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TWO SPECTRUM PRIORITIES OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS SUPPORTED BY SPECTRUM POLICY TASK FORCE REPORT

But Copps states Report not endorsed by Commission; will work for rural spectrum, unlicensed spectrum, and “harmful interference” reform

At an open meeting at the Federal Communications Commission today, a task force created to advise the FCC on spectrum policy presented its report to the full Commission. Commissioner Michael J. Copps stated: “I want to congratulate the Spectrum Task Force for its extremely hard work in the preparation of this report.”

The report addresses a two spectrum policy issues that Commissioner Copps has been arguing should be higher Commission priorities since he was appointed to the Commission, namely improving the Commission’s understanding and treatment of “harmful interference” and promoting unlicensed spectrum technologies such as Wi-Fi and other innovative services.

Copps therefore continued: “Addressing harmful interference and supporting unlicensed spectrum should top our priority list. I think it is important for the country and also for the credibility of the Commission for us to quickly take some demonstrable action on these two priorities in the near future.”

Finally, Copps, who has argued that the Commission must give higher priority to rural spectrum accessibility and has questioned the policy of encouraging spectrum trading, stated that “The Commission has not, of course, endorsed any part of this report as yet and, if history is any guide, there may be vigorous debate ahead on some of the concepts and ideas in the report. Some Commissioners’ priorities may be different than others’. But this Report is extremely useful in energizing the debate.”