April 11, 2013

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation -- Improving 9-1-1 Reliability (PS Docket No. 13-75); Amendment of the Commission’s Rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 3550-3650 MHz Band (GN Docket No. 12-354); Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission’s Rules (WP Docket No. 07-100).

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) is hereby filing the following ex parte notice in connection with the above-referenced proceedings. On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, Eric Wagner and the undersigned on behalf of UTC met with David Goldman, Senior Legal Advisor in the office of Commissioner Rosenworcel.

During the meeting, UTC explained that it supports the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Commission’s proceeding to improve 9-1-1 reliability (PS Docket No. 13-75). UTC explained that the issue of commercial communications reliability during emergencies is important to utilities and other critical infrastructure industries (CII). Utilities and other CII need reliable communications during emergencies in order to restore electric, gas and water services to the public at large. They also need to communicate with public safety during emergencies, as well.

UTC explained that utilities and other CII are undergoing a fundamental transition in the nature, scope and scale of their communications networks which requires access to additional spectrum that will support higher bandwidth applications. These networks are essential, UTC explained, to enable grid modernization, satisfy reliability and availability requirements, comply with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) cybersecurity standards and avoid exposure to negative regulatory consequences based on service interruptions by commercial telecommunications service providers.

UTC also described how utilities and other CII could share spectrum, including the 4.9 GHz band and the 3.5 GHz band, as well as the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum. UTC explained that such sharing could benefit public safety by helping to promote interoperability and broadband access for emergency response. UTC also explained how utilities need priority access in order to ensure the reliability of their mission critical communications. Finally, UTC stated that it looks forward to working with Commissioner Rosenworcel on improving communications reliability going forward.
Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions

Respectfully,

Brett Kilbourne

cc: David Goldman