-auction payments.
- Failure to deliver the upfront payment by the May 28, 2002, deadline will result in dismissal of the application and disqualification from participation in the auction.

#### **1. Making Auction Payments by Wire Transfer**

Wire transfer payments must be received by 6:00 p.m. ET on May 28, 2002. To avoid untimely payments, applicants should discuss arrangements (including bank closing schedules) with their banker several days before they plan to make the wire transfer, and allow sufficient time for the transfer to be initiated and completed before the deadline. Applicants will need the following information:

ABA Routing Number: 043000261  
Receiving Bank: Mellon Pittsburgh  
BENEFICIARY: FCC/Account # 910-1182  
OBI Field: (Skip one space between each information item)  
"AUCTIONPAY"  
FCC REGISTRATION NUMBER (FRN): (same as FCC Form 159, block 11 and/or 21)  
PAYMENT TYPE CODE (same as FCC Form 159, block 24A: A44U)  
FCC CODE 1 (same as FCC Form 159, block 28A: "44")  
PAYER NAME (same as FCC Form 159, block 2)  
LOCKBOX NO. # 358415

**NOTE:** The BNF and Lockbox number are specific to the upfront payments for this auction; do not use BNF or Lockbox numbers from previous auctions.

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<sup>91</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105; see also *Two Way Radio of Carolina, Inc., Memorandum, Opinion and Order*, 14 FCC Rcd. 12035 (1999).

Applicants must fax a completed FCC Form 159 (Revised 2/00) to Mellon Bank at (412) 209-6045 at **least one hour before** placing the order for the wire transfer (but on the same business day). On the cover sheet of the fax, write “Wire Transfer — Auction Payment for Auction Event No. 44.” **Bidders should confirm receipt of their upfront payment at Mellon Bank by contacting their sending financial institution.**

## 2. FCC Form 159

A completed FCC Remittance Advice Form (FCC Form 159, Revised 2/00) must be faxed to Mellon Bank in order to accompany each upfront payment. Proper completion of FCC Form 159 (Revised 2/00) is critical to ensuring correct credit of upfront payments. Detailed instructions for completion of FCC Form 159 are included in Attachment E to this public notice. An electronic version of the FCC Form 159 is available after filing the FCC Form 175. The FCC Form 159 can be completed electronically, but must be filed with Mellon Bank via facsimile.

## 3. Amount of Upfront Payment

In the *Part 1 Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order, and Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, the Commission delegated to the Bureau the authority and discretion to determine appropriate upfront payment(s) for each auction.<sup>92</sup> In addition, in the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, the Commission ordered that “former defaulters,” *i.e.*, applicants that have ever been in default on any Commission license or have ever been delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency, be required to pay upfront payments fifty percent greater than non-“former defaulters.”<sup>93</sup> For purposes of this calculation, the “applicant” includes the applicant itself, its affiliates, its controlling interests, and affiliates of its controlling interests, as defined by Section 1.2110 of the Commission’s rules (as amended in the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*).<sup>94</sup>

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed translating bidders’ upfront payments to bidding units to define a bidder’s maximum eligibility.<sup>95</sup> In order to bid on a license, otherwise qualified bidders who applied for that license on Form 175 must have an eligibility level that meets or exceeds the number of bidding units assigned to that license. At a minimum, therefore, an applicant’s total upfront payment must be enough to establish eligibility to bid on at least one of the licenses applied for on Form 175, or else the applicant will not be eligible to participate in the auction. An applicant does not have to make an upfront payment to cover all licenses for which the applicant has applied on Form 175, but rather to cover the maximum number of bidding units that are associated with licenses on which the bidder wishes to place bids and hold high bids at any given time.

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<sup>92</sup> Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s rules — Competitive Bidding Proceeding, WT Docket No. 97-82, *Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 12 FCC Rcd. 5686, 5697-5698, ¶ 16 (1997) (“*Part 1 Order*”).

<sup>93</sup> *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15316-17, ¶¶ 40-42; 47 C.F.R. § 1.2106(a); *see* 47 C.F.R. §§1.2105(a)(2)(xi)

<sup>94</sup> *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15316-17, ¶¶ 40-42.

<sup>95</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 3.

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*,<sup>96</sup> the Bureau proposed upfront payments on a license-by-license basis using the following formula:

$$\$0.0125 * \text{MHz} * \text{License Area Population}^{97} \text{ with a minimum of } \$1,000 \text{ per license.}^{98}$$

We did not receive any comments on the general levels of the upfront payments. However, the Rural 700 MHz Group requests that the rate for calculating minimum opening bids for RSAs be one-half of the rate applied to MSAs, since it is more costly to build out a rural telecommunications system than a system in a metropolitan area.<sup>99</sup> The Bureau notes that there are numerous factors affecting the relative costs of build-out, and elects to adopt the proposed formula for determining upfront payments.

The specific upfront payments and bidding units for each license are set forth in Attachment A of this Public Notice.

In calculating its upfront payment amount, an applicant should determine the maximum number of bidding units on which it may wish to be active (bidding units associated with licenses on which the bidder has the standing high bid from the previous round and licenses on which the bidder places a bid in the current round) in any single round, and submit an upfront payment covering that number of bidding units. In order to make this calculation, an applicant should add together the upfront payments for all licenses on which it seeks to bid in any given round. **Bidders should check their calculations carefully, as there is no provision for increasing a bidder's maximum eligibility after the upfront payment deadline.**

**Example: Lower 700 MHz Band Upfront Payments and Bidding Flexibility**

Market No.	Block	Market Name	Population	Bidding Units	Upfront Payment
CMA153	C	Columbus, GA-AL	243,072	36,000	\$ 36,000
CMA311	C	Alabama 5 -Cleburne	206,735	31,000	\$ 31,000

If a bidder wishes to bid on both licenses in a round, it must have selected both on its FCC Form 175 and purchased at least 67,000 bidding units (36,000 + 31,000). If a bidder only wishes to bid on one, but not both, purchasing 36,000 bidding units would meet the requirement for either license. The bidder would be able to bid on either license, but not both at the same time. If the bidder purchased only 31,000 bidding units, it would have enough eligibility for the Alabama 5 - Cleburne license but not for the Columbus, GA-AL license.

Former defaulters should calculate their upfront payment for all licenses by multiplying the number of bidding units they wish to purchase by 1.5. In order to calculate the number of bidding units to assign to

<sup>96</sup> *Id.*

<sup>97</sup> All population figures are from the 4/1/90 U.S. Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

<sup>98</sup> Results below \$10,000 are rounded to the nearest hundred; results above \$10,000 are rounded to the nearest thousand.

<sup>99</sup> Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 4.

former defaulters, the Commission will divide the upfront payment received by 1.5 and round the result up to the nearest bidding unit.

NOTE: An applicant may, on its FCC Form 175, apply for every applicable license being offered, but its actual bidding in any round will be limited by the bidding units reflected in its upfront payment.

#### **4. Applicant's Wire Transfer Information for Purposes of Refunds of Upfront Payments**

The Commission will use wire transfers for all Auction No. 44 refunds. To ensure that refunds of upfront payments are processed in an expeditious manner, the Commission is requesting that all pertinent information as listed below be supplied to the FCC. Applicants can provide the information electronically during the initial short-form filing window after the form has been submitted. Wire Transfer Instructions can also be manually faxed to the FCC, Financial Operations Center, Auctions Accounting Group, ATTN: Tim Dates or Gail Glasser, at (202) 418-2843 by May 28, 2002. All refunds will be returned to the payer of record as identified on the FCC Form 159 unless the payer submits written authorization instructing otherwise. For additional information, please call (202) 418-1995.

Name of Bank  
ABA Number  
Contact and Phone Number  
Account Number to Credit  
Name of Account Holder  
FCC Registration Number (FRN)  
Taxpayer Identification Number (see below)  
Correspondent Bank (if applicable)  
ABA Number  
Account Number

(Applicants should also note that implementation of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires the FCC to obtain a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before it can disburse refunds.) Eligibility for refunds is discussed in Part V.E., *below*.

#### **E. Auction Registration**

Approximately ten days before the auction, the FCC will issue a public notice announcing all qualified bidders for the auction. Qualified bidders are those applicants whose FCC Form 175 applications have been accepted for filing and have timely submitted upfront payments sufficient to make them eligible to bid on at least one of the licenses for which they applied.

All qualified bidders are automatically registered for the auction. Registration materials will be distributed prior to the auction by two separate overnight mailings, one containing the confidential bidder identification number (BIN) required to place bids and the other containing the SecurID cards. These mailings will be sent only to the contact person at the contact address listed in the FCC Form 175.

Applicants that do not receive both registration mailings will not be able to submit bids. Therefore, any qualified applicant that has not received both mailings by noon on Wednesday, June 12, 2002, should contact the Auctions Hotline at (717) 338-2888. Receipt of both registration mailings is critical to participating in the auction and each applicant is responsible for ensuring it has received all of the registration material.

Qualified bidders should note that lost bidder identification numbers or SecurID cards can be replaced only by appearing in person at the FCC Auction Headquarters located at 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW, Washington, DC 20554. Only an authorized representative or certifying official, as designated on an applicant's FCC Form 175, may appear in person with two forms of identification (one of which must be a photo identification) in order to receive replacements. Qualified bidders requiring replacements must call technical support prior to arriving at the FCC.

#### **F. Electronic Bidding**

The Commission will conduct this auction over the Internet. Telephonic bidding will also be available. As a contingency, the FCC Wide Area Network, which requires access to a 900 number telephone service, will be available as well. Qualified bidders are permitted to bid telephonically or electronically, *i.e.*, over the Internet or the FCC's Wide Area Network at \$2.30 per minute. In either case, **each authorized bidder** must have its own Remote Security Access SecurID card, which the FCC will provide at no charge. Each applicant with one authorized bidder will be issued two SecurID cards, while applicants with two or three authorized bidders will be issued three cards. For security purposes, the SecurID cards and the FCC Automated Auction System User Manual are only mailed to the contact person at the contact address listed on the FCC Form 175. Please note that each SecurID card is tailored to a specific auction, therefore, SecurID cards issued for other auctions or obtained from a source other than the FCC will not work for Auction No. 44. The telephonic bidding phone number will be supplied in the first overnight mailing, which also includes the confidential bidder identification number. Each applicant should indicate its bidding preference—electronic or telephonic—on the FCC Form 175.

Please note that the SecurID cards can be recycled, and we encourage bidders to return the cards to the FCC. We will provide pre-addressed envelopes that bidders may use to return the cards once the auction is over.

