

## 4990-5000 MHz

### 1. Band Introduction

The 4990-5000 MHz band is allocated to the Federal Government for the radio astronomy on a primary basis and the space research (passive) service on a secondary basis. There are no transmissions permitted in this receive-only scientific band.

### 2. Allocations

#### 2a. Allocation Table

The frequency allocation table shown below is extracted from the Manual of Regulations & Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management, Chapter 4 – Allocations, Allotments and Plans.

#### *Table of Frequency Allocations*

#### *United States Table*

<b>Federal Table</b>	<b>Non-Federal Table</b>	<b>FCC Rule Part(s)</b>
4990-5000 RADIO ASTRONOMY US74 Space research (passive)  US246		

**2b. Additional Allocation Table Information**

**US74** In the bands 25.55-25.67, 73.0-74.6, 406.1-410.0, 608-614, 1400-1427 (see US368), 1660.5-1670.0, 2690-2700, and 4990-5000 MHz, and in the bands 10.68-10.7, 15.35-15.4, 23.6-24.0, 31.3-31.5, 86-92, 100-102, 109.5-111.8, 114.25-116, 148.5-151.5, 164-167, 200-209, and 250-252 GHz, the radio astronomy service shall be protected from unwanted emissions only to the extent that such radiation exceeds the level which would be present if the offending station were operating in compliance with the technical standards or criteria applicable to the service in which it operates. Radio astronomy observations in these bands are performed at the locations listed in US311.

**US246** No station shall be authorized to transmit in the following bands:

- 73-74.6 MHz,
- 608-614 MHz, except for medical telemetry equipment,<sup>1</sup>
- 1400-1427 MHz,
- 1660.5-1668.4 MHz,
- 2690-2700 MHz,
- 4990-5000 MHz,
- 10.68-10.7 GHz,
- 15.35-15.4 GHz,
- 23.6-24 GHz,
- 31.3-31.8 GHz,
- 50.2-50.4 GHz,
- 52.6-54.25 GHz,
- 86-92 GHz,
- 100-102 GHz,
- 109.5-111.8 GHz,
- 114.25-116 GHz,
- 148.5-151.5 GHz,
- 164-167 GHz,
- 182-185 GHz,
- 190-191.8 GHz,
- 200-209 GHz,
- 226-231.5 GHz,
- 250-252 GHz.

<sup>1</sup> Medical telemetry equipment shall not cause harmful interference to radio astronomy operations in the band 608-614 MHz and shall be coordinated under the requirements found in 47 CFR. 95.1119.

**3. Federal Agency Use:**

**3a. Federal Agency Frequency Assignments Table:**

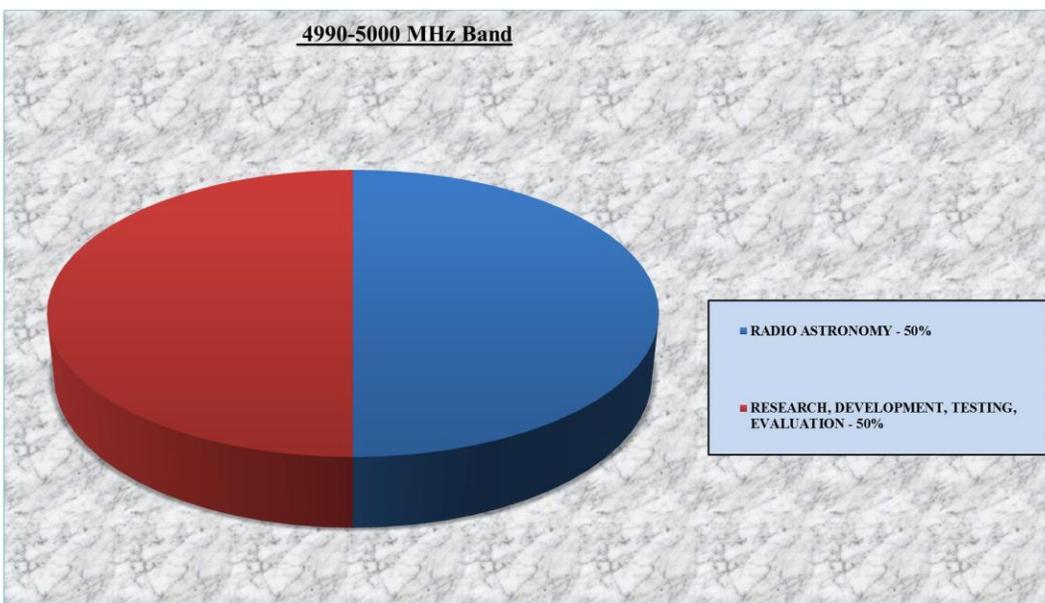
The following table identifies the frequency band, type(s) of allocation(s), types of application, and the number of frequency assignments by agency.

