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| **WORLD WEATHER WATCH****COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS** |  |
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| STEERING GROUP ON RADIO FREQUENCY COORDINATION (SG-RFC) |
| David Franc - USA |
| Status of LightSquared Interest in 1675-1680 MHz |

**Introduction**

LightSquared has an interest in gaining access to the frequency range 1675 – 1680 MHz, to be combined with their currently licensed spectrum in 1670-1675 MHz. Combining the two 5 MHz bands will provide 10 MHz of contiguous spectrum for Long Term Evolution (LTE) downlink (tower to mobile) operations.

The path and timeline by which LightSquared would gain licenses for the 1675 - 1680 MHz range is unclear, however NOAA management made a decision to undertake a cooperative study with LightSquared to evaluate the spectrum sharing possibilities in the 1675 - 1680 MHz range. The sharing studies were to be conducted by a mutually agreeable third party contractor, with participation of both NOAA and LightSquared in the progress reviews and report approvals.

The sharing analysis was broken into two tasks to be completed by the third party contractor. Task 1 assesses the potential for the National Weather Service to move their radiosonde operations to the 400.15 – 406 MHz band. It was recognized by NOAA and LightSquared that for the spectrum to be shared with commercial LTE operations, radiosonde operations are incompatible and would need to vacate the spectrum. Task 2 assesses the requirement for protection zones around key NOAA meteorological satellite (GOES) receive facilities.

The Task 1 report has been completed and published. It concludes that there is sufficient spectrum at all of the current NWS radiosonde locations to enable the NWS to obtain authorizations (licenses) to operate their radiosonde network within the 400.15-406 MHz band. LightSquared has filed the report with the FCC and it can be found at:

<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view;jsessionid=Ms8MS7GD6hHS2yWrMjlnSyFd5F1x3vyqFD2FSxWgWPLynTSJHV5h!-1864380355!1357496456?id=7521069436>

The Task 2 report is still under development. The report will propose the required protection zones around each of the key NOAA GOES receive stations. Depending on the station characteristics, protection zones ranging from less than 10 km to several hundred km are anticipated. Outside of these areas, NOAA has few concerns with LightSquared operating an LTE network. NOAA will not make a decision on whether sharing is feasible based on the Task 2 report, but rather, ask that their receive stations be protected with the protection zones established in the report. LightSquared, and presumably the FCC, will use the report to determine whether use of the band is viable with the establishment of required protection zones. The Task 2 should be complete within the next two months.

Unlike the spectrum in 1695-1710 MHz, there appears to be no interest at the current time in expanding the potential for commercial use beyond the United States of America.

 **Action (by SG-RFC) Proposed**

For Information

**Draft Text for Inclusion in the SG-RFC Meeting Reports or Other Documents**

None

1. \* If restricted access is selected the WMO Document will only be accessible to the WMO WIKI registered users. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)