#### **G. Mock Auction**

All qualified bidders will be eligible to participate in a mock auction on Friday, June 14, 2002. The mock auction will enable applicants to become familiar with the FCC Automated Auction System prior to the auction. Participation by all bidders is strongly recommended. Details will be announced by public notice.

### **IV. AUCTION EVENT**

The first round of bidding for Auction No. 44 will begin on Wednesday, June 19, 2002. The initial bidding schedule will be announced in a public notice listing the qualified bidders, which is released approximately 10 days before the start of the auction.

#### **A. Auction Structure**

##### **1. Simultaneous Multiple Round Auction**

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed to award all licenses in Auction No. 44 in a single, simultaneous multiple round auction.<sup>100</sup> US Cellular strongly supports the use of simultaneous

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<sup>100</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 3.

multiple-round auction in a single auction that consolidates licenses, large and small service areas, for all of the newly reallocated 700 MHz spectrum.<sup>101</sup> Spectrum Exchange/Allen proposes that package bidding procedures be used.<sup>102</sup> McBride strongly supports use of simultaneous multiple-round auction procedures.<sup>103</sup> Leap recommends that the MSA/RSA licenses be auctioned, without package bid provisions and separate from the EAG licenses.<sup>104</sup> According to Leap, applying package bid provisions to the MSA/RSA licenses would produce more than 10<sup>200</sup> possible combinations.<sup>105</sup> Taking all the submissions into account, the Bureau concludes that it is operationally feasible and appropriate to auction the licenses in the Lower 700 MHz band through a single, simultaneous multiple round auction. Unless otherwise announced, bids will be accepted on all licenses in each round of the auction. This approach, we believe, allows bidders to take advantage of any synergies that exist among licenses and is administratively efficient.

## 2. Maximum Eligibility and Activity Rules

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed that the amount of the upfront payment submitted by a bidder would determine the initial maximum eligibility (as measured in bidding units) for each bidder.<sup>106</sup> We received no comments on this issue.

For Auction No. 44 we adopt this proposal. The amount of the upfront payment submitted by a bidder determines the initial maximum eligibility (in bidding units) for each bidder. Note again that each license is assigned a specific number of bidding units equal to the upfront payment listed in Attachment A on a bidding unit per dollar basis. The total upfront payment defines the maximum number of bidding units on which the applicant will be permitted to bid and hold high bids during any given round. As there is no provision for increasing a bidder's maximum eligibility during the course of an auction, prospective bidders are cautioned to calculate their upfront payments carefully. The total upfront payment does not affect the total dollars a bidder may bid on any given license.

In order to ensure that the auction closes within a reasonable period of time, an activity rule requires bidders to bid actively throughout the auction, rather than wait until the end before participating. Bidders are required to be active on a specific percentage of their current eligibility during each round of the auction.

A bidder's activity level in a round is the sum of the bidding units associated with licenses on which the bidder is active. A bidder is considered active on a license in the current round if it is either the high bidder at the end of the previous bidding round and does not withdraw the high bid in the current round, or if it submits an acceptable bid in the current round (*see* "Bid Increments and Minimum Accepted Bids" in Part IV.B.(3), *below*). The minimum required activity level is expressed as a percentage of the bidder's maximum bidding eligibility, and increases by stage as the auction progresses. Because these procedures

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<sup>101</sup> Comments of US Cellular at 1-2.

<sup>102</sup> Comments of Spectrum Exchange/Allen at 5-6.

<sup>103</sup> Reply Comments of McBride at 3.

<sup>104</sup> Reply Comments of Leap at 2.

<sup>105</sup> *Id.*

<sup>106</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 3.

have proven successful in maintaining the pace of previous auctions (as set forth under “Auction Stages” in Part IV.A.3 and “Stage Transitions” in Part IV.A.4, *below*), we adopt them for Auction No. 44.

### 3. Auction Stages

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed to conduct the auction in three stages and employ an activity rule. We further proposed that, in each round of Stage One, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility would be required to be active on licenses encompassing at least 80 percent of its current bidding eligibility.<sup>107</sup> In each round of Stage Two, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility would be required to be active on at least 90 percent of its current bidding eligibility. Finally, we proposed that a bidder in Stage Three, in order to maintain eligibility, would be required to be active on 98 percent of its current bidding eligibility. We received no comments on this proposal.

We adopt our proposals for the activity rules. Below are the activity levels for each stage of the auction. The FCC reserves the discretion to further alter the activity percentages before and/or during the auction.

**Stage One:** During the first stage of the auction, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility will be required to be active on licenses that represent at least 80 percent of its current bidding eligibility in each bidding round. Failure to maintain the required activity level will result in a reduction in the bidder’s bidding eligibility in the next round of bidding (unless an activity rule waiver is used). During Stage One, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the bidder’s current activity (the sum of bidding units of the bidder’s standing high bids and valid bids during the current round) by five-fourths (5/4).

**Stage Two:** During the second stage of the auction, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility is required to be active on 90 percent of its current bidding eligibility. Failure to maintain the required activity level will result in a reduction in the bidder’s bidding eligibility in the next round of bidding (unless an activity rule waiver is used). During Stage Two, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the bidder’s current activity (the sum of bidding units of the bidder’s standing high bids and valid bids during the current round) by ten-ninths (10/9).

**Stage Three:** During the third stage of the auction, a bidder desiring to maintain its current eligibility is required to be active on 98 percent of its current bidding eligibility. Failure to maintain the required activity level will result in a reduction in the bidder’s bidding eligibility in the next round of bidding (unless an activity rule waiver is used). In this final stage, reduced eligibility for the next round will be calculated by multiplying the bidder’s current activity (the sum of bidding units of the bidder’s standing high bids and valid bids during the current round) by fifty-fortyninths (50/49).

CAUTION: Since activity requirements increase in each auction stage, bidders must carefully check their current activity during the bidding period of the first round following a stage transition. This is especially critical for bidders that have standing high bids and do not plan to submit new bids. In past auctions, some bidders have inadvertently lost bidding eligibility or used an activity rule waiver because they did not re-verify their activity status at stage transitions. Bidders may check their activity against the required minimum activity level by using the bidding system’s bidding module.

Because the foregoing procedures have proven successful in maintaining proper pace in previous

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<sup>107</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 4.



auctions, we adopt them for Auction No. 44.

#### 4. Stage Transitions

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed that the auction would generally advance to the next stage (*i.e.*, from Stage One to Stage Two, and from Stage Two to Stage Three) when the auction activity level, as measured by the percentage of bidding units receiving new high bids, is below 20 percent for three consecutive rounds of bidding in each Stage. We further proposed that the Bureau would retain the discretion to change stages unilaterally by announcement during the auction. This determination, we proposed, would be based on a variety of measures of bidder activity, including, but not limited to, the auction activity level, the percentages of licenses (as measured in bidding units) on which there are new bids, the number of new bids, and the percentage increase in revenue.<sup>108</sup> We received no comments on this subject.

We adopt our proposal. Thus, the auction will start in Stage One and it will advance to the next stage (*i.e.*, from Stage One to Stage Two, and from Stage Two to Stage Three) when, in each of three consecutive rounds of bidding, the high bid has increased on 20 percent or less of the licenses being auctioned (as measured in bidding units). In addition, the Bureau will retain the discretion to regulate the pace of the auction by announcement. This determination will be based on a variety of measures of bidder activity, including, but not limited to, the auction activity level, the percentages of licenses (as measured in bidding units) on which there are new bids, the number of new bids, and the percentage increase in revenue. We believe that these stage transition rules, having proven successful in prior auctions, are appropriate for use in Auction No. 44.

#### 5. Activity Rule Waivers and Reducing Eligibility

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed that each bidder in the auction would be provided five activity rule waivers. Bidders may use an activity rule waiver in any round during the course of the auction.<sup>109</sup> We received no comments on this issue.

Based upon our experience in previous auctions, **we adopt our proposal that each bidder be provided five activity rule waivers that may be used in any round during the course of the auction.** Use of an activity rule waiver preserves the bidder's current bidding eligibility despite the bidder's activity in the current round being below the required minimum level. An activity rule waiver applies to an entire round of bidding and not to a particular license. We are satisfied that our practice of providing five waivers over the course of the auction provides a sufficient number of waivers and maximum flexibility to the bidders, while safeguarding the integrity of the auction.

The Automated Auction System assumes that bidders with insufficient activity would prefer to use an activity rule waiver (if available) rather than lose bidding eligibility. Therefore, the system will automatically apply a waiver (known as an "automatic waiver") at the end of any round where a bidder's activity level is below the minimum required unless: (1) there are no activity rule waivers available; or (2) the bidder overrides the automatic application of a waiver by reducing eligibility, thereby meeting the minimum requirements. If a bidder has no waivers remaining and does not satisfy the required activity level, the current eligibility will be permanently reduced, possibly eliminating them from the auction.

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<sup>108</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>109</sup> *Id.* at 5.

A bidder with insufficient activity that wants to reduce its bidding eligibility rather than use an activity rule waiver must affirmatively override the automatic waiver mechanism during the round by using the reduce eligibility function in the bidding system. In this case, the bidder's eligibility is permanently reduced to bring the bidder into compliance with the activity rules as described in "Auction Stages" (see Part IV.A.3 discussion *above*). Once eligibility has been reduced, a bidder will not be permitted to regain its lost bidding eligibility.

Finally, a bidder may proactively use an activity rule waiver as a means to keep the auction open without placing a bid. If a bidder submits a proactive waiver (using the proactive waiver function in the bidding system) during a round in which no bids are submitted, the auction will remain open and the bidder's eligibility will be preserved. However, an automatic waiver triggered during a round in which there are no new valid bids or withdrawals will not keep the auction open. **Note: Once a proactive waiver is placed during a round, that waiver cannot be unsubmitted.**

## 6. Auction Stopping Rules

For Auction No. 44, the Bureau proposed to employ a simultaneous stopping rule.<sup>110</sup> Under this rule, bidding will remain open on all licenses until bidding stops on every license. The auction will close for all licenses when one round passes during which no bidder submits a new acceptable bid on any license, applies a proactive waiver, or withdraws a previous high bid. After the first such round, bidding closes simultaneously on all licenses.

The Bureau also proposed retaining discretion to implement a modified version of the simultaneous stopping rule. The modified version will close the auction for all licenses after the first round in which no bidder submits a proactive waiver, a withdrawal, or a new bid on any license on which it is not the standing high bidder. Thus, absent any other bidding activity, a bidder placing a new bid on a license for which it is the standing high bidder will not keep the auction open under this modified stopping rule.