*Federal Frequency Assignment Table*

4990 - 5000 MHz Band					
SHARED BAND					
RADIO ASTRONOMY SPACE RESEARCH (passive)					
TYPE OF APPLICATION					
AGENCY	RADIO ASTRONOMY			RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT TESTING EVALUATION	TOTAL
NASA	1				1
AR				1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
The number of actual systems, or number of equipments, may exceed and sometimes far exceed, the number of frequency assignments in a band. Also, a frequency assignment may represent a local, state, regional, or nationwide authorization. Therefore, care must be taken in evaluating bands strictly on the basis of assignment counts or percentages of assignments.					

Passive use does not require an authorization. Therefore, assignment counts in passive bands may not represent accurately the use.

### 3b. Percentage of Frequency Assignments Chart



## 4. Frequency Band Analysis By Application

### 4a. Radio Astronomy Service

Radio astronomy is defined as astronomy based on the reception of radio waves of cosmic origin.<sup>1</sup> The service is unique in that it involves only passive systems. Since the signals received emanate from natural sources, radio astronomers have no control over the power, the frequency, or other characteristics of the emissions. The spectrum used is based on physical phenomena rather than expected growth, as is the case for most other radio services. Using terrestrial radio telescopes, radio astronomers can observe cosmic phenomena at frequencies ranging from 15 MHz to over 800 GHz. To meet the needs of radio astronomy, frequencies at regular intervals across this range must be protected from interference in the vicinity of the radio astronomy observatories. The basic plan of spectrum management for radio astronomy is to protect small bands across the range for continuum observations, while choosing those bands so they contain the spectral lines of greatest scientific interest.<sup>2</sup> Radio astronomy has contributed much to the science of astronomy and has produced numerous technical innovations that have benefitted

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<sup>1</sup>. NTIA Manual §6.1.1 at 6-12.

<sup>2</sup>. The preferred frequency bands for continuum and spectral line observations are specified in International Telecommunication Union-Radiocommunication Sector Recommendation RA.314-10.

radiocommunications and humankind in general. It has provided information on the atmospheric absorption of radio waves, important in the area of telecommunications and communications technology.<sup>3</sup>

The spectral region around 5 GHz has been one of the most widely used frequency ranges in radio astronomy during the last decade. The 4990-5000 MHz band is used for radio astronomy research via continuum measurement to study the detailed brightness distributions of both galactic and extragalactic objects and to make radio maps of interstellar clouds and supernova remnants.

This portion of the spectrum is highly desirable for radio astronomy because of the low level of galactic background continuum radiation.

This is a key band for radio astronomy research using VLBI observation techniques. Federal and university radio astronomy research activities are interrelated and complementary. A list of the radio astronomy facilities that perform observations in the 4990-5000 MHz band are provided in Table 1.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Allen Telescope Array	40-49-04 N	121-28-24 W
Arecibo, PR	18-20-38 N	66-45-09 W
Socorro, NM	34-04-43 N	107-37-04 W
Green Bank, WV	38-25-59 N	79-50-23 W
Pie Town, NM	34-18-00 N	108-07-00 W
Kitt Peak, AZ	31-57-00 N	111-37-00 W
Los Alamos, NM	35-47-00 N	106-15-00 W
Fort Davis, TX	30-38-00 N	103-57-00 W
North Liberty, IA	41-46-00 N	91-34-00 W
Brewster, WA	48-08-00 N	119-41-00 W
Owens Valley, CA	37-14-00 N	118-17-00 W
Saint Croix, VI	17-46-00 N	64-35-00 W
Mauna Kea, HI	19-49-00 N	155-28-00 W
Hancock, NH	42-56-00 N	71-59-00 W
Very Large Array	34-04-44 N	107-37-04 W
Westford VLBI Station	42-36-47 N	71-29-38 W

**Table 1.**

<sup>3</sup>. An overview of applications of astronomical techniques and devices that benefit the public is contained in National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA Report 99-35, *Radio Astronomy Spectrum Planning Options* (April 1998) at Appendix B.

Radio astronomers employ radio telescopes, highly sensitive receivers with large, high-gain antennas, to detect the weak signals from space. Because the desired signals are so weak and the receivers are so sensitive, radio telescopes are highly susceptible to interference.<sup>4</sup> A typical radio astronomy telescope receives only about one-trillionth of a watt even from the strongest cosmic source. Radio astronomers can only control the electromagnetic signal environment at the receiver and this creates a potential incompatibility with other spectrum users. Radio observatories are usually built in remote locations with surrounding terrain that provides natural shielding from interference sources. Nonetheless, effective spectrum management is critical to protect the radio telescopes from harmful interference. Sources of potential interference are spurious, harmonic, and adjacent band emissions from satellite and airborne transmitters, and aggregate interference from licensed and unlicensed ground-based transmitters.

