UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA,
AND INFORMATION SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20233

Office of Radio Frequency Management
Room 2246, SSMC-2
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

September 19, 1997

Richard D. Parlow
Associate Administrator, NTIA
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Parlow,

The working group on 404 MHz wind profilers, chaired by Gary Patrick of NTIA, recommended an extension of operating authority for the period of October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997. During this period, a number of constraints continued to be imposed on 404 MHz profilers to protect the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system. These constraints included:

1) emissions from each NOAA Profiler Network (NPN) profiler are inhibited whenever a COSPAS-SARSAT satellite passes within 41 degrees of the zenith above that profiler,

2) outside the 41 degree inhibit angle, NPN profilers operate with 6 kW peak power or less,

3) If an NPN profiler is detected outside 41 degrees, the inhibit angle will be increased to the angle at which detection occurred until corrective action can be taken,

4) emissions from each non-NPN profiler are inhibited whenever a COSPAS-SARSAT satellite passes within 85 degrees of the zenith above that profiler, and

During this period, while operating under the constraints described above, there have been no U.S.-based or -operated profilers detected by SARSAT.

In addition, in cooperation with SARSAT staff, profiler low mode peak power has been increased from 4 to 6 kW at 25 NPN sites without incident.

Because the performance of the 404 MHz profilers vis-a-vis COSPAS-SARSAT during the past year has been satisfactory, we recommend that existing assignments for 404 MHz profilers be extended until September 30, 1998, u[illegible] the current constraints. The United States Mission Control Center will continue monitoring interference to COSPAS-SARSAT during this period. Furthermore, any modifications to existing wind profiler constraints during this one year period would require coordination and appropriate testing using selected wind profiler(s) and satellite passes. This procedure would allow proper validation of any suggested changes to current profiler operations, thus minimizing impact to the COSPAS-SARSAT system. We anticipate that further extensions will be requested beyond the September 30, 1998 date.

Sincerely,

Gary Patrick
Chairman

Arthur Radice
Army Representative

Wayne Wamback
AF Representative

Ronald Grandmaison
CG Representative

Richard Barth
DOC Representative

Bruce Swearingen
Navy Representative

H. Frank Wright
FCC Liaison