

Connie Diaz

From: Keith Harper
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 1:26 PM
To: 'evans@fhhlaw.com'
Cc: FCC Operations Center; Sean Spivey; Charles Mathias; Cecilia Sulhoff; Connie Diaz
Subject: Authorization Granted: 5850-5895 MHz Emergency STA Request - Rural Connect, LLC
Attachments: Rural Connect LLC - Emergency STA Request - 5.9 GHz Band - FILED - 5.7.2.....pdf

Mr. Evans,

The application for an emergency STA filed by Rural Connect, LLC, Inc. on May 7, 2020 is granted via this email. The applicant will be using the 5850-5895 MHz band to provide relief during the state-of-emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19 throughout the United States. Applicant is advised that it must ensure proper protection of incumbents in the 5850-5895 MHz band and otherwise comply with the conditions described below.

This grant is for a period of 60 days, provided the applicant files a complete FCC Form 601 application for an STA to continue its operations in the 5850-5895 MHz band within 10 days of today's date (May 8, 2020). If applicant fails to file a complete FCC Form 601 application by this date, its STA will terminate at midnight on that date. Applicant's use of the 5850-5895 MHz band is authorized on a non-interference basis and is limited by the conditions described below.

By utilizing the 5850-5895 MHz band pursuant to this STA, the applicant agrees to the following conditions:

- It understands that operations under this STA are subject to the general conditions of operation set forth in Section 15.5 of the Commission's rules (including that its access is non-exclusive and not subject to interference protection). STA recipients with overlapping grants must work together to resolve interference concerns.
- It is responsible for ensuring that it does not cause interference to existing licensees. It must review existing DSRC licenses in this band to determine any nationwide, statewide, or countywide licenses that cover or are adjacent to its service area, as well as any site licenses that are near that service area. It must then contact each of these affected licensees before beginning operation and provide its contact information so that the licensee can inform it of interference issues. It may then begin operation; it need not await a response or approval. If a complaint of interference cannot be timely resolved, operation under this STA must cease. It may not operate within 2 kilometers of any site license, regardless of notification or actual interference.
- It will operate consistent with the power levels in Section 15.407(a)(3) of the Commission's rules.
- It will attenuate emissions at 5895 MHz to a level of -27dBm or less.
- It understands that any emergency STA grant is conditioned on the applicant filing a formal STA application on FCC Form 601 (Radio Service Code QQ) within 10 days of emergency STA grant. As part of that filing, it must provide a phone number which connects directly to a person who is able to immediately resolve any interference concerns arising from its operations pursuant to this STA.
- Upon expiration of this STA, it will cease operating in the 5850-5895 MHz band and retune equipment to operate in compliance with the Commission's equipment certifications; it will confirm with the Bureau within 14 days of expiration that it has successfully retuned all of its devices to be compliant with Commission certifications.

- It understands that operations under this STA shall protect federal radiolocation services operating in the 5850-5895 MHz band and, to afford such protection, operations under this STA are prohibited within 75 kilometers of the locations listed in the table below and any additional sites specified by the Commission after initial grant.
- It understands that any structure utilized to operate pursuant to this STA must comply with the height limitations specified in Section 17.7 of the Commission’s rules or must be registered with the FAA.

The following are federal radiolocation services locations. Operations under this STA are not permitted within 75 kilometers of these locations:

Location	State	Latitude	Longitude
Ft. Rucker	AL	311947N	0854255W
Redstone Arsenal	AL	343630N	0863610W
Ft. Huachuca	AZ	313500N	1102000W
Yuma Proving Grounds	AZ	330114N	1141855W
Naval Ocean Systems Center	CA	324500N	1171000W
Space and Missile Systems Center	CA	335500N	1182200W
Pacific Missile Test Center	CA	340914N	1190524W
Vandenberg AFB	CA	344348N	1203436W
Edwards AFB	CA	345400N	1175200W
Ft. Irwin	CA	351536N	1164102W
Ft. Hunter Liggett	CA	355756N	1211404W
Parks Reserve Forces Training Area	CA	374254N	1214218W
SAN NICOLAS IS	CA	331447N	1193107W
POINT MUGU	CA	340700N	1190900W
VANDENBERG	CA	343458N	1203342W
EDWARDS	CA	345739N	1175442W
PILLAR PT	CA	372952N	1222959W
Ft. Carson	CO	383810N	1044750W
U.S. Air Force Academy	CO	385800N	1044900W
Naval Research Laboratory	DC	385500N	0770000W
Patrick AFB	FL	281331N	0803607W
Tyndall AFB	FL	300412N	0853436W
Eglin AFB	FL	302900N	0863200W
SADDLEBUNCH	FL	243851N	0813622W
VENICE	FL	270437N	0822703W
MACDILL	FL	274843N	0823217W
ANCLOTE	FL	281118N	0824740W
CAPE SAN BLAS	FL	294039N	0852047W
CARABELLEFIELD	FL	295038N	0843946W
FORT WALTON BEACH	FL	302453N	0863958W
EGLIN	FL	303047N	0863256W
Ft. Stewart	GA	315145N	0813655W
Hunter Army Airfield	GA	320100N	0810800W
Ft. Benning	GA	322130N	0845815W
Ft. Gordon	GA	332510N	0820910W