Spectrum contours for the facilities shown in Table 1 can be computed based on the maximum permissible interference level necessary to protect radio astronomy service receivers. The maximum permissible interference level necessary to protect a radio astronomy service receiver is specified in an International Telecommunication Union recommendation.<sup>5</sup> The maximum permissible interference level is computed using a 0 dBi gain for the radio astronomy receive antenna<sup>6</sup>; a maximum allowable equivalent isotropically radiated power level of 10 dBW/MHz for a ground-based transmitter; and a terrain dependent propagation model.<sup>7</sup> The statistical and environmental parameters used with the terrain profile in calculating the propagation loss are shown in Table 2.

Parameter	Value
Refractivity	301 N-units
Conductivity	0.005 S/M
Permittivity	15
Humidity	10
Reliability	50 percent
Confidence	50 percent

<sup>4</sup>. The receivers used by radio astronomers can detect signals that are typically 60 dB below thermal noise, whereas the signal levels for normal radiocommunication systems are typically 20 dB above thermal noise.

<sup>5</sup>. Recommendation ITU-R RA.769-1, *Protection Criteria Used For Radioastronomical Measurements* (1995).

<sup>6</sup>. Recommendation ITU-R RA.1031-1, *Protection of the Radioastronomy Service in Frequency Bands Shared with Other Services*.

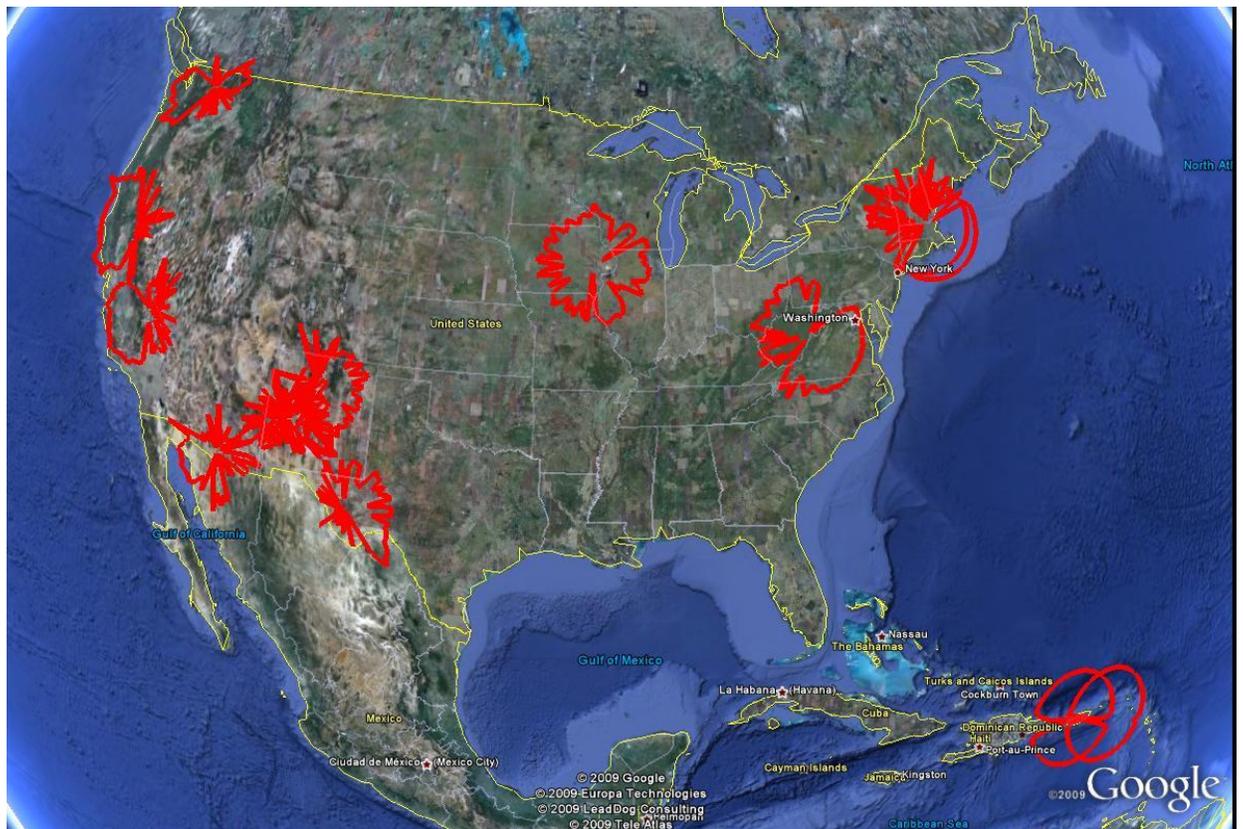
<sup>7</sup>. The propagation loss for the spectrum usage contours is computed using the Irregular Terrain Model in the point-to-point mode and three second U.S. Geological Survey topographic data. A detailed description of the Irregular Terrain Model is available at <http://flatop.its.blrdoc.gov/itm.html>