The Bureau further proposed retaining the discretion to keep the auction open even if no new acceptable bids or proactive waivers are submitted and no previous high bids are withdrawn in a round. In this event, the effect will be the same as if a bidder had submitted a proactive waiver. Thus, the activity rule will apply as usual, and a bidder with insufficient activity will either lose bidding eligibility or use an activity rule waiver (if it has any left).

In addition, we proposed that the Bureau reserve the right to declare that the auction will end after a designated number of additional rounds ("special stopping rule"). If the Bureau invokes this special stopping rule, it will accept bids in the final round(s) only for licenses on which the high bid increased in at least one of the preceding specified number of rounds. We proposed to exercise this option only in circumstances such as where the auction is proceeding very slowly, where there is minimal overall bidding activity or where it appears likely that the auction will not close within a reasonable period of time.<sup>111</sup> Before exercising this option, the Bureau is likely to attempt to increase the pace of the auction by, for example, moving the auction into the next stage (where bidders will be required to maintain a higher level of bidding activity), increasing the number of bidding rounds per day, and/or adjusting the amount of the minimum bid increments for the licenses.

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<sup>110</sup> *Id.* at 10.

<sup>111</sup> *Id.* at 10.

Leap<sup>112</sup> recommends that the Bureau retain its current stopping rule. The Rural 700 MHz Group<sup>113</sup> suggests that the Bureau not utilize its discretion to keep the auction open even if no new acceptable bids or proactive waivers are submitted and no previous high bids are withdrawn in a round, claiming that any additional rounds impose monitoring costs on small businesses. The Bureau emphasizes that it will only utilize an alternative stopping rule when unusual circumstances suggest that the public interest is better served by deviating from the standard simultaneous stopping rule. Therefore, we adopt the above proposals concerning the auction stopping rules. Auction No. 44 will begin under the simultaneous stopping rule, and the Bureau will retain the discretion to invoke the other versions of the stopping rule. We believe that these stopping rules are most appropriate for Auction No. 44, because our experience in prior auctions demonstrates that the auction stopping rules balance the interests of administrative efficiency and maximum bidder participation.

## **7. Auction Delay, Suspension, or Cancellation**

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed that, by public notice or by announcement during the auction, the Bureau may delay, suspend, or cancel the auction in the event of natural disaster, technical obstacle, evidence of an auction security breach, unlawful bidding activity, administrative or weather necessity, or for any other reason that affects the fair conduct of competitive bidding.<sup>114</sup>

Because this approach has proven effective in resolving exigent circumstances in previous auctions, we adopt our proposed auction cancellation rules. By public notice or by announcement during the auction, the Bureau may delay, suspend, or cancel the auction in the event of natural disaster, technical obstacle, evidence of an auction security breach, unlawful bidding activity, administrative or weather necessity, or for any other reason that affects the fair and competitive conduct of competitive bidding. In such cases, the Bureau, in its sole discretion, may elect to resume the auction starting from the beginning of the current round, resume the auction starting from some previous round, or cancel the auction in its entirety. Network interruption may cause the Bureau to delay or suspend the auction. We emphasize that exercise of this authority is solely within the discretion of the Bureau, and its use is not intended to be a substitute for situations in which bidders may wish to apply their activity rule waivers.

### **B. Bidding Procedures**

#### **1. Round Structure**

The initial bidding schedule will be announced in the public notice listing the qualified bidders, which is released approximately 10 days before the start of the auction. The round structure for each bidding round contains a single bidding round followed by the release of the round results. Multiple bidding rounds may be conducted in a given day. Details regarding round results formats and locations will also be included in the above public notice referenced above.

The FCC has discretion to change the bidding schedule in order to foster an auction pace that reasonably balances speed with the bidders' need to study round results and adjust their bidding strategies. The

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<sup>112</sup> Reply Comments of Leap at 8.

<sup>113</sup> Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 5-6; *see also* Reply Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 6.

<sup>114</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 5.

Bureau may increase or decrease the amount of time for the bidding rounds and review periods, or the number of rounds per day, depending upon the bidding activity level and other factors.

## 2. Reserve Price or Minimum Opening Bid

*Background.* The Communications Act, as amended, calls upon the Commission to prescribe methods by which a reasonable reserve price will be required or a minimum opening bid established when FCC licenses are subject to auction (*i.e.*, because they are mutually exclusive), unless the Commission determines that a reserve price or minimum opening bid is not in the public interest.<sup>115</sup> Consistent with this mandate, the Commission directed the Bureau to seek comment on the use of a minimum opening bid and/or reserve price prior to the start of each auction.<sup>116</sup> Among other factors, the Bureau should consider the amount of spectrum being auctioned, levels of incumbency, the availability of technology to provide service, the size of the geographic service areas, the extent of interference with other spectrum bands, and any other relevant factors that could have an impact on the spectrum being auctioned.<sup>117</sup> The Commission concluded that the Bureau should have the discretion to employ either or both of these mechanisms for future auctions.<sup>118</sup>

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, the Bureau proposed to establish minimum opening bids for Auction No. 44.<sup>119</sup> Specifically, for Auction No. 44, the Bureau proposed the following license-by-license formula for calculating minimum opening bids:

$$\$0.0250 * \text{MHz} * \text{License Area Population}^{120} \text{ with a minimum of } \$1,000 \text{ per license.}^{121}$$

In the alternative, the Bureau sought comment on whether, consistent with the Balanced Budget Act, the public interest would be served by having no minimum opening bid or reserve price.<sup>122</sup>

Several commenters say that the minimum opening bids are too high and request that the Bureau lower them to the level of the upfront payments, *i.e.*, by approximately one-half.<sup>123</sup> Rural 700 MHz Group<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> See Balanced Budget Act, section 3002(a), 47 U.S.C. § 309(j)(4)(F).

<sup>116</sup> See *Part 1 Third Report and Order*, 13 FCC Rcd 374, 455-456 ¶ 141 (1997).

<sup>117</sup> *Id.*

<sup>118</sup> *Id.*

<sup>119</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 6.

<sup>120</sup> All population figures are from the 4/1/90 U.S. Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

<sup>121</sup> Results below \$10,000 are rounded to the nearest hundred; results above \$10,000 are rounded to the nearest thousand.

<sup>122</sup> *Auction 44 Comment Public Notice* at 6-7.

<sup>123</sup> Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 3-4; Comments of TCA at 3-4; *see also* Reply Comments of McBride at 2; Reply Comments of Council Tree at 2-3; Reply Comments of Leap at 7; Reply Comments of NTCA at 2-3.

<sup>124</sup> Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 3.

and the NTCA<sup>125</sup> claim that the delayed use of the spectrum resulting from the time required for clearing incumbents will affect small businesses especially adversely. Leap alleges that disparities in encumbrance were not factored into the minimum opening bid.<sup>126</sup> However, Leap does not propose an alternate methodology for formulating minimum opening bids. Rural 700 MHz Group<sup>127</sup> and Council Tree<sup>128</sup> cite the general state of the economy as a reason minimum bids should be lowered. TCA,<sup>129</sup> Council Tree<sup>130</sup> and NTCA<sup>131</sup> warn that the suggested minimum opening bids may discourage some small and rural carriers from participating in the auction.

Following consideration of comments received, we adopt our proposed minimum opening bids for Auction No. 44. We believe the minimum opening bids are well below the levels of the likely winning bids, and are not so high as to discourage competition. The commenters have provided no evidence to support their contention that our proposed minimum opening bids are too high. Moreover, the Commission has sought to provide small businesses with an opportunity to successfully compete against larger, well-financed bidders for the Lower 700 MHz band, defining three tiers of small businesses for MSA/RSA licenses, and two tiers of small businesses for EAG licenses, that are eligible for bidding credits.<sup>132</sup> Because we are not persuaded that the proposed minimum opening bids are unreasonable, we adopt our proposal.

The specific minimum opening bids for each license are set forth in Attachment A of this Public Notice.

The minimum opening bids we adopt are reducible at the discretion of the Bureau. We emphasize, however, that such discretion will be exercised, if at all, sparingly and early in the auction, *i.e.*, before bidders lose all waivers and begin to lose substantial eligibility. During the course of the auction, the Bureau will not entertain requests to reduce the minimum opening bid on specific licenses.

### 3. Minimum Accepted Bids and Bid Increments

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed to use a smoothing methodology to calculate minimum acceptable bids.<sup>133</sup> We further proposed to retain the discretion to change the minimum acceptable bids and bid increments if circumstances so dictate.<sup>134</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> Reply Comments of NTCA at 2-3.

<sup>126</sup> Reply Comments of Leap at 7.

<sup>127</sup> Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 3.

<sup>128</sup> Reply Comments of Council Tree at 2.

<sup>129</sup> Comments of TCA at 4.

<sup>130</sup> Reply Comments of Council Tree at 4.

<sup>131</sup> Reply Comments of NTCA at 2.

<sup>132</sup> *Lower 700 MHz Report & Order* at ¶¶ 171-173.

<sup>133</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 7-9.

<sup>134</sup> *Id.*

Several commenters requested that we use a simple percentage increment to calculate minimum acceptable bids, rather than the smoothing formula. The Rural 700 MHz Group,<sup>135</sup> TCA,<sup>136</sup> and NTCA<sup>137</sup> believe that a simpler formula would allow bidders to plan their strategies in advance whereas the smoothing formula does not. While we recognize that the smoothing methodology is computationally more complex, it is the Bureau that performs the calculations and provides the appropriate bid increment amounts to bidders. Furthermore, regardless of whether the smoothing formula or a simple percentage increment is used, minimum acceptable bid amounts depend upon the bids actually placed in the previous round, and therefore cannot be predicted in advance.

We adopt our proposal for a smoothing formula. The smoothing methodology is designed to vary the increment for a given license between a maximum and minimum value based on the bidding activity on that license. This methodology allows the increments to be tailored to the activity level of a license, decreasing the time it takes for active licenses to reach their final value. The formula used to calculate this increment is included as Attachment F.