Ft. Gillem	GA	333600N	0841900W
Ft. Shafter	HI	211800N	1574900W
Ft. Riley	KS	385813N	0965139W
Ft. Leavenworth	KS	392115N	0945500W
Ft. Campbell	KY	363950N	0872820W
Ft. Knox	KY	375350N	0855655W
Ft. Polk	LA	310343N	0931226W
Hanscom AFB	MA	422816N	0711725W
Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Activity	MD	381000N	0762300W
Mid-Atlantic Area Frequency Coordinator	MD	381710N	0762500W
Naval Research Laboratory	MD	383927N	0763143W
Army Research Laboratory	MD	390000N	0765800W
Naval Surface Weapons Center	MD	390205N	0765900W
Aberdeen Proving Ground	MD	392825N	0760655W
PATUXENT RIVER	MD	381749N	0762235W
Ft. Leonard Wood	MO	374430N	0920737W
Ft. Bragg	NC	350805N	0790035W
Ft. Dix	NJ	400025N	0743713W
Ft. Monmouth	NJ	401900N	0740215W
Picatiny Arsenal	NJ	405600N	0743400W
White Sands Missile Range	NM	322246N	1062813W
Holloman AFB	NM	322510N	1060601W
Kirtland AFB	NM	350230N	1063624W
WHITESANDS MISSILE RANGE	NM	330000N	1063000W
Nellis AFB	NV	361410N	1150245W
NEVADA TEST SITE	NV	363942N	1155957W
NV TEST TRAINING RANGE	NV	372460N	1163000W
TONOPAH TEST RANGE	NV	374400N	1164300W
Griffiss AFB	NY	431315N	0752431W
Ft. Drum	NY	440115N	0754844W
Wright-Patterson AFB	OH	394656N	0840539W
Ft. Sill	OK	344024N	0982352W
Naval Air Development Center	PA	401200N	0750500W
Charles E. Kelly Support Facility—Oakdale	PA	402357N	0800925W
Arnold AFB	TN	352250N	0860202W
Brooks AFB	TX	292000N	0982600W
Ft. Hood	TX	310830N	0974550W
Ft. Bliss	TX	314850N	1062533W
Midway Research Center	VA	382640N	0772650W
NORFOLK	VA	365505N	0761055W
WALLOPS ISLAND	VA	375137N	0753034W
Yakima Firing Center	WA	464018N	1202135W
Ft. Lewis	WA	470525N	1223510W
Ft. McCoy	WI	440636N	0904127W
Marinette	WI	450600N	0873748W

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May 7, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Donald Stockdale, Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
donald.stockdale@fcc.gov

**RE: Rural Connect, LLC (FRN 0021091053)
Request for Emergency Special Temporary Authority
to Operate in the 5.9 GHz Band**

Dear Mr. Stockdale:

Rural Connect, LLC (formerly WISPER II, LLC) (“Rural Connect”), by its undersigned counsel, hereby requests emergency Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to deploy and operate in the 5850-5895 MHz band on an unlicensed basis to provide wireless Internet services to supplement the Internet service that it currently provides in western Tennessee through its leased and licensed wireless spectrum. Rural Connect is seeking STA to provide wireless Internet services in the 5.9 GHz band in the following 13 Tennessee counties: Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Haywood, Henderson, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Tipton, and Weakley. Grant of STA would help Rural Connect provide wireless broadband service in these largely rural areas by meeting the surge in demand for service during the coronavirus pandemic. The demand is severely taxing Rural Connect’s ability to provide uninterrupted broadband service to its subscribers. Accordingly, Rural Connect requests STA for a period of 60 days.

Due to the spread of the coronavirus, many Americans are working and learning remotely from their homes – circumstances which are likely to continue for several more weeks if not months. Over the past few weeks, Rural Connect has seen a significant increase in bandwidth usage as a result of social distancing – even as state and local governments in Tennessee are gradually loosening social distancing measures for Tennessean residents.

To meet this increase in demand, Rural Connect requires access to additional spectrum. Rural Connect believes that emergency use of the 45 MHz in the 5850-5895 MHz band will be the best solution for helping it meet the increased demand. Rural Connect’s wireless spectrum is

too congested to meet the existing and expected surge in daytime bandwidth demand – including the needs of first responders. Grant of STA will allow Rural Connect to meet its increased demand until it can deploy additional infrastructure to improve its network capabilities on an ongoing basis.

Rural Connect agrees to the following conditions:

- It will apply for continuing STA on FCC Form 601 (Radio Code QQ) within 10 days from grant of the instant emergency STA request.
- It understands that operations under STA are secondary and do not afford interference protection.
- It will notify any Dedicated Short-Range Communications (“DSRC”) licensees (Radio Codes IQ and QQ) in the above-referenced counties that it is operating in the 5850-5895 MHz band under STA, and will provide its contact information.
- It will comply with the interference protection provisions of 47 C.F.R. § 90.371(b).
- It will operate consistent with the power levels provided in 47 C.F.R. § 15.407(a)(3).
- It will attenuate emissions at 5895 MHz to -27 dBm or less.
- Upon expiration of the STA, it will cease operating in the 5850-5895 MHz band. For any renewal of the STA, it understands that it will need to request STA on FCC Form 601.

Rural Connect further notes that the Commission has recently granted other wireless providers access to additional spectrum to help them meet increased customer demand for broadband during the coronavirus pandemic – including within the 5.9 GHz band. *See, e.g.,* FCC News, *FCC Grants Wireless ISPs Temporary Access to Spectrum in 5.9 GHz Band to Meet Increase in Rural Broadband Demand During Pandemic* (Mar. 27, 2020). Rural Connect asks the FCC to afford it, as well as its customers and communities, the same benefit to “make it easier for Americans to participate in telehealth, distance learning, and telework, and simply remain connected while practicing recommended ‘social distancing.’” *Id.* (quoting FCC News, *FCC Provides T-Mobile Temporary Access to Additional Spectrum to Help Keep Americans Connected During Coronavirus Pandemic* (Mar. 15, 2020)).

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Donald J. Evans

Donald J. Evans

Keenan P. Adamchak

Counsel for Rural Connect, LLC

cc: Keith Harper (keith.harper@fcc.gov)
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