Radio Climate	Continental Temperate
Antenna Polarization	Vertical
Transmit Antenna Height	3 meters
Receive Antenna Height	Extracted from Terrain Database

**Table 2.**

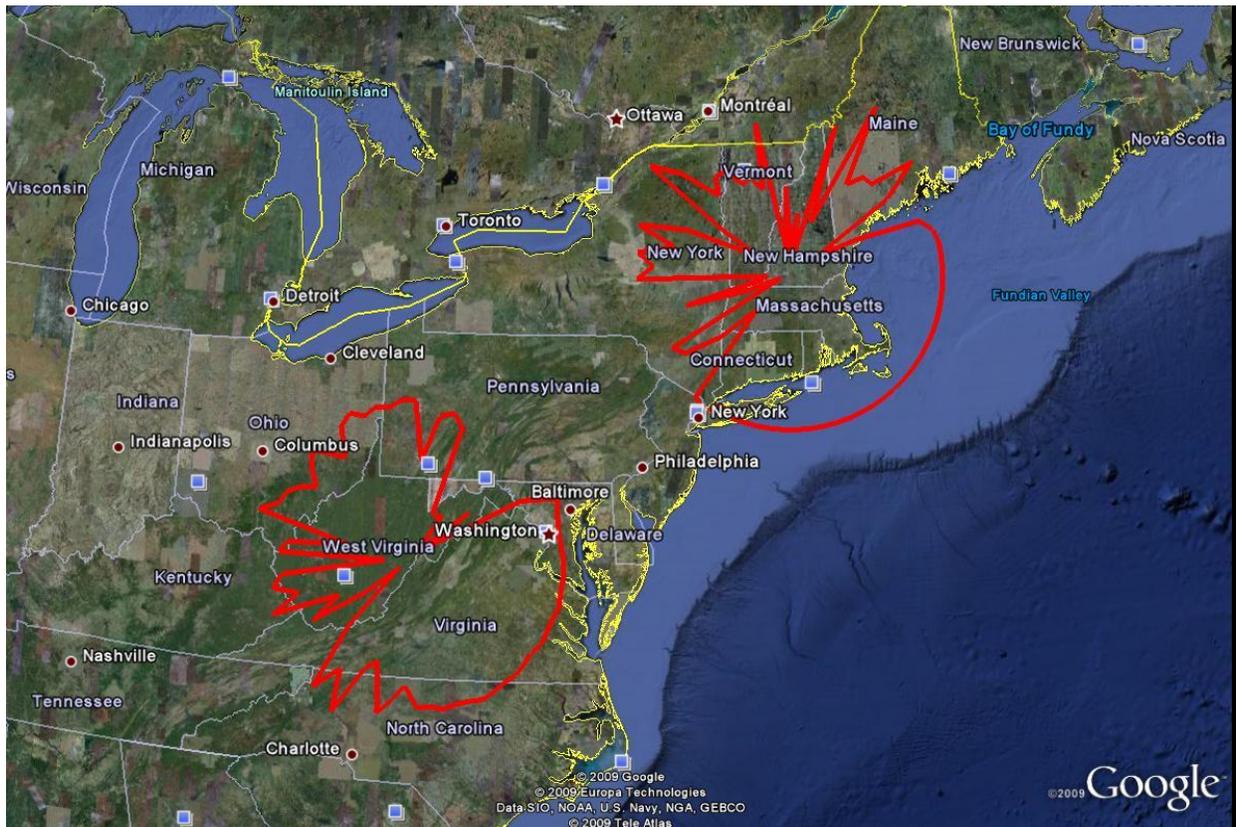
The radio astronomy facility latitude and longitude in Table 1 represents the center point for the spectrum contour.

The spectrum contours for the radio astronomy facilities performing observations in the 4990-5000 MHz band are shown in Figures 1 through 9.



