

February 27, 2014

Mr. Roger C. Sherman
Acting Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
444 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Private Land Mobile Broadband 900 MHz Spectrum Initiative

Dear Mr. Sherman:

The collective memberships of the undersigned organizations represent the overwhelming majority of critical infrastructure, other industrial, transportation, and business (Private Enterprise) licensees. As the Commission is aware, access to spectrum capable of meeting these members' internal broadband communications requirements is essential if they are to continue supporting America's economic growth, expanded employment, public well-being, the delivery of critical goods and services, security, and workforce safety. We believe that many of those particular, geographically specific needs can best be served through reorganization of spectrum already allocated under Part 90 to and used by Private Enterprise and Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) service entities, a reorganization that will require a temporary freeze of this allocation as described herein.

The 900 MHz spectrum is a 5/5 MHz band where 199 12.5 kHz paired channels have been allocated for use by Industrial/Business (I/B) licensees and 200 12.5 kHz paired channels have been allocated for SMR service licensees, with Sprint Corporation (Sprint) being the predominant licensee in both the I/B and SMR portions of the band. Led by Morgan O'Brien, founder of Nextel Communications, Inc., and in collaboration with the undersigned industry associations, and manufacturers, meaningful discussions are being held to create a "900 MHz Private Land Mobile Broadband" ("PLM BB") initiative, define an inclusive management structure for the undertaking, and secure needed investment capital. A broader "Working Group" of interested organizations and licensees is being convened to develop spectrum plans for both a 2/2 MHz 900 MHz block that will continue to support Private Enterprise voice and data communication systems in use today and a 3/3 MHz contiguous block of spectrum on which an LTE-based PLM BB network may be configured and deployed to serve the unique needs of Private Enterprise, in particular CII, entities.

It is anticipated, consistent with prior instances in which new technologies have been introduced into an existing band, that the PLM BB licensee entity would fund, as necessary, the costs to migrate licensees to the 2/2 MHz portion of the band reserved for private internal communication uses if they do not wish to join the PLM BB network.

Time is needed in order that the parties may develop a plan for the PLM BB initiative in concert with the Commission and stakeholders. During this critical development phase, it is necessary to maintain, to the maximum extent possible, the current spectrum environment so that private internal communications may continue to be supported while the PLM BB plan is developed.

With that in mind, we seek the FCC's support to implement a six-month licensing freeze on applications from entities that do not already hold a 900 MHz license in the market requested. Under this approach, current 900 MHz licensees would be permitted to expand geographic coverage or channel capacity to serve ongoing business communication requirements while the PLM BB plan is more fully defined. New applicants, however, would be prohibited.

Introducing broadband capability to the 900 MHz band will be complicated but is absolutely necessary if Private Enterprise - in particular critical infrastructure industries - broadband interests are to be met. Recognizing the difficulty of securing adequate "green space" spectrum even for these vital communications needs, this vision does not require a reallocation of spectrum. Rather, it will allow incumbent licensees the opportunity to reorganize and introduce a new technology in a band that is already allocated for their use. We see this as a unique spectrum approach that will provide the benefits of broadband technology tailored uniquely to member requirements. However, in recognition of the complexity of developing and implementing the PLM BB initiative, the undersigned stakeholders emphasize that by submitting this request for a freeze, they are not under an obligation to agree to a plan and may individually withdraw from development and/or support of the plan and the freeze.

We seek the FCC's assistance and cooperation first by implementing a "light application freeze" for which there is substantial precedent. To that end, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the FCC's leadership to answer questions and secure the agency's guidance regarding this spectrum development opportunity.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ **James Crandall**

James Crandall
American Petroleum Institute

/s/ **Mark E. Crosby**

Mark E. Crosby
Enterprise Wireless Alliance

/s/ **Connie Durcsak**

Connie Durcsak
Utilities Telecom Council

cc: Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Ajit Pai, Commissioner
Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner

William Jenkins, Sprint
Morgan O’Brien