



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU ANNOUNCES AN AUDIT OF THE OPERATIONAL STATUS OF CERTAIN 220 – 222 MHz BAND LICENSES

### Licensees are Encouraged to Verify the Mailing Address for Each License Held and to Register with the Commission Registration System (CORES)

The Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) will be conducting a license audit of the operational status of certain site-specific licenses operating in the 220 – 222 MHz (220 MHz) band.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the audit is to promote intensive use of the radio spectrum by updating and increasing the accuracy of the Commission's licensing database for the following services in the 220 MHz band:

- “QT” – Non-nationwide 5-channel trunked systems
- “QD” – Non-nationwide data
- “QO” – Non-nationwide other

**Every licensee in these radio services must respond** and certify that its authorized station(s) has not discontinued operations for one year or more.<sup>2</sup> As detailed below, the Bureau urges these licensees, prior to the start of this audit, to verify the mailing address on record for each authorization held and ensure they have registered with the Commission Registration System (CORES).

**Note:** This audit does not affect geographic-area licenses granted following the 220 MHz auctions or 220 MHz licenses authorized for public safety, mutual aid, or emergency medical services.

### Preparing for the Audit

To prepare for the audit, the Bureau strongly encourages licensees in the QT, QD, and QO radio services to verify the mailing address and other contact information for each license held. Licensees can verify the accuracy of the Commission's information by accessing the Universal Licensing System's

<sup>1</sup> This spectrum audit will be the second audit conducted recently by the Bureau for licenses authorized under Part 90. See Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces Commencement of an Audit of the Construction and Operational Status of Private Land Mobile Radio Stations, *Public Notice*, DA 01-1575, 16 FCC Rcd. 14264 (WTB 2001).

<sup>2</sup> Under the Commission's rules, if a licensee allows a constructed facility to discontinue operations for one year or more, the license cancels automatically. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.157.

(ULS) internet site at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> and using the *License Search* function. If the information is incorrect, the licensee should use ULS to electronically file an *Administrative Update* application.

Another important step a licensee should take to prepare for the audit is to ensure that it has registered in CORES and received a FCC Registration Number (FRN). If a licensee has not already registered in CORES to receive its FRN, and has not associated the FRN with its licenses, the Bureau strongly encourages the licensee to do so by May 9, 2003. To register in CORES and associate its call signs with its FRN, a licensee should take the following steps:

- Access the ULS internet site at <https://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>
- Select *Register, CORES/Call Sign*
- Click on *Register Now*
- Provide all the information requested by CORES and print the page containing the 10-digit FRN for future reference
- Click on *FCC Universal Licensing System* which takes the licensee back to ULS to register the licensee's call signs to its FRN
- Select *Call Sign/ASR Number Registration*
- Enter the FRN and password
- Follow the instructions to associate the call signs with the new FRN.

## The Audit Process

During the week of May 12, 2003, the Bureau will send letters to all licensees operating in the QT, QD, and QO radio services inquiring about the operational status of each license held. Each letter will include the call signs of the licensee's authorizations involved in this audit and will be directed to each licensee at its address of record. A licensee will receive only one audit letter for all of its QT, QD, and QO authorizations if the licensee has, by May 9, 2003, verified the address is listed correctly in ULS, obtained its FRN, and associated its call signs with the FRN. If the licensee has not ensured the address is correct in ULS, not obtained its FRN and has not associated its calls signs with the FRN by May 9, 2003, the Bureau will attempt to include all of a licensee's call signs subject to this audit in one letter, but may issue more than one letter for an entity due to slight variations in licensee name or address in the Commission's records.<sup>3</sup> If that is the case, the licensee must respond to **each** letter sent by the Commission in order to account for all of its call signs that are part of the audit. If a licensee holds an authorization(s) in any of these radio services and does not receive an audit letter, the licensee may still be required to respond to the audit. After the audit letters have been mailed (scheduled for the week of May 12, 2003), licensees can use the *Audit Search* at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/licensing/audits/220> to determine if a particular license is part of the audit. If the *Audit Search* shows an audit letter was mailed, the licensee is required to respond to the audit even though the audit letter was not received. For instructions on how to proceed in this instance, call the Commission at 717-338-2888 or 888-CALLFCC (888-225-5322) and select option #2.

**A response to the audit letter is mandatory.** The Bureau's process for responding to the audit letter, via the internet, is intended to be quick, easy, and convenient for licensees. Specific instructions for responding to the audit, including the internet site, will be included in the audit letter. Each licensee will be required to electronically submit its response(s) **within thirty (30) calendar days** of the date on the audit letter. **Failure to provide a timely response may result in the Commission presuming that the station has been non-operational for more than one year, and thus the license may be presumed**

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<sup>3</sup> In this case, each letter will list different call signs associated with that exact licensee name and address.

**to have automatically cancelled. Failure to provide a timely response may also result in enforcement action, including monetary forfeiture, pursuant to Section 503(b)(1)(B) of the Communications Act and Section 1.80(a)(2) of the Commission's Rules.<sup>4</sup>**

For assistance in registering with CORES and associating your call sign with the FRN, call 717-338-2888 or 888-CALLFCC (888-225-5322) and select option 2. For additional information on the 220 MHz license audit, visit the 220 MHz audit web site at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/licensing/audits/220> or contact Denise Walter of the Bureau's Commercial Wireless Division at 202-418-0620 or [denise.walter@fcc.gov](mailto:denise.walter@fcc.gov).

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<sup>4</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(1)(b); 47 C.F.R. § 1.80(a)(2).