



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Communications Commission
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Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces 60-Day Amnesty for Structures Identified in Initial Quarterly Audit of Antenna Structures

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has initiated quarterly audits of antenna structures in cooperation with the National Imaging and Mapping Agency (NIMA). In the audit process NIMA adds to their obstruction database our Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) database updates and then provides back to the Commission a list of new communication tower sites from their database not found in our updates. The towers in this list may potentially require registration with the Commission. This exchange of quarterly database updates is intended to synchronize the two agencies' databases.

In the initial audit of the two agency's databases, WTB has identified 442 communications tower sites that appear to be in violation of the Commission's antenna structure registration requirements (47 CFR, Part 17). Under these Rules all antenna structures that may pose a hazard to air navigation – generally those more than 200 feet in overall height or those structures less than 200 feet but located near airports – must be studied by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and registered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). WTB has verified that these 442 tower sites were either greater than 200 feet tall or were less than 200 feet tall, located near an airport and failed the glide slope calculation (TOWAIR). It has also been verified that these towers have not been registered with the Commission in the ASR database. A list of these tower sites is located at wireless.fcc.gov/antenna. The site will indicate by coordinates and general location the towers which may require registration.

Owners of antenna structures meeting the registration criteria must have an FAA "Determination of No Hazard to Air Navigation" before registering with the Commission. It is not necessary to obtain a new FAA clearance if a valid FAA clearance already exists for the structure. To obtain FAA clearance, an FAA Form 7460-1 must be completed and submitted to the regional office serving the state in which the antenna structure is located. This form and additional FAA information is available on the FAA's Obstruction Evaluation / Airport Airspace Analysis homepage, <http://www2.faa.gov/ats/ata/ata400/oeaaa.html>. Because the FAA clearance process may take 4 -6 weeks owners should allow sufficient time to secure a valid FAA study. Contact the appropriate FAA regional office with any questions about the FAA clearance process or the time the FAA may require issuing a clearance.

The Antenna Structure Registration program allows the FCC to fulfill its statutory duty to require the painting and lighting of antenna structures that may pose a hazard to air navigation. We accomplish this vital task by requiring owners of antenna structures that meet the criteria for notification to the

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to register with the FCC. FCC registration is attained by filing FCC Form 854. The ASR on-line filing process and paper form is available on the FCC's antenna structure homepage, wireless.fcc.gov/antenna.

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau is offering a 60 day amnesty period to the owners of towers identified in this audit who may be in violation of the Commission's antenna structure registration requirements. John Muleta, Chief of the Wireless Bureau, said "Public safety is more important than process. I want to give everyone notice of this new technique and how we will use it in the future."

On the 61st day from the issuance of this public notice, those communications tower sites that have not been registered with the Commission will be forwarded to the Enforcement Bureau for investigation and appropriate enforcement action. Those tower owners who are unable to complete the FCC antenna structure registration process during this amnesty period due to their need to obtain an FAA determination need to inform the Commission in writing the tower location and the status of their registration process. This notification is to be addressed to the FCC contact below.

WTB intends to analyze all future quarterly audit results, determine those structures that appear to require registration with the Commission and forward those tower sites to the Enforcement Bureau so that they may initiate appropriate enforcement action.

For additional information, contact Diane Leer of the Bureau's Data Management Division, Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. (717) 338-2568 or dleer@fcc.gov.

Internet Resources

Antenna Structure Registration homepage: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/antenna> (provides general ASR information, links to on-line filing, ASR query functions and FRN registration)

FCC Forms Page: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/feesforms> (access to a downloadable copy of the FCC Form 854 (application for Antenna Structure Registration).

TOWAIR: <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/AsrSearch/towairSearch.jsp> TOWAIR will assist you in determining if registration is necessary. It will calculate whether an antenna structure under 60.9 meters (200 feet) will penetrate the slope for nearby airports and thus require FCC registration). Note: This feature is also available via a link on the Antenna Homepage.

FAA's Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis Homepage: <http://www.faa.gov/ats/ata/ata400/oeaaa.htm> (access information and forms for requesting an FAA study of an antenna structure – which must be obtained before the FCC will issue a registration)

FCC Technical Support Hotline: Call 202-414-1250 (TTY 202-414-1255), or send e-mail to ulscomm@fcc.gov. Contact the Technical Support Hotline with questions concerning computer access to ULS, FRNs, file uploads, or submitting attachments. The hotline is available Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Eastern Time (except federal holidays).

ULS Licensing Support and Forms Information: Call 1-888-CALLFCC (225-5322) and select option #2, or call 717-338-2888. Send e-mail to ulshelp@fcc.gov. Contact Licensing Support with questions about application purpose(s), FCC forms or schedules, or other ULS-related licensing matters. ULS Licensing Support is available Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern Time (except federal holidays).