



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 29, 2024

Mr. Ronald T. Repasi
Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology (OET)
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. Joel Taubenblatt
Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB)
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of Facilitating Shared Use in the 3100-3550 MHz Band,
WT Docket No. 19-348¹

Dear Messrs. Repasi and Taubenblatt:

The National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) hereby notifies the Commission of the recommendation of the Department of Defense (DoD) to delete the Norfolk, VA, Cooperative Planning Area (CPA) from its coordination rules in the above-referenced docket. In 2020, the Commission adopted the 3450-3550 MHz (3.45 GHz) R&O and FNPRM, in which it removed secondary, non-federal allocations from the band and sought comment on restructuring the band to permit coordinated federal and non-federal use. In 2021, the Commission working in collaboration with NTIA and DoD adopted the *3.45 GHz Second R&O*, which created a new 3.45 GHz Service, including a cooperative sharing regime. Under this sharing regime, non-federal systems have unencumbered, full-power use of the entire band across the contiguous United States except for limited locations and circumstances—in effect, within Cooperative Planning Areas (CPAs) and Periodic Use Areas (PUAs), where current incumbent federal systems remain in the band and non-federal systems are not entitled to protection from federal operations.²

After further consideration, the DoD recommends modifying the coordination rules for the 3.45 GHz band (see attachment). Specifically, DoD recommends deleting the Norfolk, VA, Cooperative Planning Area (CPA). The Newport News, VA, CPA/PUA geographically encompasses the entire area of the Norfolk CPA. The larger Newport News CPA/PUA commands the requisite coordination to protect DoD missions operating in the band, to include

¹ See *Facilitating Shared Use in the 3100-3550 MHz Band*, WT Docket No. 19-348, Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Order of Proposed Modification, 36 FCC Rcd 5987, 5992, para. 9 (2021) (*3.45 GHz Band Second R&O*).

² Commercial operations are not precluded in CPAs and PUAs, but prior coordination between federal incumbents and commercial operations is required.

episodic DoD operations. The DoD therefore deems the Norfolk CPA redundant and unnecessary. DoD also recommends renaming the remaining Newport News coordination area as “Newport News-Norfolk (Includes Fort Story SESEF Range)”. This renaming of the CPA/PUA, however, should maintain 1) the asterisk to note the location encompasses high-power Federal radiolocation facilities, 2) the polygon’s original center and radial dimension, and 3) the designation as both a CPA and PUA, as currently listed in Footnote US431B to 47 Code of Federal Regulations § 2.106.

NTIA supports the DoD’s recommendation and requests that the Commission modify the regulatory guidance for the 3.45 GHz band. Once revised, NTIA will concurrently update the 3450-3550 MHz Website - <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/3450-3550-mhz> to reflect the change in coordination requirements. This recommendation also necessitates a change to the keyhole-markup-language (.kml) file for the 3.45 GHz CPAs and PUA hosted on NTIA’s website.

* * *

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Jonathan Stefaniak of the Strategic Planning Division, Office of Spectrum Management, at jstefaniak@ntia.gov or (202) 993-5620.

Sincerely,

Scott Patrick

Scott Patrick
Executive Director
Office of Spectrum Management

Attachment:

Department of Defense Letter: “Memorandum for Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, National Telecommunications and Information Administration”
Subject: 3.45-3.55 GHz - Elimination of the Norfolk, VA, Cooperative Planning Area