

LUKAS, NACE, GUTIERREZ & SACHS

CHARTERED

1111 NINETEENTH STREET, N.W.

SUITE 1200

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

(202) 857-3500

RUSSELL D. LUKAS
DAVID L. NACE
THOMAS GUTIERREZ
ELIZABETH R. SACHS
GEORGE L. LYON, JR.
JOEL R. KASWELL
PAMELA L. GIST
DAVID A. LAFURIA
J. JUSTIN McCLURE
MARILYN SUCHECKI MENSE
PAMELA GAARY HOLRAN
B. LYNN F. RATNAVALE
ELIZABETH H. CRONISE
SAMUEL F. CULLARI

* NOT ADMITTED IN D.C.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS
THOMAS G. ADCOCK, P.E.
MEHRAN NAZARI
ALI KUZEHKANANI
LEROY A. ADAM
LEILA REZANAVAZ

OF COUNSEL
JOHN J. MCAVOY
J.K. HAGE III*

TELECOPIER
(202) 842-4485

Email: lngs@fccclaw.com
<http://www.fccclaw.com>

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL

(202) 828-9479

February 19, 1999

Thomas P. Stanley, Chief Engineer
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2025 M Street, N.W., Room 5114-E
Washington, D.C. 20554

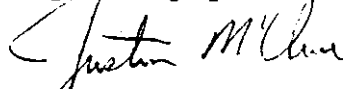
Re: SkyTel Communications, Inc.
Amendment to FCC Form 442 - Application for
Experimental Radio Station Authorization
File No. 0017-EX-PL-98

Dear Mr. Stanley:

Pursuant to my discussion with Carl Huie of the Experimental Licensing Branch and on behalf of SkyTel Communications, Inc. ("SkyTel"), please find enclosed herewith a minor amendment to the referenced application filed on November 17, 1998, and previously amended on January 12, 1999, requesting grant of an Experimental Radio Station Authorization to allow SkyTel to operate over a second 50 KHz 940 MHz channel in order to permit further testing and improvement of its Narrowband PCS service. By the enclosed amendment, SkyTel respectfully requests that the experimental service area be extended to a nationwide basis and the number of transmitter base stations be increased to a minimum of fifteen. Accordingly, please associate this amendment with the subject application.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and should any questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



J. Justin McClure

Enclosure
cc: Carl Huie

A M E N D M E N T

The application of SkyTel Communications, Inc. ("SkyTel") on FCC Form 442 (File No. 0017-EX-PL-98) filed on November 17, 1998, requesting grant of an Experimental Radio Station Authorization to permit SkyTel to operate over a second 50 KHz 940 MHz channel in order to permit further testing and improvement of its Narrowband PCS service is hereby amended by requesting that the proposed experimental service area be extended to a nationwide basis and the number of transmitters be increased to fifteen. The details of the requested amendment are as follows.

SkyTel has established a plan to assist in optimizing transmitter installations that requires newly installed transmitters to be placed on an unused channel for test purposes. While on the unused frequency engineers travel the coverage area to establish the actual area of coverage. After testing, the transmitter is placed into operation on the production, revenue producing channel. Without this capability it is necessary to shut down the entire system during early morning hours, bring up the new site and conduct the test while the production system is off the air. This latter practice, while customary in the industry, kills service to a small number of customers who may need paging service during early morning hours. With a two-way network the page will be delivered after the network is restored to service, but the customer experiences an unacceptable delay in the delivery of the message.

The test channel is also needed to assist in development of frequency agile two-way paging devices. While testing will be accomplished at the previously proposed location in Jackson, MS, the time line for device development can be substantially improved with additional test locations at or near vendor facilities. At a minimum, test locations in Fort Worth, TX, Boynton Beach, FL, and Santa Clara, CA, and New York City, NY are envisioned. Authority to operate experimental facilities for test purposes in these locations will greatly enhance SkyTel's ability to jointly develop quality subscriber devices.

Testing is required in these real-world locations to accurately characterize the subscriber device frequency switching behavior, so that decision logic can be optimized resulting in a better product for SkyTel's customers.

SkyTel requests authority to utilize a minimum of fifteen transmitter base stations to satisfy parallel testing requirements in multiple locations.

In all other respects, the application is unchanged.