

Analysis of Non-Ionizing Radiation for an 18.3-Meter Parabolic Antenna Earth Station System

This report analyzes the non-ionizing radiation levels for an 18.3-meter parabolic antenna earth station system. The analysis and calculations performed in this report comply with the methods described in the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology's General RF Exposure Guidance, 447498 D01 v05r02. The radiation safety limits used in the analysis are in conformance with Title 47 Chapter I, Subchapter A, Part 1, Subpart I, Section 1.1310. Section 1.1310 specifies that there are two separate tiers of exposure limits that are dependent on the situation in which the exposure takes place and/or the status of the individuals who are subject to the exposure. The Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) limits for persons in a General Population/Uncontrolled environment are shown in Table 1. The General Population/Uncontrolled MPE is a function of transmit frequency and is for an exposure period of thirty minutes or less. The MPE limits for persons in an Occupational/Controlled environment are shown in Table 2. The Occupational MPE is a function of transmit frequency and is for an exposure period of six minutes or less. The purpose of the analysis described in this report is to determine the power flux density levels of the earth station in the far-field, near-field, transition region, and between the antenna edge and the ground and to compare these levels to the specified MPEs.

Table 1. Limits for General Population/Uncontrolled Exposure (MPE)

Frequency Range (MHz)	Power Density (mW/cm ²)
0.3 - 1.34	100
1.34 - 30	$180/\text{Frequency}(\text{MHz})^2$
30-300	0.2
300-1500	$\text{Frequency}(\text{MHz})/1500$
1500-100,000	1

Table 2. Limits for Occupational/Controlled Exposure (MPE)

Frequency Range (MHz)	Power Density (mW/cm ²)
0.3-3.0	100
3.0-30	$900/\text{Frequency}(\text{MHz})^2$
30-300	1
300-1500	$\text{Frequency}(\text{MHz})/300$
1500-100,000	5

Table 3. Formulas and Parameters Used for Determining Power Flux Densities

Parameter	Symbol	Formula	Value	Units
Ant Largest Dimension	D	Input	18.3	m
Frequency	F	Input	450.2	MHz
Wavelength	λ	$300/F$	0.666666667	m
Transmit Power	P	Input	100	W
Antenna Gain (dBi)	G_{es}	Input	35	dBi
Antenna Gain (factor)	G	$10^{G_{es}/10}$	3162.27766	n/a
Pi	π	Constant	3.141592654	n/a
Antenna Efficiency	η	Input	0.42	n/a
Ant Equiv Surface Area	$A_{Surface}$	$G\lambda^2/(4\pi)/\eta$	263.0219909	m^2

1. Far Field Distance Calculation

The distance to the beginning of the far field can be determined from the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Distance to the Far Field Region} \quad R_{ff} &= 0.60 D^2 / \lambda \\ &= 301.5 \text{ m} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

The maximum main beam power density in the far field can be determined from the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{On-Axis Power Density in the Far Field} \quad S_{ff} &= GP / (4\pi R_{ff}^2) \\ &= 0.277 \text{ W/m}^2 \\ &= 0.0277 \text{ mW/cm}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

2. Main Reflector Calculation

Note that the RF power out of the amplifier is 100 W. The transmitted power will be less than 100 W due to line loss between the amplifier and antenna, which is predicted to be 4.5 dB. These calculations assume zero line loss in order to provide a worst case scenario in the case that line loss is lower than predicted.

The power density S_{surface} in the main reflector is determined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Main Reflector Surface Power Density} \quad S_{\text{surface}} &= 4P / A_{\text{surface}} \\ &= 1.521 \text{ W/m}^2 \\ &= 0.1521 \text{ mW/cm}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

3. Near Field Calculation

Power flux density is considered to be at a maximum value throughout the entire length of the defined Near Field region. The region is contained within a cylindrical volume having the same surface area as the antenna. Past the boundary of the Near Field region, the power density from the antenna decreases linearly with respect to increasing distance.