**Figure 1.**

**4990-5000 MHz  
Radio astronomy Spectrum Contours in the  
Continental United States**



0 km    300 km    600 km

**Figure 2.**

**Hancock, NH, Green Bank, WV, and Westford VLBI Station  
4990-5000 MHz**

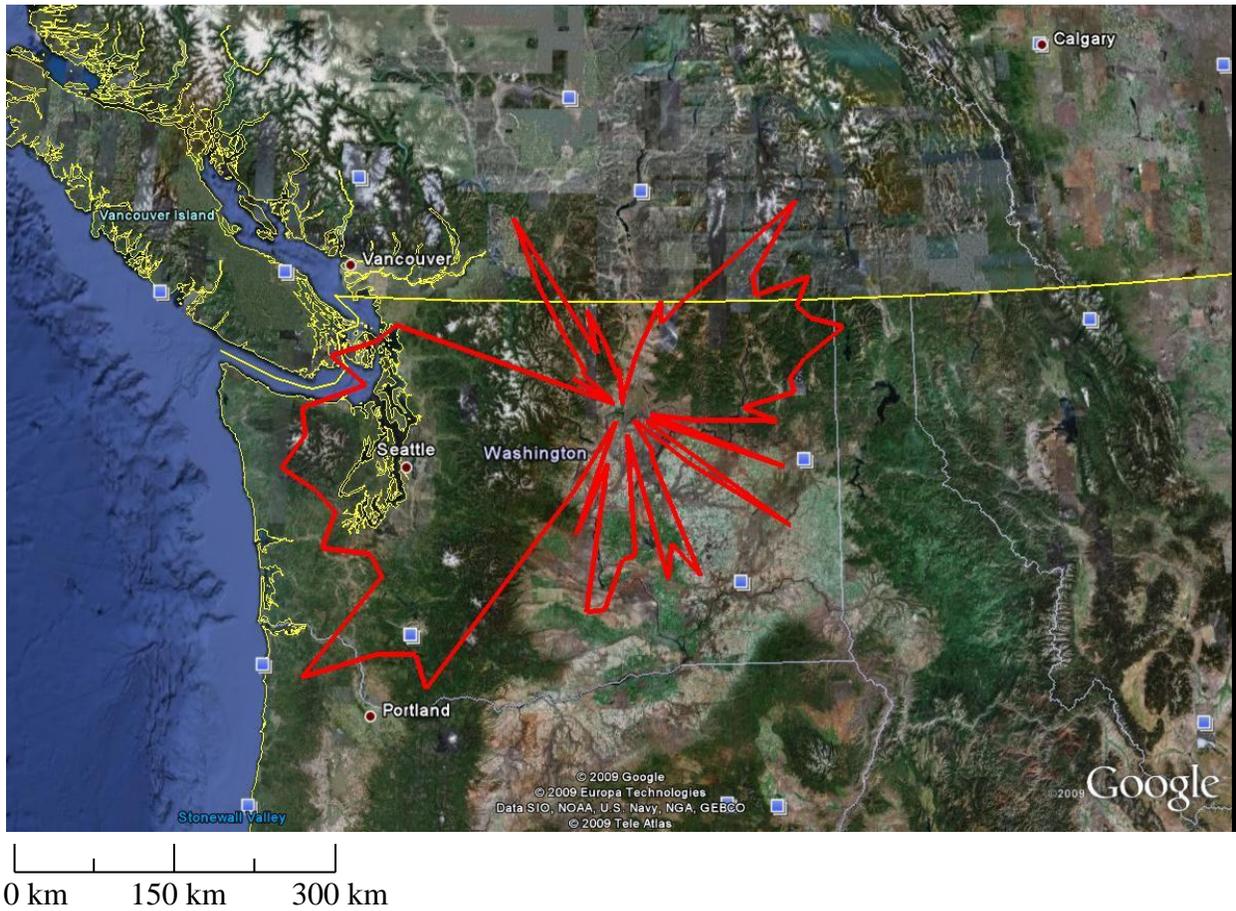
