



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU AND OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY ANNOUNCE DEPLOYMENT OF A NEW FEDERAL PORTAL SYSTEM AND A REVISION TO THE LIST OF PROTECTED FACILITIES IN THE 3.5 GHZ BAND

GN Docket Nos. 17-258 and 15-319

With this Public Notice, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) announce: (1) replacement of the manual portal system used to protect certain federal facilities from Citizens Broadband Radio Service operations in the 3550-3700 MHz (3.5 GHz band); and (2) the addition of a new federal facility to the list of protected facilities operated by the Department of Defense (DoD).¹

As described in NTIA's August 14, 2023 letter to WTB and OET, DoD and the military services operate developmental and operational test ranges and facilities throughout the country, many of which host operations in the 3.5 GHz band.² In the 3.5 GHz band, these facilities are generally protected by portal-activated dynamic protection areas (P-DPAs) and federal operators must use a scheduling portal to schedule operations at these facilities with the certified Spectrum Access System (SAS) administrators.³

¹ The 3.5 GHz band KML files used by the SAS operators are available on NTIA's website: <https://ntia.doc.gov/fcc-filing/2015/ntia-letter-fcc-commercial-operations-3550-3650-mhz-band>.

² See Letter from Charles Cooper, Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, NTIA to Ronald T. Repasi, Acting Chief, OET, FCC and Joel Taubenblatt, Acting Chief, WTB, FCC (August 14, 2023) (August 2023 NTIA Letter), available at: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10814108365840/1>.

³ *Id at 2*. SAS administrators were tested on their ability to protect designated federal facilities using a scheduling portal during the SAS testing and Initial Commercial Deployment processes. Each SAS administrator is required to support and utilize the scheduling portal as a condition of its certification. See *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Office of Engineering and Technology Establish Procedure and Deadline for Filing Spectrum Access System Initial Commercial Deployment Proposals*, Public Notice, 33 FCC Rcd 7390, para. 7 (WTB/OET 2018) (requiring SAS administrators to describe how they "implement notification-based DPA protection using a portal" during Initial Commercial Deployment (ICD).); *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Office of Engineering and Technology Announce Five Spectrum Access System Administrators to Begin Initial Commercial Deployments in the 3.5 GHz Band*, GN Docket 15-319, Public Notice, 34 FCC Rcd 8106, para. 7 (WTB/OET 2019) (requiring SAS administrators to "demonstrate the ability to implement notification-based DPA protection using a DPA portal" during ICD); *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Office of Engineering and Technology Approve Four Spectrum Access Administrators for Full Scale Commercial Deployment in the 3.5 GHz Band and Emphasize Licensee Compliance Obligations in the 3650-3700 MHz Band Under Part 96*, GN Docket No. 15-319, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 117, para. 5 (WTB/OET 2020) (certifying SAS administrators for full commercial deployment after successful completion of ICD). See also *Promoting Investment in the 3550-3700 MHz Band*, GN Docket No. 17-258, Order, 33 FCC Rcd 4987 (WTB/OET 2018) (allowing SASs to implement alternative protection methodology based on DPAs).

DoD has developed an automated system—the Telecommunications Advanced Research and Dynamic Spectrum Sharing System (TARDyS3)—to replace the manual scheduling portal currently used to activate the P-DPAs.⁴ The TARDyS3 is a DoD calendar-based tool that will support the expeditious and autonomous communication of scheduled spectrum use information for designated facilities in the 3.5 MHz band. The Commission has worked with DoD, NTIA, and the SAS administrators throughout the TARDyS3 development process to ensure that the portal is compatible with the rules governing the 3.5 GHz band and existing SAS software and configurations.

Consistent with NTIA’s August 14, 2023 letter, federal spectrum managers will begin using TARDyS3 to schedule operations at covered facilities in the near future.⁵ We direct all certified Spectrum Access Administrators to begin using the TARDyS3 portal—and discontinue use of the manual scheduling portal—to coordinate operations with these facilities once the portal is activated.

We also note that, as described in NTIA’s August 14, 2023 letter, the list of facilities to be protected by the coordination portal will include the U.S. Naval Air Station at Patuxent River, Maryland.⁶

People with Disabilities. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY).

Additional Information. For further information regarding this Public Notice, please contact Paul Powell, Associate Division Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Mobility Division at paul.powell@fcc.gov or 202-418-1613.

By the Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology.

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⁴ August 2023 NTIA Letter at 2.

⁵ We also note that WTB and OET recently waived section 96.63(n)(1) of the Commission’s rules to allow SAS administrators to utilize the TARDyS3 portal. See 47 CFR § 96.63(n)(1) (requiring that each SAS “[o]perates without any connectivity to any military or other sensitive federal database or system, except as otherwise required by this part.”); See *Promoting Investment in the 3550-3700 MHz Band*, GN Docket Nos. 17-258 and 15-319, Order, DA 23-734 (WTB/OET 2023).

⁶ See August 2023 NTIA Letter at 2-3.