



Sprint Nextel
2001 Emund Halley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20191

May 18, 2007

Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Experimental Authority
For Operation on “pre-transition” I Block Channels to Support the Transition of BRS &
EBS Licensees in the 2.5 GHZ Band

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Part 5 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) Sprint Nextel Corporation, on behalf of its wholly-owned subsidiary American Telecasting Development, Inc. (collectively “Sprint Nextel”), respectfully requests an Experimental Radio Station License (“Experimental License”) to temporarily operate on the Broadband Radio Service (“BRS”) “pre-transition” plan I Channels (2686-2690 MHz) nationwide in each Basic Trading Area (“BTA”) where the Commission has designated Sprint Nextel as the Proponent - - responsible for the planning and transitioning of BRS and Educational Broadband Service (“EBS”) licensees to the new 2.5 GHz band plan.

The Commission’s new BRS and EBS band plan adopted in the *BRS-EBS R&O*¹ is intended to lead to growth and rapid deployment of innovative and efficient technologies, and new wireless broadband services across the country. The requested Experimental License is intended to directly support the rapid introduction of new WiMAX mobile wireless technology as Sprint Nextel transitions BTAs to the Commission’s new BRS and EBS band plan. Further, the requested authority is limited in duration and power in each location where Sprint Nextel has been designated the proponent by the Commission.

Sprint Nextel seeks authority to temporarily operate on the “pre-transition” plan I channels, currently lying fallow pending the transition to the new band plan, in order to test innovative WiMAX mobile wireless technology throughout the country in the BTAs where the Commission designates Sprint Nextel the Proponent for the band transition. Sprint Nextel will limit its testing to the BTAs where the Commission has designated them as the proponent. Currently, the Commission’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (“WTB”) has designated Sprint Nextel as the proponent for the transition of 170 BTAs throughout the country. WTB

¹ See Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74, and 101 of the Commission’s Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 19 FCC Rcd. 14165 (2004) (“*BRS-EBS R&O*”).

previously has issued Public Notices designating Sprint Nextel as the band transition Proponent for each of the BTAs listed in Attachment A. Additional BTAs will continue to be added to this list.

As a part of WiMAX network radio frequency design, Continuous Wave (“CW”) drive testing is conducted to determine the range dependent characteristics for the WiMAX market. A CW transmitter will transmit using an omni-directional antenna at no more than 20 watts using existing structures where Sprint Nextel currently operates its CDMA and iDEN networks. A CW receiver will be installed in a test vehicle and collect the RF signal by driving around in the coverage areas. Sprint will perform the CW drive testing at approximately 50-150 towers in each area and will be completing one to two towers per day.

The grant of Sprint Nextel’s requested Experimental authority will not cause harmful interference. The “pre-transition” I channels are lying fallow, there are no co-channel licensees operating on the I channels. Further, because Sprint Nextel is the Proponent for the band transition in the BTAs where the tests will be conducted, the proposed CW drive testing will not cause harmful interference to any existing BRS or EBS operations. Sprint Nextel, however, recognizes the secondary, non-interference status of the requested Experimental License, and will cease operation in the unlikely event actual interference occurs.

For the reasons stated herein, Sprint Nextel respectfully requests an Experimental Radio Station License to operate on the “pre-transition” I channels (2686-2690 MHz) in order to test the implementation of innovative WiMAX mobile wireless services during the transition of BRS and EBS licensees in the 2.5 GHz band. Grant of the instant request will not cause harmful interference to any existing licensee and will support the Commission’s goals enunciated in the *BRS-EBS R&O*.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned at (703) 433-4211.

Respectfully Submitted,

//s//

Robin J. Cohen
Manager, Spectrum Licensing

Attachment