



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Telecommunications and**  
**Information Administration**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

NOV 21 2013

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at the Subcommittee's June 27, 2013 hearing entitled "Equipping Carriers and Agencies in the Wireless Era." I am enclosing my responses to the additional questions for the record you forwarded to me on October 3, 2013. If you or your staff has any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 482-1850 or Sara Morris in NTIA's Office of Congressional Affairs at (202) 482-1840.

Sincerely,

Karl B. Nebbia  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Spectrum Management

cc: The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Enclosure

## Responses to Question from The Honorable Marsha Blackburn

- 1. What are the implications for the auto industry of any action to change the rules governing the use of DSRC signals in the 5.9 GHz band, particularly if these changes make US rules inconsistent with those applied in other countries?**

Response: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sought public comment regarding the potential for expanded use of Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices in the 5850-5925 MHz band as part of its pending rulemaking proceeding to make additional spectrum in the 5 GHz band available to unlicensed wireless devices and accelerate the expansion of Wi-Fi technology. The FCC is not proposing to change its existing rules governing the use of authorized Dedicated Short-Range Communications (DSRC) systems in this band. The underlying premise of regulations governing unlicensed devices in the United States has been, and continues to be, that unlicensed devices operating in any band may not cause harmful interference to any authorized service. Nor can users of unlicensed devices claim interference protection from other authorized services and devices. Therefore, if the FCC concludes that new U-NII devices can be accommodated without causing harmful interference to authorized DSRC operations, any new rules for U-NII devices would not change the existing DSRC rules and the auto industry's use of DSRC should not be impacted.

In addition to working with the FCC and the international spectrum community, NTIA continues to monitor discussions between auto industry and U-NII stakeholders in a working group of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802 standards committee. The IEEE 802.11 working group provides an international multistakeholder forum that has already developed standards for both wireless local area networks and vehicular wireless communications. The meetings of the 802.11 DSRC Coexistence Tiger Team have been productive and hold significant potential for successful collaboration and broad international implementation in this area.

## Responses to Questions from The Honorable Henry Waxman

- 1. I know several working groups were formed through the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee (CSMAC) to look at ways to either clear or share the 1755 to 1850 MHz band. I understand that a lot of progress has been made between industry and government participants of the process. In your view, what are some of the most valuable lessons learned? What were some of the most difficult challenges? How could this process help inform future efforts at clearing or sharing federal spectrum for commercial use?**

Response: NTIA views the effort as an overall success. The CSMAC approach broke new ground in industry/government collaboration and information sharing, which are critical components of decision-making regarding spectrum repurposing. This experience demonstrated how spectrum sharing requires a new way of doing business that involves earlier collaboration between industry stakeholders and affected federal agencies. The effort has allowed all parties to gain a better understanding of the different federal systems and the proposed commercial deployments in the bands tagged for repurposing and will facilitate commercial entry into the 1695-1710 MHz and 1755-1780 MHz bands after the auction.

Developing a framework for industry and government participants to share sensitive information on a timely basis was a significant challenge. Progress of the working groups was delayed as the parties negotiated and sought approval of formal non-disclosure agreements. Another challenge involved the groups' efforts to achieve consensus on the technical parameters, assumptions, and methodologies for conducting the analysis of potential interference. Recognition of these and other key challenges and their lessons learned will be helpful for future collaborative efforts. NTIA is grateful for the support and effort of all of the government and industry participants.

NTIA is holding a public forum to discuss lessons learned with industry and government participants of the CSMAC Working Groups on December 13, 2013. We expect to gain significant additional insight and feedback on the process at the forum.

- 2. As you know, the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act ensures that federal agencies are able to recover costs associated with their relocation to other spectrum from commercial auction proceeds. The Public Safety and Spectrum Act enacted by Congress last year further updated the CSEA to ensure that the eligibility for reimbursements is expanded to include costs associated with upfront planning, spectrum sharing, and the replacement of existing federal systems with state-of-the-art equipment that provides comparable capabilities. Do you believe these provisions help address some of the concerns raised by federal users of spectrum, especially in regards to cost? Do you see the federal spectrum clearing or sharing process as an opportunity for agencies to upgrade and modernize their systems and equipment?**

Response: The 2012 amendments to the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (CSEA) provide helpful incentives and financial assistance to federal agencies through the Spectrum Relocation Fund to facilitate relocation or sharing by eligible federal entities. CSEA now includes useful provisions addressing the content and format of federal entity transition plans, establishing a dispute resolution process, ensuring the protection of classified and other sensitive information, and funding the replacement of existing government-owned equipment with state-of-the-art systems.

That being said, NTIA recognizes that the planning, sharing and relocation processes are still, and in some cases more, time and resource intensive. For example, the improvements to the CSEA now require agencies to develop detailed transition plans prior to receiving funding from past or future auction proceeds.

NTIA is also cognizant of the agencies' efforts to make spectrum available for unlicensed uses, which helps alleviate data congestion and may promote innovation. This work occurs outside the framework of the CSEA, given that funding for agency planning, sharing and relocation expenses is derived from auction proceeds.