**Radio Astronomy Spectrum Contours**



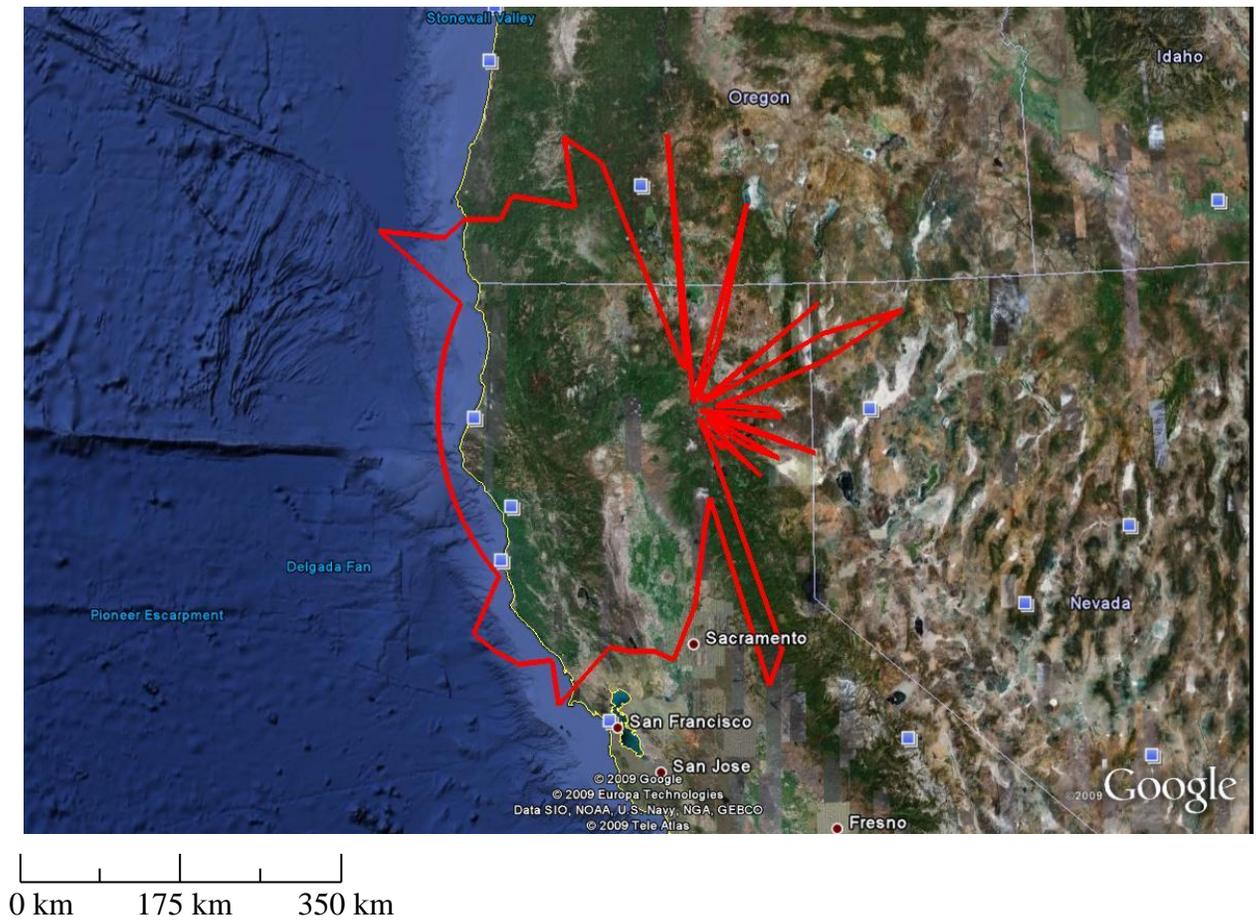
0 km    190 km    380 km

**Figure 3.**

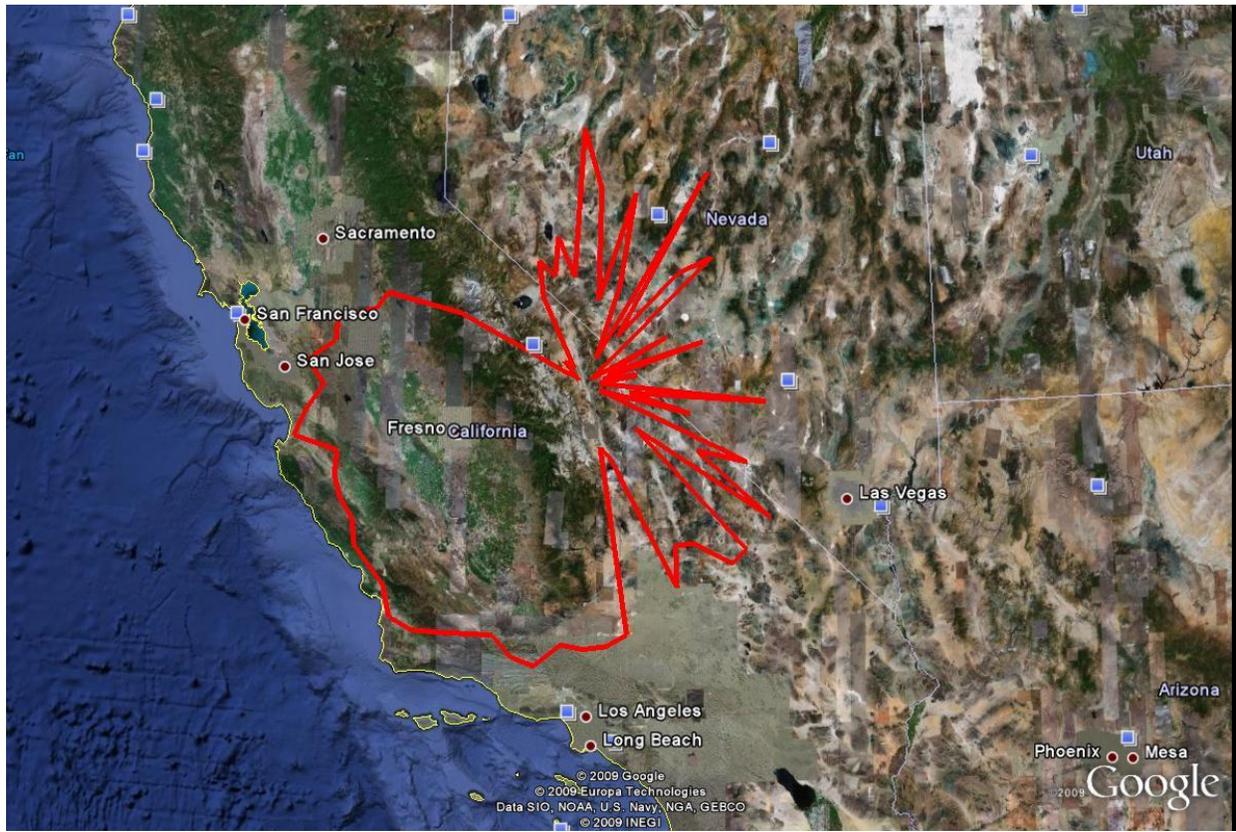
**North Liberty, IA  
4990-5000 MHz  
Radio Astronomy Spectrum Contour**



