



NEWS

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

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

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 21, 2008

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Chelsea Fallon: (202) 418-7991

FCC MODIFIES PCS AND AWS POWER LIMIT RULES TO FACILITATE BROADBAND WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES

Washington, D.C. – In a Third Report and Order (Order) released today, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) modified the rules governing Broadband Personal Communications Services (PCS) and Advanced Wireless Services (AWS-1) to permit the use of a power spectral density model (PSD) when measuring and calculating emissions and power limits. Today's action is consistent with the FCC's April 2007 decision to allow a PSD model in the commercial services portions of the 700 MHz Band.

Today's rule changes offer greater flexibility to PCS and AWS-1 operators, are more technologically neutral, and will better accommodate broadband technologies. The PSD model also has the potential to reduce network infrastructure costs, thus enabling providers to offer enhanced wireless broadband services, including to consumers living in rural America.

The existing PCS and AWS-1 rules measure radiated power in terms of watts *per emission* and limit power output regardless of bandwidth size. In the PSD model, radiated power levels are calculated on a watts-*per-megahertz* basis when operating with greater than one megahertz of bandwidth.

In addition, under the existing rules, power levels are measured using *peak* values, while under the new rules, power levels may now be measured using *average* values. This is a more practical way to measure power levels and will accommodate new wireless technologies that produce emissions with sub-microsecond power spikes. In order to prevent interference that may occur from measuring average power levels, the FCC adopted a peak-to-average ratio limit of 13 dB.

In today's Order, the FCC declined to adopt a proposal to double the base station effective isotropic radiated power limits for PCS and AWS-1 licensees. This proposal raised significant concerns regarding potential harmful interference to operators in adjacent spectrum bands. The FCC also declined to change radiated power limit rules for other services besides PCS and AWS-1 at this time.

Action by the Commission on March 18, 2008, by Third Report and Order (FCC 08-85).
Chairman Martin and Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell.

For additional information, contact Nina Shafran in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202) 418-2781 or Nina.Shafran@fcc.gov.

WT Docket No. 03-264

– FCC –

News and other information about the Federal Communications Commission is available at www.fcc.gov.