

Request for Special Temporary Authority

FiberTower Corporation (“FTWR”) respectfully requests a STA, to begin operating a field trial point-to-point link by August 08, 2011, between the two designated test locations noted in the attached Microwave Path Data Sheet, using an 80 MHz vertical and 80MHz horizontal channel each polarity created from two traditionally 40 MHz Band channels.

The field trial link is designed to support a 1 Gigabit per second backhaul connection utilizing Exalt Communications, Inc. transceiver equipment [ExtremeAir 256 QAM]. This field trial is directly connected to providing a seriously needed, licensed high-capacity fixed wireless broadband backhaul solution. Numerous community, commercial and government mobile broadband deployment plans are currently frustrated by the inability to bring fiber optic speeds to various mobile carrier deployment sites. This trial will support the development of next generation mobile broadband in the North Dallas area, and ultimately will provide the basis for supporting the build out of broadband mobile wireless to many areas nationally.

The demand for fixed wireless services, especially wireless backhaul, is high and expected to grow significantly due to the robust deployment of 700 MHz (including block D Public Safety), Advanced Wireless Services (“AWS”), Broadband Radio Service/Educational Broadband Service (“BRS/EBS”) spectrum. All these services require broadband backhaul solutions and also face looming buildout deadlines. The emerging deployment of a National First Responder Network adds to the growing demand. Granting a waiver would allow FiberTower to test the 11 GHz band for this solution and is similar to prior 23 GHz channel aggregation precedent (See: Eq #Z6444; Licensee: CTC Telcom Inc, Call sign: WQKI653).

The challenges associated with obtaining and using currently available and “market practical” 11 GHz equipment – along with FTWR’s continuing efforts to overcome these challenges – have been documented extensively by FTWR. Despite these efforts, viable 11 GHz, 1-Gbps, equipment remains a significant challenge for deployment in the United States. The intense needs which cause FiberTower to seek to deploy this equipment are well-documented. (See: FCC WT Docket 10-153¹; See also: Chairman Genachowski’s Broadband Acceleration Conference (February 9, 2011).²

If FTWR is not allowed to timely field test these facilities, its ability to facilitate broadband backhaul services to meet its customers’ extensive and growing backhaul needs would be significantly impaired.

¹ See, for example, Comments of the Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition (FWCC). *“The FWCC generally supports providing FS operators with the ability to stack channels to allow for higher-bandwidth systems, where needed.”* FWCC Comments at p.6, filed June 27, 2011.

² Federal Communications Commission Public Notice (DA 11-241) *FCC TO HOLD BROADBAND ACCELERATION CONFERENCE: Reducing Regulatory Barriers to Spur Broadband Buildout* (Released: February 8, 2011) (Attached).

The result would be a delay or loss of high-capacity service that would inconvenience and possibly endanger the ultimate consumers' ability to obtain 3G and 4G services, and also broadband first responder network and other mission-critical government services. By avoiding any such delay in deploying such services, a waiver would assist FTWR's carrier and government customers in meeting their buildout requirements, allow FTWR to further develop new technologies, and to protect consumer and public safety interests and avoid any hardship in timely receiving broadband mobile wireless services, thereby promoting the public interest.

FTWR appreciates the Commission's consideration of this request for a waiver and is eager to work cooperatively with Commission staff to ensure that this useful and exciting high-capacity fixed wireless broadband backhaul solution becomes a reality.