



NEWS

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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).

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FCC INITIATES RULEMAKING TO PROMOTE INTEROPERABILITY IN THE LOWER 700 MHz BAND

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to promote interoperability and encourage the efficient use of spectrum in the commercial Lower 700 MHz band (698-746 MHz). The rulemaking is designed primarily to examine the interference concerns should the Lower 700 MHz band utilize a single band class for devices operating across the Lower 700 MHz A, B, and C Blocks.

In the NPRM, the FCC seeks comment on a range of technical and operational factors regarding the use of a unified band class on customers of Lower 700 MHz B and C Block licensees. The NPRM focuses on two interference concerns that can result with use of a single band class: (1) reverse intermodulation interference from adjacent DTV Channel 51 operations; and (2) blocking interference from neighboring high-powered operations in the Lower 700 MHz E Block. To properly evaluate the interference concerns, the FCC requests comment on measurements and quantitative analyses regarding the magnitude and extent of the interference risk from adjacent Channel 51 and Lower 700 MHz E Block transmissions, the availability of effective interference mitigation measures, relative performance of devices using a single band class, and costs of implementing interoperability.

The NPRM also explores possible next steps that the FCC should take to promote interoperability in the Lower 700 MHz band should it find that there is limited or no harmful interference or such interference can be reasonably mitigated through industry and/or regulatory measures. The FCC considers various options to help achieve the ultimate goal of interoperability.

Action by the Commission March 21, 2012, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 12-31).
Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners McDowell and Clyburn. Separate statements issued by
Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners McDowell and Clyburn.

WT Docket No. 12-69

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