We adopt our proposal of initially setting the weighing factor at 0.5, the minimum percentage increment at 0.1 (10 percent), and the maximum at 0.2 (20 percent).<sup>138</sup> The Bureau retains the discretion to change the minimum acceptable bids and bid increments if it determines that circumstance so dictate. The Bureau will do so by announcement in the Automated Auction System. Under its discretion, the Bureau may also implement an absolute dollar floor for the bid increment to further facilitate a timely close of the auction. The Bureau may also use its discretion to adjust the minimum bid increment without prior notice if circumstances warrant. The Bureau also retains the discretion to use alternate methodologies, such as a flat percentage increment for all licenses, for Auction No. 44 if circumstances warrant.

#### **4. High Bids**

At the end of each bidding round, the Automated Auction System determines the standing high bid for each license based on the gross dollar amounts of the bids received for each license.

In the case of tied high bids, a random number generator will be used to determine the standing high bid. A random number will be assigned to each bid. The tie bid having the highest random number will become the standing high bid.

#### **5. Bidding**

During a bidding round, a bidder may submit bids for as many licenses as it wishes (subject to its eligibility), withdraw high bids from previous bidding rounds, remove bids placed in the same bidding round, or permanently reduce eligibility. Bidders also have the option of making multiple submissions and withdrawals in each bidding round. If a bidder submits multiple bids for a single license in the same round, the system takes the last bid entered as that bidder's bid for the round. Bidders should note that the bidding units associated with licenses for which the bidder has removed or withdrawn its bid do not count towards the bidder's activity at the close of the round.

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<sup>135</sup> Comments of the Rural 700 MHz Group at 4.

<sup>136</sup> Comments of TCA at 5.

<sup>137</sup> Reply Comments of NTCA at 3.

<sup>138</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 7-9.

Please note that all bidding will take place remotely either through the Automated Auction System or by telephonic bidding. (Telephonic bid assistants are required to use a script when entering bids placed by telephone. Telephonic bidders are therefore reminded to allow sufficient time to bid by placing their calls well in advance of the close of a round. Normally, five to ten minutes are necessary to complete a bid submission.) There will be no on-site bidding during Auction No. 44.

A bidder's ability to bid on specific licenses in the first round of the auction is determined by two factors: (1) the licenses applied for on FCC Form 175 and (2) the upfront payment amount deposited. The bid submission screens will allow bidders to submit bids on only those licenses for which the bidder applied on its FCC Form 175.

The Automated Auction System requires each bidder to be logged in during the bidding round using the bidder identification number provided in the registration materials, and the generated SecurID code. Bidders are strongly encouraged to print bid confirmations after they submit their bids.

In each round, eligible bidders will be able to place bids on a given license in any of nine different amounts.<sup>139</sup> For each license, the Automated Auction System interface will list the nine acceptable bid amounts in a drop-down box. Bidders may use the drop-down box to select from among the nine acceptable bid amounts. The Automated Auction System also includes an import function that allows bidders to upload text files containing their bid information.

Once there is a standing high bid on a license, the Automated Auction System will calculate a minimum acceptable bid for that license for the following round. The difference between the minimum acceptable bid and the standing high bid for each license will define the *bid increment*. The nine acceptable bid amounts for each license consist of the minimum acceptable bid (the standing high bid plus one bid increment) and additional amounts calculated using multiple bid increments (*i.e.*, the second bid amount equals the standing high bid plus two times the bid increment, the third bid amount equals the standing high bid plus three times the bid increment, etc.).

Until a bid has been placed on a license, the minimum acceptable bid for that license will be equal to its minimum opening bid. The additional bid amounts for licenses that have not yet received a bid are calculated using the difference between the minimum opening bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment, rounded,<sup>140</sup> and the minimum opening bid. Therefore, when the minimum percentage increment equals 0.1, the first additional bid amount will be approximately ten percent higher than the minimum opening bid; the second, twenty percent; the third, thirty percent; etc.

In the case of a license for which the standing high bid has been withdrawn,<sup>141</sup> the minimum acceptable bid will equal the second highest bid received for the license. The additional bid amounts are calculated using the difference between the second highest bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment, rounded, and the second highest bid.

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<sup>139</sup> Bidders must have sufficient eligibility to place a bid on the particular license. *See* Section III.D.3 "Amount of Upfront Payment," *infra*.

<sup>140</sup> The product of the minimum opening bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment is rounded to the nearest thousand if it is over ten thousand, to the nearest hundred if it is under ten thousand but over one thousand, or to the nearest ten if it is below one thousand.

<sup>141</sup> *See* Section IV.B.6 "Bid Removal and Bid Withdrawal," *infra*.

See Attachment F for more detail on the calculation of the various bid amounts.

Finally, bidders are cautioned in selecting their bid amounts because, as explained in the following section, bidders who withdraw a standing high bid from a previous round, even if mistakenly or erroneously made, are subject to bid withdrawal payments.

## 6. Bid Removal and Bid Withdrawal

In the *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice*, we proposed bid removal and bid withdrawal rules.<sup>142</sup> With respect to bid withdrawals, we proposed limiting each bidder to withdrawals in no more than two rounds during the course of the auction. The two rounds in which withdrawals are utilized, we proposed, would be at the bidder's discretion. We received no comments on this issue.

**Procedures.** Before the close of a bidding round, a bidder has the option of removing any bids placed in that round. By using the "remove bid" function in the bidding system, a bidder may effectively "unsubmit" any bid placed within that round. A bidder removing a bid placed in the same round is not subject to withdrawal payments. Removing a bid will affect a bidder's activity for the round in which it is removed, *i.e.*, a bid that is subsequently removed does not count toward the bidder's activity requirement. This procedure, about which we received no comments, will enhance bidder flexibility during the auction. Therefore, we adopt these procedures for Auction No. 44.

Once a round closes, a bidder may no longer remove a bid. However, in later rounds, a bidder may withdraw standing high bids from previous rounds using the "withdraw bid" function (assuming that the bidder has not exhausted its withdrawal allowance). A high bidder that withdraws its standing high bid from a previous round during the auction is subject to the bid withdrawal payments specified in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2104(g). **Note: Once a withdrawal is placed during a round, that withdrawal cannot be unsubmitted.**

In previous auctions, we have detected bidder conduct that, arguably, may have constituted strategic bidding through the use of bid withdrawals. While we continue to recognize the important role that bid withdrawals play in an auction, *i.e.*, reducing risk associated with efforts to secure various licenses in combination, we conclude that, for Auction No. 44, adoption of a limit on their use to two rounds is the most appropriate outcome. By doing so we believe we strike a reasonable compromise that will allow bidders to use withdrawals. Our decision on this issue is based upon our experience in prior auctions, particularly the PCS D, E and F block auctions, and 800 MHz SMR auction, and is in no way a reflection of our view regarding the likelihood of any speculation or "gaming" in this auction.

The Bureau will therefore limit the number of rounds in which bidders may place withdrawals to two rounds. These rounds will be at the bidder's discretion and there will be no limit on the number of bids that may be withdrawn in either of these rounds. Withdrawals during the auction will still be subject to the bid withdrawal payments specified in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2104(g). Bidders should note that abuse of the Commission's bid withdrawal procedures could result in the denial of the ability to bid on a market. If a high bid is withdrawn, the minimum accepted bid in the next round will be the prior round's second highest bid price, which may be less than, or equal to, in the case of tie bids, the amount of the withdrawn

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<sup>142</sup> *Auction No. 44 Comment Public Notice* at 9.



bid.<sup>143</sup> The additional bid amounts are calculated using the difference between the second highest bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment, rounded, and the second highest bid. The Commission will serve as a “place holder” on the license until a new acceptable bid is submitted on that license.

**Calculation.** Generally, the Commission imposes payments on bidders that withdraw high bids during the course of an auction.<sup>144</sup> If a bidder withdraws its bid and there is no higher bid in the same or subsequent auction(s), the bidder that withdrew its bid is responsible for the difference between its withdrawn bid and the net high bid in the same or subsequent auction(s). In the case of multiple bid withdrawals on a single license, within the same or subsequent auctions(s), the payment for each bid withdrawal will be calculated based on the sequence of bid withdrawals and the amounts withdrawn. No withdrawal payment will be assessed for a withdrawn bid if either the subsequent winning bid or any of the intervening subsequent withdrawn bids, in either the same or subsequent auctions(s), equals or exceeds that withdrawn bid. Thus, a bidder that withdraws a bid will not be responsible for any withdrawal payments if there is a subsequent higher bid in the same or subsequent auction(s). This policy allows bidders most efficiently to allocate their resources as well as to evaluate their bidding strategies and business plans during an auction while, at the same time, maintaining the integrity of the auction process. The Bureau retains the discretion to scrutinize multiple bid withdrawals on a single license for evidence of anti-competitive strategic behavior and take appropriate action when deemed necessary.

In the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, the Commission modified Section 1.2104(g)(1) of the rules regarding assessments of interim bid withdrawal payments.<sup>145</sup> As amended, Section 1.2104(g)(1) provides that in instances in which bids have been withdrawn on a license that is not won in the same auction, the Commission will assess an interim withdrawal payment equal to 3 percent of the amount of the withdrawn bids. The 3 percent interim payment will be applied toward any final bid withdrawal payment that will be assessed after subsequent auction of the license. Assessing an interim bid withdrawal payment ensures that the Commission receives a minimal withdrawal payment pending assessment of any final withdrawal payment. The *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order* provides specific examples showing application of the bid withdrawal payment rule.<sup>146</sup>

## 7. Round Results

Bids placed during a round will not be published until the conclusion of that bidding period. After a round closes, the Bureau will compile reports of all bids placed, bids withdrawn, current high bids, new minimum accepted bids, and bidder eligibility status (bidding eligibility and activity rule waivers), and post the reports for public access. Reports reflecting bidders’ identities and bidder identification numbers for Auction No. 44 will be available before and during the auction. Thus, bidders will know in advance of this auction the identities of the bidders against which they are bidding.

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<sup>143</sup> The Bureau retains the discretion to lower the minimum acceptable bid on such licenses in the next round or in later rounds.

<sup>144</sup> See 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2104(g), 1.2109.

<sup>145</sup> See *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15302, ¶ 15; 47 C.F.R. § 1.2104(g)(1).

<sup>146</sup> See *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*, 15 FCC Rcd at 15302, ¶ 15.

## **8. Auction Announcements**

The FCC will use auction announcements to announce items such as schedule changes and stage transitions. All FCC auction announcements will be available by clicking a link on the Automated Auction System.

