UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DRAFT PRELIMINARY VIEWS FOR WRC-15

Agenda Item 1.4: to consider possible new allocation to the amateur service on a secondary basis within the band 5 250-5 450 kHz in accordance with Resolution **649 (WRC-12)**

BACKGROUND: The amateur service continues to grow, with more than three million licensed operators worldwide, 706,000 of them in the United States. Radio amateurs utilize their allocations to engage in scientific investigation and experimentation, provide communication in the wake of natural disasters, provide non-commercial public service communications, and conduct other activities to advance technical education, develop radio operating technique, and enhance international goodwill.

The radio amateur's ability to accomplish these goals depends on access to frequency bands throughout the radio spectrum, particularly in the HF range. In order to maintain effective and reliable communications capability and throughout the sunspot cycle, the maximum desirable interval between HF frequency bands in a radio service is 1.4 to 1. At present, the interval between the 3.5 and 7 MHz bands varies from 1.84 to 1 in ITU Region 1 to 1.75 to 1 in ITU Region 2.

Incumbent services in the 5 250-5 450 kHz range include the fixed, mobile, and radiolocation services. Experience has shown that amateur service operation is incompatible with HF radiolocation, so the 5 250-5 275 kHz range is not suitable to satisfy this agenda item. The amateur service has a longstanding secondary allocation at 10 100-10 150 kHz, with no reported unsolvable interference to primary fixed service operation. Some administrations, including the United States, have permitted amateur service licensees privileges within the 5 275-5 450 kHz range under Radio Regulations No. 4.4, in some cases permitting operation on discrete channels, and in others access to a frequency band. Again, no cases of unresolvable interference are known.

U.S. VIEW: The United States is of the view that a contiguous secondary allocation of at least 150 kHz within the frequency range 5 275-5 450 kHz should be made to the amateur service, and that listen-before-transmit protocols are sufficient to protect the primary fixed and mobile services.