



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

International Bureau

REGISTERED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 15, 2015

Ricardo Castañeda Álvarez
Director General de Ingeniería y Estudios Técnicos
IFT
Av. Insurgentes Sur 1143
Col. Nochebuena, C.P. 03720
Del. Benito Juárez
México, D.F.

Dear Mr. Castañeda:

The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") and Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones ("IFT") have held discussions regarding use of the 54-72 MHz, 76-88 MHz, 174-216 MHz, and 470-698 MHz television broadcast bands with the intent to replace analog television service with digital and to reconfigure the UHF television band to allocate a portion of the 470-698 MHz band for mobile broadband service. This letter summarizes our mutual understanding of the key coordination factors and procedures that our Administrations intend to use as our countries initiate a joint spectrum reconfiguration for these bands. The results of these joint procedures may be subsequently formalized, through bilateral arrangements, to govern digital television service under the updated band plan, and to govern newly created mobile broadband service in the 600 MHz band in the border region, including procedures to govern use of spectrum shared by both television and mobile services. The mutual understanding between our Administrations described in this letter serves to support both the spectrum reconfiguration and the eventual development of these new arrangements.

Therefore, I propose the following joint guidelines to help advance Mexico's analog-to-digital transition and the ongoing FCC and IFT spectrum reconfiguration process:

1. The FCC and IFT intend to jointly reconfigure spectrum use in the TV broadcast bands by allocating a portion of contiguous spectrum, excluding channel 37, for use by mobile broadband service, beginning with channel 51 and extending downward.

2. The FCC and IFT intend to allocate a maximum of 84 MHz of UHF television spectrum in Mexico and a maximum of 144 MHz of UHF television spectrum in the United States for mobile broadband service.
3. The FCC and IFT intend to consider the entries contained in Tables 1 and 6 to be mutually acceptable and the DTV stations listed therein may be brought into immediate operation or continue operation with the designated facilities under the following constraints:
 - 3.1. Stations in Table 1 that are listed with an “*” would be subject to delayed operation on the designated channel in order to protect existing television operation(s).
 - 3.2. Stations in Table 1 that are listed with an “*” may require modification to an alternate channel based on the final arrangement of channels that result from the FCC Incentive Auction.¹
 - 3.3. Stations in Table 6, which have multiple designated channels in addition to their current channel assignment, are approved for operation on any of the designated channels, but may operate on *only one* of the designated channels. Once this final channel of operation is determined in the FCC Incentive Auction, the remaining channels in the designated range will be eliminated.
4. The FCC and IFT intend to mutually consent to any modifications and additions to Tables 1 and 6.
5. The FCC and IFT intend to continue work on Tables 1 and 6 with the goal of formalizing the DTV Plans in a new DTV Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), intended to replace the 1998 DTV MOU.
6. The FCC and IFT intend to allow a limited amount of spectrum sharing between television and mobile broadband service in the 470-698 MHz band. The potential for inter-service interference (ISIX) between these services will be limited through the development of mutually acceptable techniques and factors that permit each service to operate on overlapping and adjacent frequencies.
7. The FCC and IFT intend to follow the guidelines outlined in this letter and work towards development of new bilateral arrangements to govern digital television service under the updated band plan, and to govern newly created mobile broadband service in the 470-698 MHz band in the border region, including procedures to govern use of spectrum shared by both television and mobile services.

On this occasion, I would like to thank representatives of the IFT for the excellent spirit of cooperation and commitment that has prevailed throughout this process. Please let me know if

¹ “Incentive Auction” refers to the process whereby the FCC holds a “reverse auction” in which broadcasters in the United States will offer to voluntarily relinquish some or all of their spectrum usage rights, and a “forward auction” for mobile broadband licenses.

you find the understanding outlined above (including agreement of terms 1 through 7 and the attached Tables 1 and 6) acceptable to IFT by reply letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MDELT', with a stylized flourish at the end.

for

Mindel De La Torre
Chief, International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission

Attachments

Table 1: Mexico Post-Transition DTV Allotment Plan

Table 6: United States Post-Transition DTV Allotment Plan