The distance to the end of the Near Field can be determined from the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Extent of the Near Field} \quad R_{nf} &= D^2 / (4\lambda) \\ &= 125.6 \text{ m} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The maximum power density in the Near Field can be determined from the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Near Field Power Density} \quad S_{nf} &= 4\eta P / A_{\text{surface}} \\ &= .646 \text{ W/m}^2 \\ &= .0646 \text{ mW/cm}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

4. Transition Region Calculation

The Transition region is located between the Near and Far Field regions. The power density begins to decrease linearly with increasing distance in the Transition region. While the power density decreases inversely with distance in the Transition region, the power density decreases inversely with the square of the distance in the Far Field region. The maximum power density in the Transition region will not exceed that calculated for the Near Field region. The power density calculated in Section 2 is the highest power density the antenna can produce in any of the regions away from the antenna. The power density at a distance R_{tz} can be determined from the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Transition Region Power Density} \quad S_{tz} &= S_{nf}R_{nf}/R_{tz} \\ &= 0.0646 \text{ mW/cm}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

R_{tz} is calculated at a distance of 125.6 meters from the antenna, which is the worst-case distance. This is the edge of the near-field, R_{nf} .

5. Region between the Antenna and the Ground

Assuming uniform illumination of the antenna surface, the power density between the antenna and the ground can be determined from the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Power Density between Antenna and Ground} \quad S_g &= P/A_{\text{surface}} \\ &= 0.380 \text{ W/m}^2 \\ &= 0.0380 \text{ mW/cm}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

6. Summary of Calculations

Table 4. Summary of Expected Radiation Levels for Uncontrolled Environment

Region	Calculated Maximum Radiation Power		Hazard Assessment
	Density Level (mW/cm ²)		
Far Field ($R_{ff} = 8.36 \text{ m}$)	S_{ff}	0.0277	Satisfies FCC MPE
Main Reflector Surface	S_{surface}	0.1521	Satisfies FCC MPE
Near Field ($R_{nf} = 3.48 \text{ m}$)	S_{nf}	0.0646	Satisfies FCC MPE
Transition Region ($R_{nf} < R_{tz} < R_{ff}$)	S_{tz}	0.0646	Satisfies FCC MPE
Between Reflector and Ground	S_g	0.0380	Satisfies FCC MPE

Table 5. Summary of Expected Radiation Levels for Controlled Environment

Region	Calculated Maximum Radiation Power		Hazard Assessment
	Density Level (mW/cm ²)		
Far Field ($R_{ff} = 8.36 \text{ m}$)	S_{ff}	0.0277	Satisfies FCC MPE
Main Reflector Surface	S_{surface}	0.1521	Satisfies FCC MPE
Near Field ($R_{nf} = 3.48 \text{ m}$)	S_{nf}	0.0646	Satisfies FCC MPE
Transition Region ($R_{nf} < R_{tz} < R_{ff}$)	S_{tz}	0.0646	Satisfies FCC MPE

Between Reflector and Ground	S_g	0.0380	Satisfies FCC MPE
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It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the public and operational personnel are not exposed to harmful levels of radiation.

7. Conclusions

Based upon the above analysis, it is concluded that FCC RF Guidelines have not been exceeded in any of the zones in the Uncontrolled (Table 4) or the Controlled (Table 5) environments. The applicant proposes to comply with the Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) limits of 0.3 mW/cm² for the Uncontrolled Areas, and the MPE limits of 1.5 mW/cm² for the Controlled Areas.

The earth station parabolic antenna is in the middle of a fenced in area with locked gate on top of a 20' tower with a locked access cover; so the applicant agrees that the antenna will be in an area secured from the public and worker personnel not familiar with the earth station system. Non-assigned worker personnel and the general public must be accompanied by knowledgeable earth station personnel when they enter the earth station secured area.

The applicant agrees to abide by the conditions specified in Condition 5208 provided below:

Condition 5208 - The licensee shall take all necessary measures to ensure that the antenna does not create potential exposure of humans to radiofrequency radiation in excess of the FCC exposure limits defined in 47 CFR 1.1307(b) and 1.1310 wherever such exposures might occur. Measures must be taken to ensure compliance with limits for both occupational/controlled exposure and for general population/uncontrolled exposure, as defined in these rule sections. Compliance can be accomplished in most cases by appropriate restrictions such as fencing.

Requirements for restrictions can be determined by predictions based on calculations, modeling or by field measurements. The FCC's OET Bulletin 65 (available on-line at www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety) provides information on predicting exposure levels and on methods for ensuring compliance, including the use of warning and alerting signs and protective equipment for worker.