

Developmental Program Report

Itron, Inc. ("Itron") manufactures and markets radio-based, off-site meter reading ("OMR") systems that operate pursuant to Parts 15 and 90 of the FCC's Rules. Itron used the experimental license that is the subject of this application to test and demonstrate its equipment -- both existing commercial products and new, emerging-technology products -- in real-world situations. Although, as explained below, Itron has gained significant knowledge during the course of its experimental program, Itron needs renewal of the subject license to allow it to continue tests that are already in progress as well as planned experiments that will take place in the future.

Renewing Itron's authority to conduct technical evaluation, field testing, and demonstrations will help Itron understand how its OMR system can improve the operations of energy utility companies in the United States. The traditional method of manually reading meters is an inefficient means to collect data. Itron's OMR system applies a high-technology communications methodology to persistent problems of utility efficiency, which problems have led to higher rates to consumers, excessive energy consumption, and unnecessary facility construction.

Specifically, Itron's technical evaluation, field testing, and demonstrations for which renewed authority is requested herein will allow Itron to:

- test the performance of its meter reading system on the different types of meters used for different types of utility customers;
- test the new technology's ability to overcome difficulties associated with the varying placement of the utilities' meters;
- potentially improve a utility's ability to read hard-to-reach meters such as those located in high-crime areas, inside homes, in locked basements, and other areas that traditionally have posed problems for manual meter reading techniques;
- test the demand for various ancillary data collection services; and
- evaluate the performance of the new equipment in very cold, very hot, very humid and vary saline-rich environments.

Determining the degree to which utilities in various situations, as described in this application, find Itron's OMR technology useful in solving these problems, and are willing to purchase accordingly, will aid ITRON in tailoring the system before final product design and commercial rollout.

ENVIRONMENTAL SHOWING

As set forth in detail below, the experimental facilities that are the subject of this application will not have a significant effect upon the quality of the human environment, and are thus categorically excluded from environmental processing under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4335.

Processing of the instant application on environmental grounds is not required since the facilities are not 1) to be located in an officially designated wilderness area; 2) to be located in an officially designated wildlife preserve; 3) should not affect listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats or likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed endangered or threatened species or is likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitats; 4) will not affect districts, sites, buildings, or structures that are listed in, or, to the best of Itron's knowledge, that are eligible to be listed in, the National Register of Historic Places as having significant standing in American history, architecture, archeology, culture or engineering; 5) will not affect Indian religious sites; 6) will not or be located in a flood plain; 7) will not cause a significant change in surface features; or 8) will not employ an antenna support structure that is to be equipped with high intensity white lighting.

Accordingly, the facilities proposed herein are categorically excluded from environmental processing, pursuant to Section 1.1306 of the FCC's Rules. 47 C.F.R. §1.1306.