## **9. Maintaining the Accuracy of FCC Form 175 Information**

As noted in Part II.H., after the short-form filing deadline, applicants may make only minor changes to their FCC Form 175 applications. For example, permissible minor changes include deletion and addition of authorized bidders (to a maximum of three) and certain revision of exhibits. Applicants should make these modifications to their FCC Form 175 electronically and submit a letter, briefly summarizing the changes, by electronic mail to the attention of Margaret Wiener, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division at the following address: [auCTION44@fcc.gov](mailto:auCTION44@fcc.gov). The electronic mail summarizing the changes must include a subject or caption referring to Auction No. 44. The Bureau requests that parties format any attachments to electronic mail as Adobe<sup>®</sup> Acrobat<sup>®</sup> (pdf) or Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Word documents.

**A separate copy of the letter should be faxed to the attention of Kathryn Garland at (717) 338-2850.** Questions about other changes should be directed to Howard Davenport of the Auctions and Industry Analysis Division at (202) 418-0660.

## **V. POST-AUCTION PROCEDURES**

### **A. Down Payments and Withdrawn Bid Payments**

After bidding has ended, the Commission will issue a public notice declaring the auction closed, identifying winning bidders, down payments and any withdrawn bid payments due.

Within ten business days after release of the auction closing notice, each winning bidder must submit sufficient funds (in addition to its upfront payment) to bring its total amount of money on deposit with the Government to 20 percent of its net winning bids (actual bids less any applicable small, very small business or entrepreneur bidding credits). *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2107(b). In addition, by the same deadline all bidders must pay any bid withdrawal payments due under 47 C.F.R. § 1.2104(g), as discussed in “Bid Removal and Bid Withdrawal,” Part IV.B.6. (Upfront payments are applied first to satisfy any withdrawn bid liability, before being applied toward down payments.)

### **B. Auction Discount Voucher**

On June 8, 2000, the Commission awarded Qualcomm, Inc. a transferable Auction Discount Voucher (“ADV”) in the amount of \$125,273,878.00.<sup>147</sup> This ADV may be used by Qualcomm or its transferee, in whole or in part, to adjust a winning bid in any spectrum auction prior to June 8, 2003, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the Commission’s Order. Qualcomm transferred \$10,848,000.00 of the ADV to a winning bidder in FCC Auction No. 35 and the transferee used its portion of the ADV to pay a portion of one of its winning bids in Auction No. 35.<sup>148</sup> The remaining portion of Qualcomm’s ADV

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<sup>147</sup> In the Matter of Qualcomm Incorporated Petition for Declaratory Ruling Giving Effect to the Mandate of the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, *Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 4042 (2000).

<sup>148</sup> *See* Supplement to Public Notice Released August 22, 2001 By Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announcing It Is Prepared to Grant Four C and F Block Broadband Personal Communications Services (PCS)

could be used to adjust winning bids in another FCC auction, including Auction No. 44.

### **C. Long-Form Application**

Within ten business days after release of the auction closing notice, winning bidders must electronically submit a properly completed long-form application (FCC Form 601) and required exhibits for each license won through Auction No. 44. Winning bidders that are small, very small businesses or entrepreneurs must include an exhibit demonstrating their eligibility for small, very small business or entrepreneur bidding credits. *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2112(b). Further filing instructions will be provided to auction winners at the close of the auction.

### **D. Tribal Land Bidding Credit**

A winning bidder that intends to use its license(s) to deploy facilities and provide services to federally-recognized tribal lands that are unserved by any telecommunications carrier or that have a telephone service penetration rate equal to or below 70 percent is eligible to receive a tribal land bidding credit as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.2107 and 1.2110(f). A tribal land bidding credit is in addition to, and separate from, any other bidding credit for which a winning bidder may qualify.

Unlike other bidding credits that are requested prior to the auction, a winning bidder applies for the tribal land bidding credit *after* winning the auction when it files its long-form application (FCC Form 601). When filing the long-form application, the winning bidder will be required to advise the Commission whether it intends to seek a tribal land bidding credit, for each market won in the auction, by checking the designated box(es). After stating its intent to seek a tribal land bidding credit, the applicant will have 90 days from the close of the long-form filing window to amend its application to select the specific tribal lands to be served and provide the required tribal government certifications. Licensees receiving a tribal land bidding credit are subject to performance criteria as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2110(f).

For additional information on the tribal land bidding credit, including how the amount of the credit is calculated, applicants should review the Commission's rule making proceeding regarding tribal land bidding credits and related public notices.<sup>149</sup> Relevant documents can be viewed on the Commission's web site by going to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/auctions> and clicking on *Tribal Land Credits*.

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Licenses Upon Full and Timely Payment, Auction Event No. 35, DA 01-2071, *Public Notice*, 16 FCC Rcd 16,025 (2001). All of the terms and conditions applicable to Qualcomm's use of the ADV shall apply to its use by a transferee, except that a transferee may not transfer the ADV to an entity other than back to Qualcomm. *See* In the Matter of Qualcomm Incorporated Petition for Declaratory Ruling Giving Effect to the Mandate of the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals, *Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 4042 (2000); *see also* Letter from Thomas J. Sugrue, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, to Veronica M. Ahern, Attorney for Qualcomm Incorporated (December 22, 2000).

<sup>149</sup> *See* Extending Wireless Telecommunications Services to Tribal Lands, WT Docket No. 99-266, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 15 FCC Rcd 11794 (2000); Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces Availability of Bidding Credits For Providing Wireless Services To Qualifying Tribal Lands, *Public Notice*, 15 FCC Rcd 18351 (2000); Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Releases Additional Information Regarding the Procedures for Obtaining a Tribal Lands Bidding Credit and List of Tribal Lands, *Public Notice*, DA 00-2836, (rel. December 14, 2000); Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces Enhancements to the Universal Licensing System to Help Winning Bidders of FCC Auctions File for Tribal Land Bidding Credits, *Public Notice*, DA 01-613, (rel. March 8, 2001).

### **E. Default and Disqualification**

Any high bidder that defaults or is disqualified after the close of the auction (*i.e.*, fails to remit the required down payment within the prescribed period of time, fails to submit a timely long-form application, fails to make full payment, or is otherwise disqualified) will be subject to the payments described in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2104(g)(2). In such event the Commission may re-auction the license or offer it to the next highest bidder (in descending order) at their final bid. In addition, if a default or disqualification involves gross misconduct, misrepresentation, or bad faith by an applicant, the Commission may declare the applicant and its principals ineligible to bid in future auctions, and may take any other action that it deems necessary, including institution of proceedings to revoke any existing licenses held by the applicant. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2109(d).

### **F. Refund of Remaining Upfront Payment Balance**

All applicants that submitted upfront payments but were not winning bidders for a license in Auction No. 44 may be entitled to a refund of their remaining upfront payment balance after the conclusion of the auction. No refund will be made unless there are excess funds on deposit from that applicant after any applicable bid withdrawal payments have been paid. All refunds will be returned to the payer of record, as identified on the FCC Form 159, unless the payer submits written authorization instructing otherwise.

Qualified bidders that have exhausted all of their activity rule waivers, have no remaining bidding eligibility, and have not withdrawn a high bid during the auction must submit a written refund request. If you have completed the refund instructions electronically, then only a written request for the refund is necessary. If not, the request must also include wire transfer instructions, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and FCC Registration Number (FRN). Send refund request to:

Federal Communications Commission  
Financial Operations Center  
Auctions Accounting Group  
Gail Glasser or Tim Dates  
445 12th Street, SW, Room 1-C863  
Washington, DC 20554

Bidders are encouraged to file their refund information electronically using the refund information portion of the FCC Form 175, but bidders can also fax their information to the Auctions Accounting Group at (202) 418-2843. Once the information has been approved, a refund will be sent to the party identified in the refund information.

NOTE: Refund processing generally takes up to two weeks to complete. Bidders with questions about refunds should contact Tim Dates or Gail Glasser at (202) 418-1995.

**Media Contact:** Meribeth McCarrick at (202) 418-0654

**Auctions and Industry Analysis Division:** Howard Davenport, Legal Branch, or Lyle Ishida, Auctions Operations Branch, at (202) 418-0660; Linda Sanderson, Auctions Operations Branch, at (717) 338-2888

**Commercial Wireless Division:** Amal Abdallah and Gary Oshinsky, Policy and Rules Branch, or Joanne Epps and Melvin Spann, Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch, at (202) 418-0620

Attachment A

PLACE HOLDER

**VI. ATTACHMENT B**

**FCC AUCTION SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM**

**Auction No. 44**

The FCC will sponsor a one-day seminar for Auction No. 44 applicants. The seminar is free of charge and will provide information about pre-auction procedures, service and auction rules, conduct of the auction, and the Automated Auction System.

Representatives from each company may attend on a reservation basis, first-come first-served until room capacity is filled. The seminar will be held:

Wednesday, May 1, 2002  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
Registration 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Seminar 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If hotel accommodations are needed  
Please contact 1-888-225-5322 (option #2) for a list of hotels in the area  
\*\*\*\*\*

To register, complete the form below and  
return no later than  
Monday, April 29, 2002, by fax to:

FCC Auction 44  
Auctions Operations Branch  
1270 Fairfield Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

FAX: 717-338-2850  
Phone: 717-338-2888

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I/We will attend the Auction No. 44 Seminar, scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2002.

Name of attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

## VII. ATTACHMENT C

### ELECTRONIC FILING AND REVIEW OF THE FCC FORM 175

Applicants must submit their FCC Form 175 applications electronically. The FCC recommends submitting your Form 175 via the Internet. As a contingency, you can submit via the FCC Wide-Area Network. FCC Form 175 applications must be submitted and confirmed by **6:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday, May 8, 2002**. Late applications or unconfirmed submissions of electronic data will not be accepted.

Applicants must click the **SUBMIT Application** button on the *Submission* page to successfully submit their FCC Form 175. The electronic filing process consists of an initial filing period and a resubmission period to make minor corrections. During each filing period, submitted applications may be updated and amended multiple times until the filing deadline.

#### A. Software Requirements

Applicants will need to meet the following minimum software requirements:

- Web Browser, either of the following:
  - ◆ Microsoft® Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher (recommended). Your browser must have either Microsoft VM or Java Plug-In Version 1.3.1 installed.
  - ◆ Netscape® Communicator™ 4.0 or higher, with Java Plug-In Version 1.3.1.

Java Plug-In Version 1.3.1 is available for downloading at <http://java.sun.com/getjava/download.html>.

- PDF Viewer: Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or higher (available at <http://www.adobe.com>)

If you wish to use the download feature on the Search Results page, you will need a .tar file extraction utility, e.g., Winzip (available at <http://www.winzip.com>) or Pkzip for Windows (available at <http://www.pkware.com/shareware>).

