ELECTRONIC FILING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL LICENSE APPLICATIONS IN THE WIRELESS RADIO SERVICES

Mandatory Electronic Filing Will Be Enforced as of July 28, 2020

By this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) announces 100% electronic filing capability for license applications in the Wireless Radio Services. The Bureau’s Universal Licensing System (ULS) currently provides licensees and applicants electronic filing capability for the vast majority of applications in the Wireless Radio Services. There are a few limited categories of submissions that ULS has not been able to accept electronically, and until today, these had to be filed manually. These categories are: (1) Special Temporary Authority (STA) applications in certain market-based services, (2) sublease applications, and (3) multi-step transactions.

In an effort to provide a complete electronic filing solution to licensees and applicants, particularly considering the current pandemic due to COVID-19, WTB announces an ECFS non-docketed filing solution exclusively for the limited categories of applications referenced above. Instructions for how to complete non-docketed ECFS filings for this limited class of filings are attached to this Public Notice.1

Applicants may begin using ECFS to file their applications electronically effective April 29, 2020. A courtesy copy of any application(s) with an urgent filing deadline may be sent to ULScc@fcc.gov. The ECFS solution will become mandatory for filers on July 28, 2020, and any manually filed applications delivered after 4 p.m. on July 27, 2020 will be dismissed without prejudice. This creates a 90-day transition period, which we believe provides sufficient time to allow users to adjust to this new requirement and to familiarize themselves with the ECFS filing system.

Mandatory Electronic Filing. Section 1.913(b) requires electronic filing of all applications in the Wireless Radio Services (with limited exceptions).2 Because ULS was previously unable to accept some limited categories of filings electronically, WTB routinely waived the electronic filing requirement for market-based STAs, sub-leases, and multi-step transactions. Now that electronic filing is available for these remaining categories, WTB will begin strictly enforcing the electronic filing requirement for them as of July 28, 2020. We waive the signature requirement of section 1.917(d) to the extent necessary to allow filing as described herein.3

For questions regarding this Public Notice, please contact Keith Harper, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-2759; Keith.Harper@fcc.gov, or Paul Malmud, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-0006; Paul.Malmud@fcc.gov.

1 In addition, WTB observes that non-licensees often seek waivers of rules in the Wireless Radio Services, and we provide a tailored ECFS filing capability for those requests as well to eliminate the need for paper filings.

2 Similarly, section 1.931 requires electronic filing of special temporary authority applications. 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.913, 1.931.

3 47 C.F.R. § 1.917(d).