
Securing Canadian Concurrence

Introduction

For licensees who conduct business near the Canadian border, it is well known that securing concurrence from the Canadian government to operate wireless systems from 150-470 MHz can prove to be burdensome and time consuming, despite following frequency coordination best practices. An imaginary line approximately 75 miles south of the border between Canada and the United States, known simply as “Line-A,” determines whether new or modified systems must secure Canadian approval before an authorization is issued. If the radio system operates a fixed station located north of Line A, concurrence must be granted by Canada. If the radio system is a mobile-only system and the Effective Radiated Power of the mobile units is greater than 3 watts, the application will be referred to Canada for approval. In the latter instance, if Canada rejects the application, the U.S. system may operate on a “secondary basis” to Canadian licensees. Further informational guidance from the Federal Communications Commission is available in Public Notice 09-1064, released on May 13, 2009. To review this announcement, please visit http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1064A1.pdf.

The Canadian government has a keen interest in protecting its licensees from receiving even minimal levels of radio frequency from U.S. licensees. Specifically, Canada considers harmful interference at -146 dBW received signal strength. That’s not much, and as a result, the majority of U.S. applications seeking concurrence from Industry Canada that do not provide engineering analyses illustrating non-interference to Canadian incumbent licensees result in a rejection, citing “Harmful Interference Anticipated (HIA).” New channels must be identified, additional frequency coordination fees are incurred, and the concurrence process starts all over again.

Processing Alternative for Canadian Concurrence

To reduce the possibility of the HIA rejection, EWA offers a rigorous analysis to support your application and spectrum requirements, if you seek concurrence from Industry Canada. In addition, to the standard processing of your application, EWA may conduct the following additional initiatives:

- Identify multiple channels for possible certification
- Access the Canadian licensee database to identify all Canadian incumbents on the channels selected for certification
- Conduct Longley-Rice propagation analyses from proposed site(s) to determine whether the -146 dBW threshold will be exceeded
- Modify proposed system parameters in consultation with applicant as necessary to limit the “HIA” potential, and rerun predication models as appropriate
- Prepare a statement of explanation and attach engineering results with application submitted to the FCC to optimize concurrence opportunity and to facilitate speed of service
- If necessary, EWA personnel will conduct necessary discussions with FCC and/or Canadian officials to hasten concurrence

Fee for Service

The fee for the Processing Alternative for Canadian Concurrence is \$975, exclusive of EWA’s standard license preparation and frequency coordination charges.

To engage this service, please contact your EWA Spectrum Advisor or call 800-482-8282.