#### B. Submitting FCC Form 175 Applications

You can submit FCC Form 175 applications electronically via the Internet. Start your web browser and point it to either <https://auctions.fcc.gov/> (primary location) or <https://auctions2.fcc.gov/> (secondary location). On the FCC Auctions page, click **Form 175 Application & Search** to obtain the Form 175 Homepage.

**Note:** As a contingency, you may submit FCC Form 175 applications via the FCC Wide Area Network, using Dial-Up Networking. To access the Wide Area Network, configure your dial-up network to dial **800-378-7435**. (Alternatively, you can configure your dial-up network to dial **877-844-2788**.)

## 1. Logging On

The Form 175 Homepage has a Form 175 Logon area at the top right. This area provides fields that let you identify yourself to the system before submitting a Form 175 application.

**Important:** On December 3, 2001, the FCC Registration Number (FRN) became mandatory for all parties conducting business with the FCC. An FRN is mandatory for all filers logging onto the 175 Application System.

Once you have logged on with your FRN, you can click the **New Form** link to obtain the *Profile* page for the auction.

## 2. Uploading Attachments

When uploading attachments from the Form 175 *Attachments* page, applicants may use a variety of file formats--including Word 2000 or earlier, WordPerfect 6.x or earlier, Adobe PDF, and ASCII text -- and should verify that the files contain all exhibit information. Also note the following about files to be uploaded:

- Graphics files (e.g., *.bmp*, *.tiff*, *.jpg*) and spreadsheets (e.g., Excel, Lotus) are not supported,
- Word processing files that are uploaded may not contain graphic images.
- Do not include punctuation marks (e.g., ? . - ,) in the name of a file to be uploaded. The FCC system will not be able to convert that file.
- Do not upload a password-protected file. The FCC system will not be able to open it or convert it.

The system converts each uploaded attachment to PDF format. (The conversion process generally completes within 30 minutes.) Until the system has converted your file to PDF format, the description field shows *Not converted*.

Repeat this procedure for each additional attachment you want to add. When you have finished adding attachments, click the **Continue to CERTIFICATION** button to obtain the *Certification* page.

### a. Unreadable Attachment Files

If you are unable to read an attachment file after it has been converted, please do the following:

1. Re-upload the attachment.
2. If the file still has not been converted properly, then simplify the formatting of the file.

For example, if you are using a Table structure in a WordPerfect document, remove the Table structure and leave the contents of the table, then re-upload the attachment.



After you have successfully re-uploaded an attachment, please delete the old, unreadable attachment files using their **Delete** links.

### **3. Completing the Submission Procedure**

Applicants must press the **SUBMIT Application** button on the *Submission* page to successfully submit their FCC Form 175. Pressing **SUBMIT Application** produces a *Submission Confirmation* page showing the assigned FCC Account Number. During each filing period, submitted applications may be updated and amended multiple times until the filing deadline.

#### **C. Reviewing FCC Form 175 Applications**

Once the FCC has completed the 175 Review process, you can view FCC Form 175 applications electronically by searching for them in the FCC database. Start your web browser and point it to either <https://auctions.fcc.gov/> (primary location) or <https://auctions2.fcc.gov/> (secondary location). Click the **Form 175 Application & Search** link, then click the **SEARCH** link at the top of the page. When the *Form 175 Search* page appears, select the search criteria you want and then click the **Submit** button.

#### **D. Help**

For technical assistance with using FCC software, contact the FCC Technical Support Hotline at (202) 414-1250 (V) or (202) 414-1255 (TTY). The FCC Technical Support Hotline is generally available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET, Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET, and Sunday from 12 noon to 6 p.m. ET. *All calls to the FCC Technical Support Hotline are recorded.*

You can also contact Technical Support via e-mail. To obtain the address, click the **Support** tab on the Form 175 Homepage.

## VIII. ATTACHMENT D

### GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETION OF FCC FORM 175 AND EXHIBITS

#### A. FCC Form 175

Because of the significance of the FCC Form 175 application to the auction, bidders should especially note the following:

**Applicant:** Name given is used as your bidder name in the auction.

**Address:** Applicants must provide a street address (not a Post Office box number) for the applicant, suitable for mail or private parcel delivery.

**Legal Classification:** Applicants must indicate their legal classification. The FCC Form 175 requires the applicant to classify itself as an individual, joint venture, partnership, trust, corporation, consortium, association, limited liability corporation (LLC) or government entity.

**Applicant Status:** Applicants are requested to indicate their status as a rural telephone company, minority- and/or women-owned business, so that the FCC can monitor its performance in promoting economic opportunities for these designated entities.

**Contact person/address:** If the Commission wishes to communicate with the applicant by telephone or fax, those communications will be directed to the contact person identified on the FCC Form 175. Space is provided for an address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address. All written communication and registration information will be directed to the applicant's contact person at the address specified on the FCC Form 175. Applicants must provide a street address; **no P.O. Box addresses may be used.**

**Authorized Bidders:** Applicants must list the name(s) of the person(s) (no more than three) authorized to represent them at the auction. Only those individuals listed on the FCC Form 175 will be authorized to place or withdraw bids for the applicant during the auction.

**Bidding Credit Eligibility:** Applicants that qualify for a small, very small business or entrepreneur bidding credit must select the applicable bidding credit (15 percent, 25 percent or 35 percent) in the bidding credit eligibility item on the Form 175. Applicants are advised that this is the sole opportunity applicants have to elect small business status and bidding credit level (if applicable). There is no opportunity to change the election once the short-form filing deadline passes on May 8, 2002.

**Telephonic or Electronic Bidding Options:** Bidders may participate in the auction either electronically or telephonically, and must specify their preference. To participate in the auction, every authorized bidder must have a SecurID card, which the FCC will provide free of charge.

**License Selection:** Applicants should select all licenses on which they want to be eligible to bid in the auction. Be advised that there is no opportunity to change this list once the short-form filing deadline passes on May 8, 2002. It is critically important that you confirm the licenses that you have selected because the Automated Auction System will not accept bids on licenses for which an applicant has not applied on its FCC Form 175.

The online Form 175 application provides filters that enable you to generate a list of licenses by License Area (either “EAG” or “CMA”), Market Number, and/or Block. Once you obtain this customized list, you can use it to select the licenses you are interested in.

## **B. Exhibits and Attachments**

In addition to the FCC Form 175 itself, applicants must submit additional information required by the FCC’s rules. If attachments are not uploaded, the FCC Form 175 submission process cannot be completed. Although the FCC does not require a particular format for this information, it has developed the following guidelines that will facilitate the processing of short-form applications. The FCC encourages applicants to submit this information using the following format.

**If you find that an attachment has not converted properly to Adobe PDF format, take the following steps:**

- 1) *Simplify the formatting of the file. For example, if using a Table structure in a WordPerfect document, remove the Table structure leaving the contents of the table, re-save the document.*
- 2) *Re-upload the attachment.*
- 3) *When the re-uploaded attachment has successfully converted, delete the failed attachment.*

**NOTE: Applicants should not include sensitive information (i.e., TIN/EIN) on any exhibits to their FCC Form 175s.**

**Exhibit A – Applicant Identity and Ownership Information:** 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(a)(2)(ii) requires each applicant to fully disclose the real party or parties-in-interest in an exhibit to its FCC Form 175 application. Each member of an applicant applying to bid as a small, very small business or entrepreneur consortium must provide this information. The following information is required:

### **1. General Information**

<b><i>Applicant Status</i></b>	<b><i>Required Information</i></b>
General Partnership	Name, citizenship, and address of all partners, and the share or interest participation of each partner
Limited Partnership	Name, citizenship, and address of each limited partner whose interest in the applicant is equal to or greater than 10 percent (as calculated according to the percentage of equity paid in and the percentage of distribution of profits and losses)
Corporation	Corporate name and address; name, title, and citizenship of a responsible officer or director
Limited Liability Corporation	Corporate name and address; name, address, and citizenship of all members whose interest in the applicant is equal to or greater than 10 percent (as calculated according to the percentage of equity paid in and the percentage of distribution of profits and losses)
Trust	Name, citizenship, and address of trustee
None of the above	Name, citizenship, title or other relation to the applicant, and address of a

***Applicant Status***

***Required Information***

principal or other responsible person

**2. Ownership Information**

***Applicant Status***

All applicants

***Required Information***

Name, citizenship, and address of all controlling interests of the applicant as discussed in Part II.D.3 of this public notice.

All applicants

Name, citizenship, and address of all parties holding 10 percent or more of each class of stock, warrants, options or debt securities and the amount and percentage held.

All applicants

Name of all parties holding a 10 percent or greater interest in the applicant and the specific amount held.

All applicants

List of all parties holding indirect ownership interests in the applicant that equals 10 percent or more, as determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages in each link of the vertical ownership chain, except that if the ownership percentage for any link in the chain exceeds 50 percent or represents actual control, it shall be reported as if it were a 100 percent interest.

*Example.* Company A owns 10% of Company B, which owns 60% of Company C, which owns 25% of the applicant. Company B's interest in the applicant would be 25% (the same as Company C's interest since Company B's interest in Company C exceeds 50%), and Company A's interest in the applicant would be 2.5% ( $0.1 * 0.25$ ). Under the 10% attribution benchmark, Company B's interest in the applicant must be reported on the applicant's FCC Form 175 Exhibit A, while Company A's interest in the applicant need not be reported. However, if Company A owned 40% of Company B in the above example, then Company A's interest in the applicant would be 10% ( $0.4 * 0.25$ ), and the applicant would need to report it on the applicant's FCC Form 175 Exhibit A

All applicants

List of any FCC-regulated entity or applicant for an FCC license, in which

- a. the applicant;
- b. any party with a 10 percent or greater interest in the applicant; or
- c. a controlling interest (as discussed in Part II.D.3 of this public notice)

owns a 10 percent or greater interest of the applicant or 10 percent or more of any class of stock, warrants, options or debt securities of the applicant. (*See also* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2110) This list must include a description of each such entities' principal business and a description of

***Applicant Status***

***Required Information***

each such entities’ relationship to the applicant.

*Example of a.* The applicant owns 10 percent of Company A (an FCC regulated entity or an applicant for an FCC license). The applicant must list Company A on its FCC Form 175 Exhibit A and provide the required information.

*Example of b.* Company A owns 10 percent of the applicant and 10 percent of Company B (an FCC regulated entity or an applicant for an FCC license). The applicant must list both Company A and Company B on its FCC Form 175 Exhibit A and provide the required information.

