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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU ANNOUNCES AN AUDIT OF THE OPERATIONAL STATUS OF STATIONS AUTHORIZED IN THE PAGING AND RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE (PART 22) AND STATIONS AUTHORIZED ON 929-930 MHz PRIVATE CARRIER PAGING EXCLUSIVE CHANNELS (PART 90)

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 all site-specific licenses operating under Part 22, Paging and Radiotelephone Service, Subpart E, with a "CD" radio service code and all site-specific licenses operating in the 929-930 MHz band on the exclusive channels with a "GS" radio service code. 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:

- "CD" Part 22, Paging and Radiotelephone Service, Subpart E
- "GS" Part 90, Paging Operations, Subpart P, exclusive channels

Note: This audit does not affect geographic-area licenses granted following an FCC auction or licenses authorized on the 929 MHz private carrier paging shared channels under Section 90.494.²

Every licensee in the "CD" radio service and every licensee on exclusive channels in the "GS" radio service must respond and certify that its authorized station(s) has not permanently discontinued operations from the date of initial construction and operation.³ As detailed below, the

This spectrum audit will be the third audit conducted by the Bureau. *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 (2001) and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announces an Audit of the Operational Status of Certain 220-222 MHz Band Licenses, *Public Notice*, DA 03-1089 (April 9, 2003).

² The shared channels are 929.0375 MHz, 929.0625 MHz, 929.0875 MHz, 929.1625 MHz, and 929.2625 MHz. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 90.494.

Section 22.317 of the Commission's rules provides that: "any station that has not provided service to subscribers for 90 continuous days is considered to have been permanently discontinued, unless the applicant notified the FCC otherwise prior to the end of the 90 day period and provided a date on which operation will resume, which date must not be in excess of 30 additional days." See 47 C.F.R. § 22.317.

Bureau urges these licensees, <u>prior to the start of this audit</u>, to verify the mailing address on record, in ULS, for each authorization held and ensure they have registered with the Commission Registration System (CORES).

Preparing for the Audit

To prepare for the audit, the Bureau strongly encourages licensees in the "CD" and "GS" (exclusive channels) radio services to verify the mailing address and other contact information in ULS for each license held. Licensees can verify the accuracy of the Commission's information by accessing the 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 application to update the incorrect information.

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 September 25, 2004. 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 licensee should also verify that the FRN associated with each call sign is accurate. Once the audit begins, and until the audit is completed, licensees will not be able to change the FRN associated with their call signs.

The Audit Process

During the week commencing September 27, 2004, the Bureau will send letters to all licensees operating in the "CD" and "GS" (exclusive channels) 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 in ULS. If the licensee has, by September 25, 2004, verified the address is listed correctly in ULS, obtained its FRN, and associated its call signs with the FRN, it will receive only one audit letter for all of its authorizations. However, 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 September 25, 2004, 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.⁴ If that is the case, **the licensee must**

In this case, each letter will have a unique audit reference number and will list the call signs associated with that exact licensee name and address.

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 the "CD" or "GS" (exclusive channels) radio service and does not receive an audit letter, the licensee must still respond to the audit. After the audit letters have been mailed (scheduled for the week of September 27, 2004), licensees can use the *Audit Search* at http://wireless.fcc.gov/licensing/audits 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 forty-five (45) calendar days of the date on the audit letter. Failure to provide a timely response may result in the Commission presuming that the station(s) has permanently discontinued operations as described under 22.317, and thus the license may be presumed 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.⁵

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 this license audit contact Denise Walter of the Bureau's Mobility Division at 202-418-0620 or denise.walter@fcc.gov.

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