



PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE CONCERNING *EX PARTE* STATUS OF PRESENTATIONS RELATED TO WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IB Docket No. 16-185

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) recently announced the next meeting of its World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee (Committee or WAC), to be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020.¹ The Committee's mission is to provide to the Commission advice, technical support, and recommended proposals for the International Telecommunication Union World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs). In particular, the Committee will focus on the international frequency spectrum issues identified on the WRC-23 agenda with the goal of identifying private sector/public priorities and objectives. The Committee will be charged with gathering the data and information necessary to formulate meaningful recommendations for these objectives. The WAC is organized under, and operates in accordance with, the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).²

Pursuant to the FACA, the Commission is responsible for oversight of the WAC, including its subcommittees and working groups.³ As a result, FCC staff or Commissioners may participate in or attend meetings or other activities held by both the WAC and its subcommittees and working groups. In light of this, we are announcing that, pursuant to section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.1200(a), presentations to the WAC, including to its subcommittees and working groups, and at any roundtable discussions sponsored by the WAC, as well as presentations between WAC members (including members of any subcommittees or working groups) and FCC staff or Commissioners incidental to and in connection with such WAC meetings or roundtable discussions, will be treated as exempt presentations for *ex parte* purposes. This exemption covers presentations from WAC members to FCC staff and Commissioners in other settings only to the extent that the WAC members are presenting the views of the WAC or its working groups, as opposed to an individual member's own views or that of a member's organization. We find that this modification of the *ex parte* rules is in the public interest because it will allow the WAC to develop and shape its advice and recommendations to the Commission more efficiently and effectively.

We recognize that some issues may be addressed by the WAC that are the subject of pending FCC proceedings. The Commission will not rely in these proceedings on any information submitted to the WAC, or to any of its subcommittees, working groups, or sponsored roundtables, or information

¹ *World Radiocommunication Conference Advisory Committee Schedules its First Meeting for August 25, 2020*, Public Notice, DA 20-749 (Aug. 10, 2020).

² See 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

³ See *id.*

conveyed WAC members (including members of any subcommittees or working groups) to FCC staff or Commissioners unless that information is first placed in the record of the relevant proceeding.⁴

Additional information on WRCs, specifically WRC-23, is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/wrc-23>. You may also contact Dante Ibarra, Designated Federal Official for the Committee, at (202) 418-0610 (Dante.Ibarra@fcc.gov).

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⁴ This notice updates any prior notice, released during a prior term of the WAC, addressing the *ex parte* status of information submitted to or by the WAC. The treatment of *ex parte* presentations specified in this notice shall apply to this and future terms of the WAC unless modified by a subsequent public notice.