

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

RE: Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands; Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems; Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones (WT Docket Nos. 06-150, 01-309, and CC Docket No. 94-102).

The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 (the DTV Act) makes several fundamental changes in the statutory regime applicable to the 700 MHz band spectrum. Perhaps most importantly, the DTV Act establishes a hard deadline of February 17, 2009, for the cessation of analog broadcasting in this spectrum. The DTV Act also requires the Commission to begin the auction for the licenses associated with the recovered analog spectrum no later than January 28, 2008, and to deposit the auction proceeds no later than June 30, 2008.

Given these congressional mandates, we have our work cut out for us. In this regard, I thank the Wireless Bureau for preparing this well-written, comprehensive notice, which will bolster our ability to complete our work expeditiously. And, I thank the Chairman for bringing this item to us today. I am delighted that wireless licensees and potential licensees – whether public safety or commercial – are now in a position to finalize plans for deploying in this “prime real estate.” I look forward to actively engaging with my colleagues, and all interested parties, in the important effort to reexamine and finalize the service rules for the 700 MHz commercial band, including issues relating to E911 deployment, hearing aid compatibility and service to tribal areas.