

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

Re: Former Nextel Communications, Inc. Upper 700 MHz Guard Band Licenses and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules, Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Communications Requirements Through the Year 2010 (Notice of Proposed Rule Making, WT Docket Nos. 06-169, 96-86)

I fully support this Notice, as I have regularly commented how exceedingly important it is that we do what we can to keep the Commission on the leading edge of spectrum-based technology and policy. Our inquiry is particularly appropriate and timely in light of recent legislation dealing with the digital television (DTV) transition and the return to the Commission of 700 MHz Guard Band licenses formerly held by Nextel. We have a unique opportunity to take a "fresh look" at the 700 MHz Guard Band service and to review the several interesting band plan proposals advocated by existing Guard Band Managers and critical infrastructure entities.

Earlier this year, the Commission adopted an Eighth Notice of Proposed Rule Making to consider changes to the 700 MHz public safety band to accommodate broadband communication. Just this past month, we launched an important proceeding on possible changes to the rules governing commercial wireless licenses in the 700 MHz Band. With our item today, we've completed a triple play of 700 MHz spectrum policy by putting out three important decisions in rapid succession that will frame the discussion for future use of the 700 MHz Band. As we develop the record for these proceedings, I look forward to the debate to ensure that the entire 700 MHz Band is put to use as quickly and efficiently as possible, and that parts of the spectrum band do not become an untapped well for the thirsty.