

UNITED STATES

DRAFT PRELIMINARY VIEW ON WRC-07

WRC-2007 Agenda Item 1.15: to consider a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz.

ISSUE: Allocation to the amateur service the band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz on a Secondary basis by Footnote.

BACKGROUND: For more than two decades radio amateurs around the world increasingly have been interested in experimenting with communications at low frequencies, a part of the spectrum in which the amateur service has not had a frequency allocation for more than 50 years. In the past ten years, more than 20 Administrations have given domestic amateur radio allocations or have authorized experimental amateur radio communications in the low frequency range including 73 kHz, 135.7 - 137.8 kHz, and 160 - 190 kHz.

Region 1. In 1997, radio amateurs in Europe were given formal authority to operate in the LF band pursuant to the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Recommendation 62-01 E (Mainz 1997), which pertains to the use of the band 135.7 – 137.8 kHz by the amateur service. Currently, radio amateurs are active in the band 135.7 - 137.8 kHz in more than 25 European countries. Operation in Russia has been authorized in both the European and Asiatic parts of the Federation. The British Royal Amateur Society (BRAS) and with the approval of the CEPT Recommendation in Europe, France has also authorized the use of the band 135.7 - 137.8 kHz in St. Pierre and Miquelon, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Region 2. Canadian and American radio amateurs have been conducting experimental communications in the frequency band 135.7 - 137.8 kHz under experimental licenses. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for access to the band (FCC RM-9404).

Region 3. New Zealand has granted an allocation to the amateur service in this band and Australia has authorized some experimental communication.

In the amateur radio bands at higher frequencies (above 400 MHz), the amateur service has a history of sharing frequencies with other services having primary allocations. As a result, radio amateurs conducting low frequency experiments in the band 135.7 - 137.8 kHz have taken measures to avoid interference to the operations of the primary users of the band. Various studies have shown that the probability of interference to other services from amateur LF stations with an EIRP of 1 or 2 watts is very low.

Many countries consider that there is technical and experimental merit in a secondary allocation, subject to some constraints. This secondary allocation may be given by adding an appropriate footnote to the Table of Frequency Allocations.

PRELIMINARY VIEW: The U.S. agrees that this allocation in the band 135.7-137.8 kHz should be allocated worldwide on a secondary basis. (12 May 2004)