**Figure 4.**  
**Brewster, WA**  
**4990-5000 MHz**  
**Radio Astronomy Spectrum Contour**

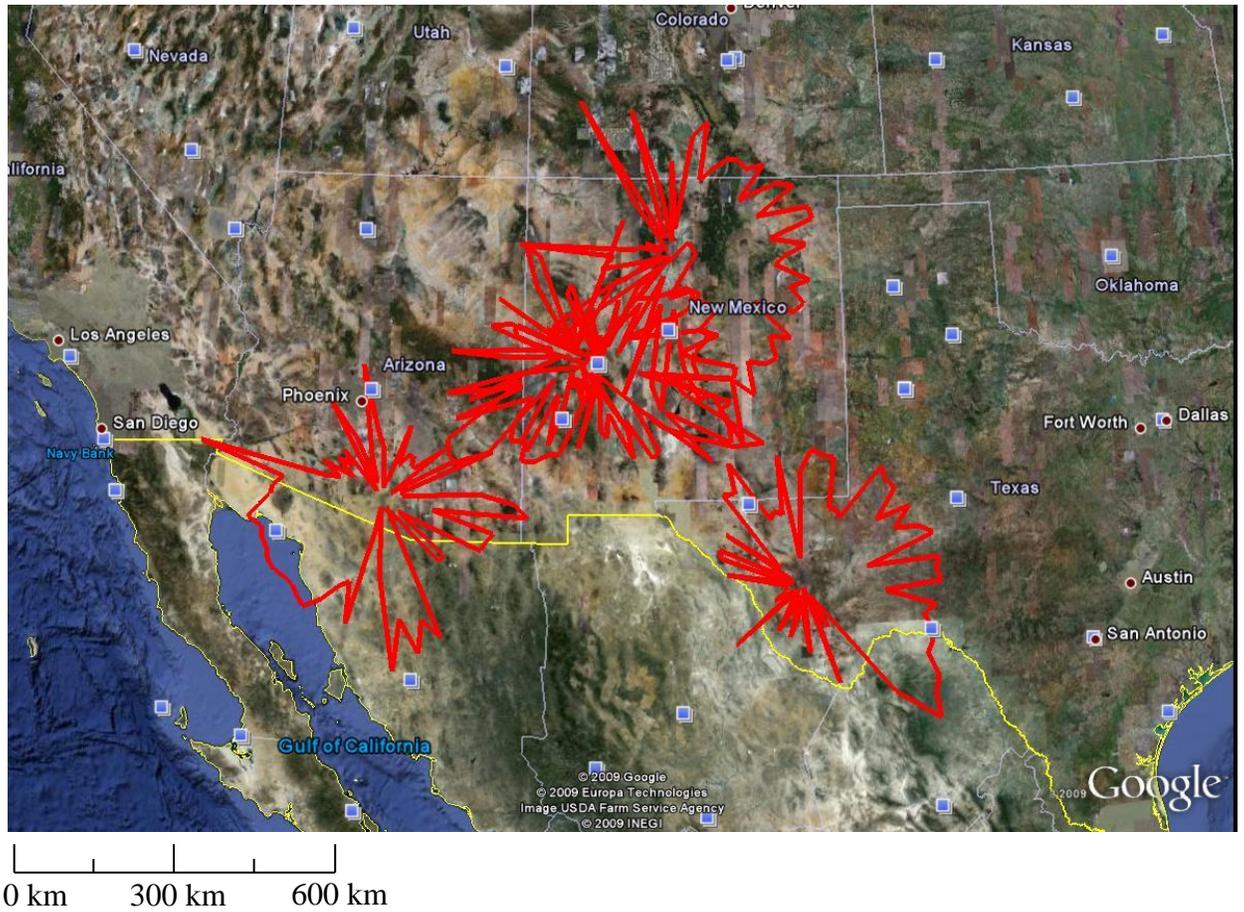


**Figure 5.**  
**Allen Telescope Array, CA**  
**4990-5000 MHz**  
**Radio Astronomy Spectrum Contour**



0 km    175 km    350 km

**Figure 6.**  
**Owens Valley, CA**  
**4990-5000 MHz**  
**Radio Astronomy Spectrum Contour**



**Figure 7.**

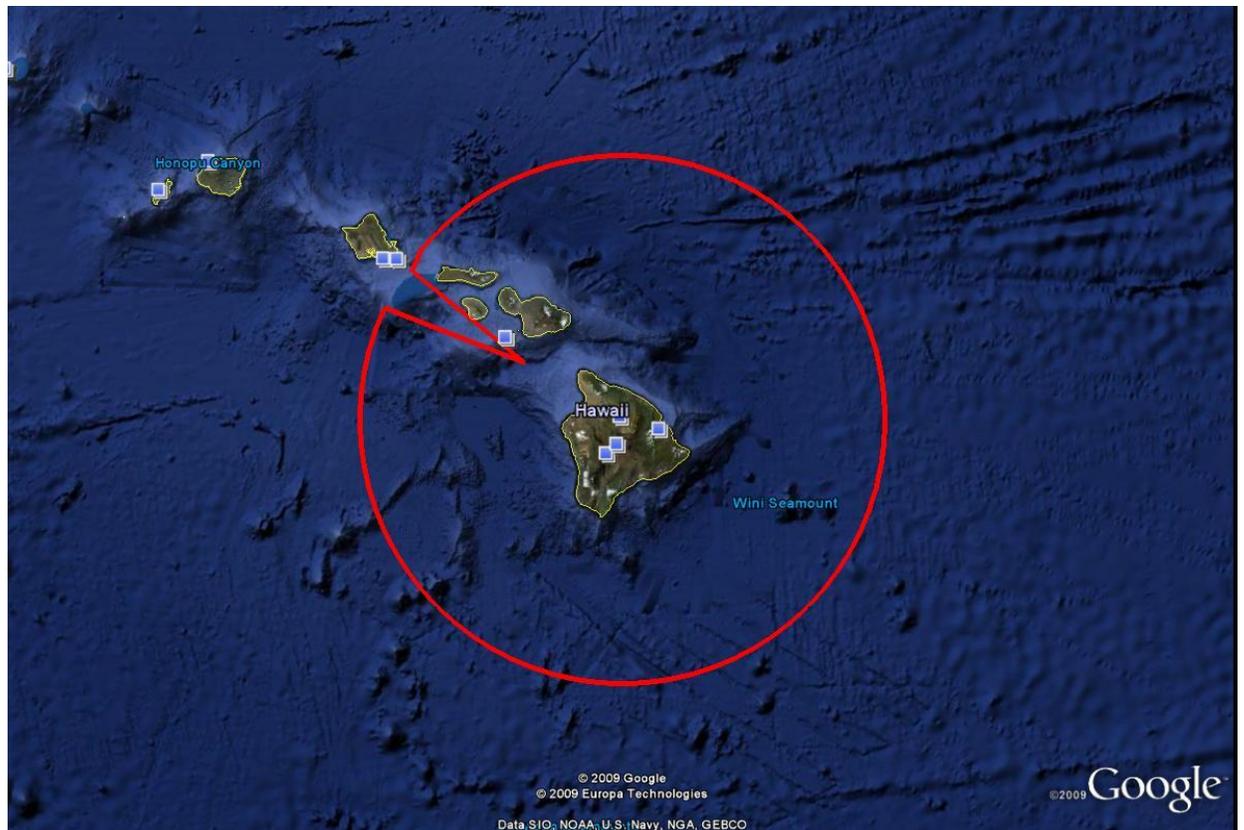
**Kitt Peak, AZ, Socorro, NM, Pie Town, NM, Los Alamos, NM, Fort Davis, TX and  
Very Large Array, NM  
4990-5000 MHz  
Radio Astronomy Spectrum Contours**



0 km 170 km 340 km

**Figure 8.**

**Arecibo, PR and Saint Croix, VI  
4990-5000 MHz  
Radio Astronomy  
Spectrum Contours**



0 km    200 km    400 km

**Figure 9.**

**Mauna Kea, HI  
4990-5000 MHz  
Radio Astronomy Spectrum Contour**

*4990-5000*

**4b. Space Research (Passive) Service**

The Federal Government is not using the 4990-5000 MHz band for space research (passive) operations at this time.

**5. Planned Use:**

The radio astronomy observations performed in this band are expected to continue indefinitely.

There are currently no plans to use this band for space research (passive) operations at this time.