

STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL

RE: *Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands, WT Docket No. 06-150; Implementing a Nationwide Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band, PS Docket No. 06-229; Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules, WP Docket No. 07-100; Third Report and Order and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; FCC 11-6*

I am voting to approve today's order and notice of proposed rulemaking, which discusses discrete matters pertaining to broadband interoperability within 10 megahertz of the full 24 megahertz of spectrum reserved for public safety use by Congress in 1997. It is important that the Commission continue to take any and all actions to provide the certainty necessary for the 20 jurisdictions that are building this spectrum pursuant to waiver, not to mention the numerous additional jurisdictions seeking to do so.

While I support our decision to require use of the Long Term Evolution (LTE) standard given the presence of a unique set of circumstances, I appreciate that we are seeking further comment on how future technology platforms would fit into this paradigm. In addition, I am pleased that the Commission remains committed to relocating those narrowband voice incumbents presently operating in the broadband public safety allocation. Down the road, I hope that we will examine and analyze ideas for ensuring that the full 24 megahertz block may be used more flexibly to support a complement of broadband uses and accommodate the ongoing rapid innovation in the mobile broadband sector. After all, the Commission undertook the design of this spectrum band more than a decade ago. Much has changed since then. I hope, therefore, that interested parties will continue to educate us on this important "big picture" issue.

In a perfect world, we would have already finalized an order setting forth auction and service rules for the D Block spectrum. Perhaps we would have already concluded an auction of this spectrum, and public safety entities would be in a position to elect to partner with these auction winners. I am eager to move to this step, which I urge that we undertake sooner rather than later.

Thank you to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau for your ongoing work.