*Example of c.* Company A owns 55% of the applicant and owns 10 percent of Company B (an FCC regulated entity or an Applicant for an FCC license). The applicant must list both Company A and Company B on its FCC Form 175 Exhibit A and provide the required information.

**Exhibit B – Agreements with Other Parties/Joint Bidding Arrangements:** Applicants must attach an exhibit identifying all parties with which they have entered into any agreements, arrangements or understandings which relate in any way to the licenses being auctioned, including any relating to the post-auction market structure. *See* 47 C.F.R. §1.2105(a)(2)(viii).

Be aware that pursuant to Certification (4) on the FCC Form 175, the applicant certifies that it will not enter into any explicit or implicit agreements or understandings of any kind with parties not identified in the application regarding bid amounts, bidding strategies, or the particular licenses on which the applicant will or will not bid. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(a)(2)(ix). *To prevent collusion, the Commission’s Rules generally prohibit applicants for licenses covering the same geographic area from communicating concerning bids, bidding strategies, or settlements during the period between the initial short-form applications filing deadline and the deadline for down payments on licenses won in the auction.* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(c).

**Exhibit C – Status as a Small Business, Very Small Business or Entrepreneur:** Applicants claiming status as a small business, very small business or entrepreneur must attach an exhibit providing the following information regarding this status.

***Entity***

***Required Information***

Applicant

Average annual gross revenues for the preceding three years set forth *both separately* (e.g., for each of the preceding three years individually) *and in the aggregate* (for all of the preceding three years combined). Certification that the average of the aggregated annual gross revenues for the preceding three years do not exceed the required limit, or providing average gross revenues for the 3-year period without providing the gross revenues for each of the preceding three years, is insufficient.

Applicant’s Affiliates  
*See* 47 CFR §§ 1.2110, 1.2112

Same information required as discussed above

Applicant’s Controlling Interests

Same information required as discussed above

**Entity**

See 47 CFR §§ 1.2110, 1.2112.

**Required Information**

*Example.* The applicant had gross revenues of \$500,000 in 1999, \$1,000,000 in 2000, and \$3,000,000 in 2001, with average gross revenues for that time period of \$1,500,000. The applicant owns 60% of Company A, making Company A an affiliate of the applicant under Section 1.2110(c)(5)(i)(B). Company B owns 52% of the applicant, making Company B a controlling interest of the applicant, as defined in Part II.D.3 of this public notice. Company B owns 100% of Company C, making Company C an affiliate of the applicant's controlling interest, under Section 1.2110(c)(5)(i)(C). The applicant's Exhibit C would look like this:

Applicant Name

1999 gross revenues	\$ 500,000	
2000 gross revenues	\$ 1,000,000	
2001 gross revenues	\$ 3,000,000	
Average gross revenues for the preceding 3 years	1,500,000	\$

Company A (an affiliate of the applicant)

1999 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	
2000 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	
2001 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	
Average gross revenues for the preceding 3 years	enter amount	\$

Company B (a controlling interest in the applicant)

1999 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	
2000 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	
2001 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	
Average gross revenues for the preceding 3 years	enter amount	\$

Company C (an affiliate of the applicant's controlling interest)

1999 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	
2000 gross revenues	\$ enter amount	

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Required Information</i>	
	2001 gross revenues	\$ enter amount
	Average gross revenues for the preceding 3 years	\$ enter amount

**NOTE:** Each member of an applicant that is applying to bid as a consortium of small, very small businesses or entrepreneurs must provide this information and qualify for the claimed status.

**Exhibit D – Information Required of All Applicants Regarding Prior Defaults and Prior Delinquencies:**

Each applicant must include at Exhibit D a statement made under penalty of perjury indicating whether or not the applicant, its affiliates, its controlling interests, or the affiliates of its controlling interest have ever been in default on any Commission licenses or have ever been delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency. The applicant must provide such information for itself, for each of its controlling interests and affiliates, and for each affiliate of its controlling interests as defined by Section 1.2110 of the Commission’s rules (as amended in the *Part 1 Fifth Report and Order*).

**Exhibit E – Information Requested of Designated Entities:** Applicants owned by minorities or women, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2110(c), or that are rural telephone companies, may attach an exhibit regarding this status. This information, in conjunction with the information requested on the FCC Form 175, will assist the Commission in monitoring the participation of these “designated entities” in its auctions.

**Exhibit F – Miscellaneous Information:** Applicants wishing to submit additional information should include it in Exhibit F.

**Waivers:** Applicants requesting waiver of any rules must submit a statement of reasons sufficient to justify the waiver sought. *See* 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.3, 1.925.

**Certifications:** Applicants should carefully read the list of certifications on the FCC Form 175. These certifications help to ensure a fair and competitive auction and require, among other things, disclosure to the Commission of certain information on applicant ownership and agreements or arrangements concerning the auction. Submission of an FCC Form 175 application constitutes a representation by the certifying official that he or she is an authorized representative of the applicant, has read the form’s instructions and certifications, and that the contents of the application and its attachments are true and correct. Submission of a false certification to the Commission may result in penalties, including monetary forfeitures, license forfeitures, ineligibility to participate in future auctions, and/or criminal prosecution.

**Completeness:** Applicants must submit all information required by the FCC Form 175 and by applicable rules. Failure to submit required information by the resubmission date will result in dismissal of the application and inability to participate in the auction. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.2105(b).

**NOTE:** Applicants must press the “SUBMIT Application” button on the “Submission” page to successfully submit their FCC Form 175.

**Continuing Accuracy:** Each applicant is responsible for the continuing accuracy and completeness of information furnished in the FCC Form 175 and its exhibits. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 1.65. It is the FCC’s position that during the conduct of an auction, thirty business days from a reportable change is a reasonable period of time. Applicants are reminded that they consent to be audited in the certification

section of the FCC Form 175 (see certification item number 6).

Applicants are reminded that all information required in connection with applications to participate in spectrum auctions is necessary to determine the applicants' qualifications, and as such will be available for public inspection. Required proprietary information may be redacted, or confidentiality may be requested, following the procedures set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 0.459. Such requests must be submitted by electronic mail to the attention of Margaret Wiener, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, at the following address: [auction44@fcc.gov](mailto:auction44@fcc.gov), in which case the applicant must indicate in Exhibit F that it has filed a confidentiality request. Because the required information bears on applicants' qualifications, the FCC envisions that confidentiality requests will not be routinely granted.

The electronic mail summarizing the changes must include a subject or caption referring to Auction No. 44. The Bureau requests that parties format any attachments to electronic mail as Adobe<sup>®</sup> Acrobat<sup>®</sup> (pdf) or Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Word documents.

**A separate copy of the letter should be faxed to the attention of Kathryn Garland at (717) 338-2850.**



## IX. ATTACHMENT E

### AUCTION-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR FCC REMITTANCE ADVICE (FCC FORM 159-February 2000 edition)

#### A. Upfront Payments

The following information supplements the standard instructions for FCC Form 159 (Revised 2/00), and is provided to help ensure correct completion of FCC Form 159 for upfront payments for Auction No. 44. Applicants need to complete FCC Form 159 carefully, since:

- **Mistakes may affect their bidding eligibility; and**
- **Lack of consistency between information set forth in FCC Form 159 (Revised 2/00), FCC Form 175, long-form application, and correspondence about an application may cause processing delays.**

Therefore appropriate cross-references between the FCC Form 159 Remittance Advice and the FCC Form 175 Short Form Application are described below:

Block Number	Required Information
1	LOCKBOX # - Enter "358415"
2	Payer Name - Enter the name of the person or company making the payment. If the applicant itself is the payer, this entry would be the same as FCC Form 175.
3	Total Amount Paid - Enter the amount of the upfront payment associated with the FCC Form 159 (Revised 2/00).
4-8	Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code - Enter the street mailing address (not Post Office box number) where mail should be sent to the payer. If the applicant is the payer, these entries would be the same as FCC Form 175 from the Applicant Information section.
9	Daytime Telephone Number - Enter the telephone number of a person knowledgeable about this upfront payment.
10	Country Code - For addresses outside the United States, enter the appropriate postal country code (available from the Mailing Requirements Department of the U.S. Postal Service).
11	Payer FRN – Enter the payer’s ten-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) registered in the Commission Registration System (CORES).
12	Payer TIN – Enter the payer’s nine-digit Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).
24A	Payment Type Code - Enter "A44U"

- 25A            Quantity - Enter the number “1”
- 26A            Fee Due - Amount of Upfront Payment
- 27A            Total Fee - Will be the same amount as 26A.
- 28A            FCC Code 1 - Enter the number “44” (indicating Auction No. 44).

NOTES:

- Do not use Remittance Advice (Continuation Sheet), FCC Form 159-C, for upfront payments.
- If applicant is different from the payer, complete blocks 13 through 22 for the applicant, using the same information shown on FCC Form 175. Otherwise leave them blank.
- Since credit card payments will not be accepted for this auction, leave Section E blank.

**B.        Winning Bidder Requirements, Down Payments and Final Payments**

Specific information regarding down payments and final payments will be included in a post-auction public notice announcing the winning bidders.

## X. ATTACHMENT F

### Minimum Acceptable Bids, Bid Increments, and the Smoothing Formula

The Automated Auction System calculates the minimum acceptable bids and bid increments for each license with a standing high bid in each round of the auction based on all bidding activity for the license. For this auction, the Commission will use a standard smoothing methodology to calculate minimum acceptable bids and bid increments.

The smoothing formula calculates minimum acceptable bids by first calculating a *percentage increment*, not to be confused with the *bid increment*, for each license based on a weighted average of the activity received on each license in all previous rounds. This methodology tailors the percentage increment for each license based on activity, rather than setting a global increment for all licenses.

In a given round, the calculation of the percentage increment for each license is made at the end of the previous round. The computation is based on an activity index, which is calculated as the weighted average of the activity in that round and the activity index from the prior round. The activity index at the start of the auction (round 0) will be set at 0. The current activity index is equal to a weighting factor times the number of new bids received on the license in the most recent bidding round plus one minus the weighting factor times the activity index from the prior round. The activity index is then used to calculate a percentage increment by multiplying a minimum percentage increment by one plus the activity index with that result being subject to a maximum percentage increment. The Commission will initially set the weighting factor at 0.5, the minimum percentage increment at 0.1 (10%), and the maximum percentage increment at 0.2 (20%).

