



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
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DA 17-670

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## WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON REQUEST BY SHIPCOM, LLC, AND GLOBAL HF NET, LLC, TO ALLOW USE OF HIGH SEAS MARINE FREQUENCIES BY FIRST RESPONDERS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES DURING DISASTERS

WT Docket No. 17-184

Comment Date: August 14, 2017

Reply Date: August 29, 2017

Section 80.123 of the Commission's rules<sup>1</sup> permits very high frequency public coast stations to provide service to units on land under certain conditions, but does not allow high frequency (HF) public coast stations to provide such service. In 2010, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division (Division) granted Shipcom, LLC (Shipcom), a waiver of section 80.123 to permit the use of HF public coast frequencies by first responders during catastrophic situations when normal communications systems are not available.<sup>2</sup> The Division concluded that this limited use of HF maritime spectrum would enhance public safety during catastrophes. The waiver permits service to land-based (base and mobile) Public Safety stations<sup>3</sup> on HF frequencies in the event of a natural or man-made disaster that renders the normal communications infrastructure inoperable, and monthly testing/training to familiarize personnel with how to operate the equipment and make sure it is operable.<sup>4</sup>

Shipcom<sup>5</sup> and Global HF Net, LLC (GHFN), which is licensed for other HF public coast stations,<sup>6</sup> are commonly owned. On February 28, 2017, they filed requests that the waiver be extended to GHFN as well as Shipcom, and amended to permit service to land-based Federal stations as well as Public Safety Pool eligibles. They argue that extending and amending the waiver request will further the public interest by enlarging the coverage of the current waiver, and by including Federal agencies that commonly participate in disaster communications.

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<sup>1</sup> 47 CFR § 80.123.

<sup>2</sup> See *ShipCom, LLC*, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 4894 (WTB MD 2010) (*Order*).

<sup>3</sup> I.e., entities meeting the public safety eligibility criteria of 47 CFR § 90.20(a)(1)(i)-(v), (2)(i)-(iv), (vii), (x), (xiii).

<sup>4</sup> See *Order*, 25 FCC Rcd at 4895-96, paras. 5-8.

<sup>5</sup> Shipcom holds licenses for HF public coast stations KDD, KLB, KLK, KNN, WDA, WDI, WHD, WHU959, WLO, WRN, and WSC. Authorized transmitters are located in Alabama, Alaska, California, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Washington.

<sup>6</sup> GHFN holds licenses for HF public coast stations KEJ, KEM, KFS, KHF, KLN, KPH, WCC, and WNU. Authorized transmitters are located in Alaska, California, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, and New York.

We seek comment on the waiver request.

## Procedural Matters

Interested parties may file comments and reply comments in response to the waiver request on or before the dates listed on the first page of this *Public Notice*. All pleadings must reference WT Docket No. 17-184. Parties may file comments using (1) the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), (2) the Federal Government's eRulemaking Portal, or (3) by filing paper copies.<sup>7</sup>

- Electronic Filers: File comments electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/> or the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the website for submitting comments.
- In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions, filers should send an e-mail to [ecfs@fcc.gov](mailto:ecfs@fcc.gov), and include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in response.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and two copies of each filing.

Send filings by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail. Address filings to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- Deliver hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings to FCC Headquarters at 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554 between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Use rubber bands or fasteners to hold deliveries together. Dispose of all envelopes before entering the building.
- Send commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- Send U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail to 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Washington DC 20554.

The request, and comments and reply comments filed in response to this *Public Notice* are available for viewing via the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) by entering the docket number, WT No. 17-184. The documents also will be available for public inspection and copying during business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street S.W., Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554. They may also be purchased from Best Copy and Printing, Inc., telephone (800) 378-3160, facsimile (202) 488-5563, TTY (202) 488-5562, e-mail [FCC@BCPIWEB.com](mailto:FCC@BCPIWEB.com).

Alternate formats of this *Public Notice* (computer diskette, large print, audio recording, and Braille) are available to persons with disabilities by contacting the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY), or send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov).

This proceeding has been designated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.<sup>8</sup> Persons making *ex parte* presentations must file a copy of any written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral

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<sup>7</sup> See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 11322 (1998).

<sup>8</sup> See 47 CFR §§ 1.1200(a), 1.1206.

*ex parte* presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the *ex parte* presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during *ex parte* meetings are deemed to be written *ex parte* presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b). In proceedings governed by rule 1.49(f) or for which the Commission has made available a method of electronic filing, written *ex parte* presentations and memoranda summarizing oral *ex parte* presentations, and all attachments thereto, must be filed through the electronic comment filing system available for that proceeding, and must be filed in their native format (*e.g.*, .doc, .xml, .ppt, searchable .pdf). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's *ex parte* rules.

For further information, contact Mr. Scot Stone of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Mobility Division, at (202) 418-0638, [scot.stone@fcc.gov](mailto:scot.stone@fcc.gov).

Action by the Deputy Chief, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

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