

General Information

Rockwell Collins has owned and operated a High Frequency (“HF”) Radio Communications Station (“Comm Central”) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for over 50 years. Comm Central has been used to provide HF radio communication services to various military, government, and international organizations and to serve company needs for system and product tests. Rockwell Collins currently uses Comm Central for the following FCC experimental licenses, which call signs are: KA2XAH, KC2XKG, and KM2XLB.

In addition, Comm Central services are leased to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency who operate the station remotely over leased telephone circuits (the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency is seeking approval for operation through its own channels, presumably NTIA). Comm Central is the center piece of a 17 station network spread across the United States. The station plays a key role in providing vital communications between aircraft, boats, ships, land vehicles, and fixed locations of the U. S. Customs and Border Protection. The system is also used by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar communication purposes.

Rockwell Collins is proposing to relocate Comm Central from Linn County, IA to Clinton County, IA. The proposed new site location for Comm Central will consist of a single building which will house the radio equipment and necessary support and ancillary items. The station is also designated as an emergency back-up operation facility to the U.S. Customs main operations center located in Florida. If the Florida operations center ever goes off-line or has to be evacuated (due to a hurricane for example), the Comm Central station building would take over their function and would then be occupied around the Customs officials.

In addition to the building, the site will contain 10 HF antennas. Six of the antennas are wire curtains supported by six steel towers arranged in a hexagon pattern. The six antennas are arranged to provide sector communications coverage in all directions. Two other antennas are omni-directional and are supported by a single tower each. Two additional antennas are uni-directional and thus can be rotated to provide communications coverage in any desired direction. These are supported by a dual tower arrangement. All antenna towers are extensively guyed and rated for high winds with ice loading.

The wire curtain antennas are supported by six towers at the rear – each 170-foot tall. The fronts of the curtains slope downward toward the ground where they terminate near a 6-foot wood pole. These antennas are rated by the manufacturer for 120 mph wind with no ice.

The two omni-directional antennas are each supported by a single 73-foot tower. These antennas are rated by the manufacturer for 100 mph wind with no ice.

The two uni-directional antennas are 105-feet tall. These are Collins designed and manufactured antennas rated for 120 mph wind with no ice or 80 mph wind with ¼-inch radial ice.