



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 16-767

Released: July 6, 2016

**USCOC OF GREATER NORTH CAROLINA, LLC, AND HORRY TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, INC., SEEK FCC CONSENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF
A PARTITIONED LOWER 700 MHZ A BLOCK LICENSE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

WT Docket No. 16-154

PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

Petitions to Deny Due: July 27, 2016
Oppositions Due: August 3, 2016
Replies Due: August 10, 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

USCOC of Greater North Carolina, LLC, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of United States Cellular Corporation (together with USCOC of Greater North Carolina, LLC, USCC), and Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Horry, and together with USCC, the Applicants), have filed an application pursuant to Section 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,¹ seeking the assignment of a partitioned Lower 700 MHz A Block license from Horry to USCC. The subject license covers parts of North Carolina.

The Applicants maintain that the proposed transaction would provide USCC with additional spectrum that would enable it to offer innovative wireless services and enhance its voice and data service offerings in parts of three Cellular Market Areas (“CMAs”): CMA 218 (Wilmington, North Carolina), CMA 575 (North Carolina 11 – Hoke), and CMA 576 (North Carolina 12 – Sampson). The Applicants assert that, as a result of this proposed transaction, USCC would hold sufficient Lower 700 MHz spectrum in these areas to allow for a 10×10 megahertz LTE deployment in three of the four counties that are the subject of the proposed transaction.

Our preliminary review indicates that USCC would be assigned 12 megahertz of Lower 700 MHz A Block spectrum covering four counties in parts of these three CMAs. Post-transaction, USCC would be attributed with 59 megahertz to 67 megahertz of spectrum, including 37 megahertz to 49 megahertz of below-1-GHz spectrum, in these CMAs.

The *Mobile Spectrum Holdings Report and Order* requires that we treat any proposed increase in below-1-GHz spectrum holdings resulting in the acquiring entity holding approximately one-third or more of the suitable and available spectrum below 1 GHz as an “enhanced factor” in our case-by-case review.² As a result of the instant transaction, USCC would hold more than one-third, that is, more than

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 310(d).

² *Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, WT Docket No. 12-269, GN Docket No. 12-268, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 6133, 6240, paras. 286-88 (2014) (*Mobile Spectrum Holdings Report and Order*), recon. denied, Order on Reconsideration, 30 FCC Rcd 8635 (2015).

45 megahertz, of the 134 megahertz of currently suitable and available below-1-GHz spectrum in parts of Wilmington, NC and North Carolina 11 – Hoke.

II. SECTION 310(d) APPLICATION

The application for the assignment of license has the following file number:

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Licensee/Assignor</u>	<u>Assignee</u>	<u>Lead Call Sign</u>
0007186439	Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	USCOC of Greater North Carolina, LLC	WQIZ561

III. EX PARTE STATUS OF THIS PROCEEDING

Pursuant to Section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules,³ the Commission may adopt modified or more stringent *ex parte* procedures in particular proceedings if the public interest so requires. We announce that this proceeding will be governed by permit-but-disclose *ex parte* procedures that are applicable to non-restricted proceedings under Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules.⁴

Parties making oral *ex parte* presentations are directed to the Commission's *ex parte* rules. Parties are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must contain the presentation's substance and not merely list the subjects discussed.⁵ More than a one- or two-sentence description of the views and arguments presented is generally required.⁶ Other rules pertaining to oral and written presentations are set forth in Section 1.1206(b) as well.⁷

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

The assignment application has been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing. The Commission reserves the right to return any application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules or policies.

Interested parties must file petitions to deny no later than **July 27, 2016**. Persons and entities that file petitions to deny become parties to the proceeding. They may participate fully in the proceeding, including seeking access to any confidential information that may be filed under a protective order, seeking reconsideration of decisions, and filing appeals of a final decision to the courts. Oppositions to such pleadings must be filed no later than **August 3, 2016**. Replies to such pleadings must be filed no later than **August 10, 2016**. All filings concerning matters referenced in this Public Notice should refer to WT Docket No. 16-154.

To allow the Commission to consider fully all substantive issues regarding the application in as timely and efficient a manner as possible, petitioners and commenters should raise all issues in their initial filings. New issues may not be raised in responses or replies.⁸ A party or interested person seeking to raise a new issue after the pleading cycle has closed must show good cause why it was not possible for it to have raised the issue previously. Submissions after the pleading cycle has closed that seek to raise new issues based on new facts or newly discovered facts should be filed within 15 days after such facts are discovered. Absent such a showing of good cause, any issues not timely raised may be disregarded by the Commission.

³ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200(a).

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b)(1).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

⁸ 47 C.F.R. § 1.45(c).

Under the Commission's current procedures for the submission of filings and other documents,⁹ submissions in this matter may be filed electronically through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by hand delivery to the Commission.

- **To file electronically**,¹⁰ access ECFS via the Internet at <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs>. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket number.
- **To file by paper**, the original and one copy of each filing must be filed by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. All hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary must be delivered to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

One copy of each pleading must be delivered electronically, by email or facsimile, or if delivered as paper copy, by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (according to the procedures set forth above for paper filings), to: (1) Scott Patrick, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at scott.patrick@fcc.gov or (202) 418-2643 (facsimile); (2) Betsy McIntyre, Competition and Infrastructure Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at elizabeth.mcintyre@fcc.gov or (202) 418-0787 (facsimile); and (3) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, at TransactionTeam@fcc.gov or (202) 418-1234 (facsimile).

The application and any associated documents are available for public inspection and copying during normal reference room hours at the following Commission office: FCC Reference Information Center, 445 12th Street, SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, DC 20554. The application also is available electronically through ULS, which may be accessed on the Commission's Internet website. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice) or (202) 418-0432 (TTY). Contact the FCC to request reasonable accommodations for filing comments (accessible format documents, sign language interpreters, CART, etc.) by email: FCC504@fcc.gov; phone: (202) 418-0530; or TTY: (202) 418-0432.

For further information, contact Scott Patrick, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-2853, or Betsy McIntyre, Competition and Infrastructure Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-0668.

-FCC-

⁹ *FCC Announces Change in Filing Location for Paper Documents*, Public Notice, 24 FCC Rcd 14312 (2009).

¹⁰ *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).