#### Equations

$$A_i = (C * B_i) + ((1-C) * A_{i-1})$$

$$I_{i+1} = \text{smaller of } ((1 + A_i) * N) \text{ and } M$$

$$X_{i+1} = I_{i+1} * Y_i$$

where,

$A_i$  = activity index for the current round (round i)

C = activity weight factor

$B_i$  = number of bids in the current round (round i)

$A_{i-1}$  = activity index from previous round (round i-1),  $A_0$  is 0

$I_{i+1}$  = percentage increment for the next round (round i+1)

N = minimum percentage increment or percentage increment floor

M = maximum percentage increment or percentage increment ceiling

$X_{i+1}$  = dollar amount associated with the percentage increment

$Y_i$  = high bid from the current round

Under the smoothing methodology, once a bid has been received on a license, the minimum acceptable bid for that license in the following round will be the high bid from the current round plus the dollar amount associated with the percentage increment, with the result rounded to the nearest thousand if it is over ten thousand, to the nearest hundred if it is under ten thousand but over one thousand, or to the nearest ten if it is below one thousand.

## Examples

License 1

$C=0.5$ ,  $N = 0.1$ ,  $M = 0.2$

### Round 1 (2 new bids, high bid = \$1,000,000)

1. Calculation of percentage increment for round 2 using the smoothing formula:

$$A_1 = (0.5 * 2) + (0.5 * 0) = 1$$

$$I_2 = \text{The smaller of } ((1 + 1) * 0.1) = 0.2 \text{ or } 0.2 \text{ (the maximum percentage increment)}$$

2. Calculation of dollar amount associated with the percentage increment for round 2 (using  $I_2$  from above):

$$X_2 = 0.2 * \$1,000,000 = \$200,000$$

3. Minimum acceptable bid for round 2 = \$1,200,000

### Round 2 (3 new bids, high bid = \$2,000,000)

1. Calculation of percentage increment for round 3 using the smoothing formula:

$$A_2 = (0.5 * 3) + (0.5 * 1) = 2$$

$$I_3 = \text{The smaller of } ((1 + 2) * 0.1) = 0.3 \text{ or } 0.2 \text{ (the maximum percentage increment)}$$

2. Calculation of dollar amount associated with the percentage increment for round 3 (using  $I_3$  from above):

$$X_3 = 0.2 * \$2,000,000 = \$400,000$$

3. Minimum acceptable bid for round 3 = \$2,400,000

### Round 3 (1 new bid, high bid = \$2,400,000)

1. Calculation of percentage increment for round 4 using the smoothing formula:

$$A_3 = (0.5 * 1) + (0.5 * 2) = 1.5$$

$$I_4 = \text{The smaller of } ((1 + 1.5) * 0.1) = 0.25 \text{ or } 0.2 \text{ (the maximum percentage increment)}$$

2. Calculation of dollar amount associated with the percentage increment for round 4 (using  $I_4$  from above):

$$X_4 = 0.2 * \$2,400,000 = \$480,000$$

3. Minimum acceptable bid for round 4 = \$2,880,000

As stated above, until a bid has been placed on a license, the minimum acceptable bid for that license will be equal to its minimum opening bid. The additional bid amounts are calculated using the difference between the minimum opening bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment, rounded as described above, and the minimum opening bid. That is,  $I = (\text{minimum opening bid})(1 + N)\{\text{rounded}\} - (\text{minimum opening bid})$ . Therefore, when  $N$  equals 0.1, the first additional bid amount will be approximately ten percent higher than the minimum opening bid; the second, twenty percent; the third, thirty percent; etc.

In the case of a license for which the standing high bid has been withdrawn, the minimum acceptable bid will equal the second highest bid received for the license. The additional bid amounts are calculated using the difference between the second highest bid times one plus the minimum percentage increment, rounded, and the second highest bid.

## XI. ATTACHMENT G

### SUMMARY LISTING OF DOCUMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION AND THE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU ADDRESSING APPLICATION OF THE ANTI-COLLUSION RULES

#### A. Commission Decisions:

*Second Report and Order* in PP Docket No. 93-253, FCC 94-61, 9 FCC Rcd. 2348, 2386-2388 (1994), paragraphs 221-226.

*Fifth Report and Order* in PP Docket No. 93-253, FCC 94-178, 9 FCC Rcd. 5532, 5570-5571 (1994), paragraphs 91-92.

*Fourth Memorandum Opinion and Order* in PP Docket No. 93-253, FCC 94-264, 9 FCC Rcd. 6858, 6866-6869 (1994), paragraphs 47-60.

*Second Memorandum Opinion and Order* in PP Docket No. 93-253, FCC 94-215, 9 FCC Rcd. 7245, 7253-7255 (1994), paragraphs 48-55.

*Memorandum Opinion and Order* in PP Docket No. 93-253, FCC 94-295, 9 FCC Rcd. 7684, 7687-7689 (1994), paragraphs 8-12.

In re Commercial Realty St. Pete, *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture*, 10 FCC Rcd. 4277 (1995),  
In re Commercial Realty St. Pete, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 11 FCC Rcd. 15,374 (1996).

In re Applications of Mercury PCS II, LLC, *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture*, 12 FCC Rcd. 17,970 (1997) (petition for partial reconsideration pending).

Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's rules -- Competitive Bidding Procedures, Allocation of Spectrum Below 5 GHz Transferred from Federal Government Use, 4660-4685 MHz, WT Docket No. 97-82, ET Docket No. 94-32, FCC 97-413, *Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 13 FCC Rcd. 374, 463-469 (1997), paragraphs 155-166.

In re Application of US West Communications, Inc., *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture*, 13 FCC Rcd 8286 (1998); In the Matter of Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture of US West Communications, Inc., *Order*, FCC 99-90 (May 7, 1999).

In re Application of Western PCS BTA I Corporation, *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture*, FCC 98-42 (March 16, 1998); In the Matter of Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture of Western PCS BTA I Corporation, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 14 FCC Rcd 21571, 21577-78, ¶ 20 (rel. Dec. 13, 1999).

In the Matter of Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules—Competitive Bidding Procedures, *Seventh Report and Order*, 16 FCC Rcd 17546 (2001).

## **B. Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Decisions:**

Amendment of Parts 21 and 74 of the Commission's rules with Regard to Filing Procedures in the Multipoint Distribution Service and in the Instructional Television Fixed Service, *Order*, 11 FCC Rcd. 9655 (Wireless Tel. Bur. 1995).

In re Applications of GWI PCS, Inc. For Authority to Construct and Operate Broadband PCS Systems Operating on Frequency Block C, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 12 FCC Rcd. 6441 (Wireless Tel. Bur. 1997).

In re Applications of Mercury PCS II, LLC, For Facilities in the Broadband Personal Communications Services in the D, E, and F Blocks, *Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration*, 12 FCC Rcd. 18,093 (Wireless Tel. Bur. 1997).

In the Matter of Applications of High Plains Wireless, L.P., For Authority to Construct and Operate Broadband PCS Systems on Frequency Blocks D, E, and F, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 12 FCC Rcd. 19,627 (Wireless Tel. Bur. 1997).

In the Matter of Applications of Mercury PCS II, LLC, For Authority to Construct and Operate Broadband PCS Systems on Frequency Blocks D, E, and F, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 13 FCC Rcd. 5756 (Wireless Tel. Bur. 1997).

### **1. Public Notices:**

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Clarifies Spectrum Auction Anti-Collusion Rules, *Public Notice*, 11 FCC Rcd. 9645 (1995).

FCC Staff Clarifies Application of Anti-Collusion Rule to Broadband PCS 'C' Block Reauction, *Public Notice*, 11 FCC Rcd. 7031 (1996).

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Provides Guidance on the Anti-Collusion Rule for D, E and F Block Bidders, *Public Notice*, 11 FCC Rcd. 10,134 (1996).

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Responds to Questions About the Local Multipoint Distribution Service Auction, *Public Notice*, DA 98-37 (rel. January 9, 1998).

### **2. Letters from the Office of General Counsel and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:**

*Letter to Gary M. Epstein and James H. Barker from William E. Kennard, General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission* (released October 25, 1994).

*Letter to Alan F. Ciamporcero from William E Kennard, General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission* (released October 25, 1996).

*Letter to R. Michael Senkowski from Rosalind K. Allen, Acting Chief, Commercial Radio Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau* (released December 1, 1994).

*Letter to Leonard J. Kennedy from Rosalind K. Allen, Acting Chief, Commercial Radio Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau* (released December 14, 1994).

*Letter to Jonathan D. Blake and Robert J. Rini from Kathleen O'Brien Ham, Chief, Auctions Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, DA 95-2404* (released November 28, 1995).

*Letter to Mark Grady from Kathleen O'Brien Ham, Chief, Auctions Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 11 FCC Rcd. 10,895* (1996).

*Letter to David L. Nace from Kathleen O'Brien Ham, Chief, Auctions Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 11 FCC Rcd. 11,363* (1996).

*Letter to Elliott J. Greenwald from Christopher J. Wright, General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission* (released April 6, 1998).

*Letter to Robert Pettit, Wiley, Rein & Fielding from Margaret W. Wiener, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, DA 00-2905* (released December 26, 2000).

### **3. Civil Actions Initiated by U.S. Department of Justice:**

*U.S. v. Omnipoint Corp.*, Proposed Final Judgements and Competitive Impact Statements, Department of Justice, 63 FR 65,228 (November 25, 1998).

“Justice Department Sues Three Firms Over FCC Auction Practices,” *Press Release, U.S. Department of Justice* (November 10, 1998).

Complaint, *U.S. v. Omnipoint Corp.*, No. 1:98CV02750 (D.D.C. November 10, 1998).

Complaint, *U.S. v. Mercury PCS II, L.L.C.*, No. 1:98CV02751 (D.D.C. November 10, 1998).

Complaint, *U.S. v. 21st Century Bidding Corp.*, No. 1:98CV02752 (D.D.C. November 10, 1998).

#### **How to Obtain Copies of the Anti-Collusion Decisions:**

Many of the documents listed in this attachment can be retrieved from the following Commission web site: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/auctions/anticollusion>

The documents may be located by using our search engine (select the link “search”). Documents retrieved from the web site are available in various formats including Word, WordPerfect, Acrobat Reader, Excel, and ASCII Text. To review a document in its entirety, including footnotes, it is necessary to access the document in WordPerfect, MS Word, or Acrobat Reader.

Additionally, all of the documents can be ordered in hard copy for a fee from the Commission’s contractor, Qualex International at (202) 863-2893.