

will also include issues related to the recycling of filter backwash with respect to all public water system sizes.

Each of these series of meetings is anticipated to begin in and continue through this calendar year, and may run concurrently. EPA is hereby providing

notice of and inviting interested members of the public to participate in the meetings. As with all previous meetings in this series, EPA is instituting an open door policy to allow members of the public to attend these

meetings. To assist EPA in managing limitations on conference room seating, members of the public who are interested in attending meetings are requested to contact the following individuals:

Rule	Contact	Phone #/E-mail
LT2ESWTR/Stage 2 DBP	Jini Mohanty	(202) 260-6415 mohanty.jini@epa-mail.epa.gov.
GWDR	Tracy Bone ..	(202) 260-2954 bone.tracy@epa-mail.epa.gov.
LT1ESWTR	Valerie Blank	(202) 260-8376 blank.valerie-@epamail.epa.gov.

Members of the public are requested to contact the people listed above also for further information about these or other meetings in these series or to be included on the mailing list to receive notice of further meetings in these series.

Dated: February 3, 1998.

William R. Diamond,

Acting Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

[FR Doc. 98-3040 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[DA 98-162; Report No. AUC-98-19-A (Auction No. 19)]

Comment Sought on Reserve Prices or Minimum Opening Bids for the General Wireless Communications Service (GWCS) in the 4660-4685 MHz Band; Formula Proposed for May 27 GWCS Auction

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; seeking comment.

SUMMARY: In this Public Notice, the Commission is seeking comment on a proposed formula for calculating minimum opening bids for the General Wireless Communications Service, Auction No. 19.

DATES: Comment deadline: February 13, 1998; reply deadline: February 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: To file formally, parties must submit an original and four copies to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, DC 20554. In addition, parties must submit one copy to Kathleen O'Brien Ham, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Room 5202, 2025 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathryn Garland, Bob Reagle, or Arthur Lechtman, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, at (202) 418-0660.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Public Notice was released on January 30, 1998, and is available in its entirety, including all attachments, for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and also may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, (202) 857-3800, fax (202) 857-3805, 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. It is also available on the Commission's website at <http://www.fcc.gov>.

Summary of Action

I. Reserve Price or Minimum Opening Bid

1. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 calls upon the Commission to prescribe methods by which a reasonable reserve price will be required or a minimum opening bid established when FCC licenses are subject to auction (*i.e.*, because they are mutually exclusive), unless the Commission determines that a reserve price or minimum bid is not in the public interest. Consistent with this mandate, the Commission has directed the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("Bureau") to seek comment on the use of a minimum opening bid and/or reserve price prior to the start of each auction. The Bureau was directed to seek comment on the methodology to be employed in establishing each of these mechanisms. Among other factors, the Bureau should consider the amount of spectrum being auctioned, levels of incumbency, the availability of technology to provide service, the size of the geographic service areas, the extent of interference with other spectrum bands, and any other relevant factors that could reasonably have an

impact on valuation of the spectrum being auctioned. The Commission concluded that the Bureau should have the discretion to employ either or both of these mechanisms for future auctions.

2. Normally, a reserve price is an absolute minimum price below which an item will not be sold in a given auction. Reserve prices can be either published or unpublished. A minimum opening bid, on the other hand, is the minimum bid price set at the beginning of the auction below which *no bids* are accepted. It is generally used to accelerate the competitive bidding process. Also, in a minimum opening bid scenario, the auctioneer generally has the discretion to lower the amount later in the auction.

3. The Bureau recently announced the auction of 875 licenses for the General Wireless Communications Service which is scheduled to begin May 27, 1998. These licenses encompass the United States, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Specifically, the licenses include: (1) five licenses in each of 172 geographic areas known as Economic Areas (EAs); (2) five licenses in each of three EA-like areas, covering Guam and the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

4. In anticipation of this auction and in light of the Balanced Budget Act, the Bureau proposes to establish minimum opening bids for the GWCS auction, and retain discretion to lower the minimum opening bids.

5. The Bureau believes a minimum opening bid, which has been utilized in other auctions, is an effective bidding tool, and we propose to use this approach in the GWCS auction. A minimum opening bid will help to regulate the pace of the auction and provides flexibility.

6. Specifically, the Commission proposes the following formula for calculating minimum opening bids in Auction No. 19:

For each EA License, the minimum opening bid = \$0.0030 × 5 MHz × population (based on 1990 census) with a minimum of no less than \$2500.00 per license.

Comment is sought on this proposal. If commenters believe that the formula proposed above for minimum opening bids will result in substantial numbers of unsold licenses, or is not a reasonable amount, or should instead operate as a reserve price, they should explain why this is so, and comment on the desirability of an alternative approach. Commenters are advised to support their claims with valuation analyses and suggested reserve prices or minimum opening bid levels or formulas. In establishing the formula for minimum opening bids, we particularly seek comment on such factors as, among other things, the amount of spectrum being auctioned, levels of incumbency, the availability of technology to provide service, the size of the geographic service areas, issues of interference with other spectrum bands and any other relevant factors that could reasonably have an impact on valuation of the GWCS spectrum. (In order to assist them in their evaluation, interested parties are advised to review Attachment A to this Public Notice. This Attachment contains information provided to the Commission by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. It describes certain government operations that operate in the bands adjacent to GWCS spectrum and may cause interference in some regions.) Alternatively, comment is sought on whether, consistent with the Balanced Budget Act, the public interest would be served by having no minimum opening bid or reserve price.

II. Other Issues

7. The Bureau finds that seeking comment on other auction-related procedures for GWCS, prior to resolution of the issues raised in the *Part 1 Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making*, 63 FR 770 (January 7, 1998), would be premature. Additionally,

certain issues (such as the upfront payment formula and competitive bidding design) were determined by the Commission in the 1995 GWCS *Second Report and Order*, 60 FR 40712 (August 9, 1995), and may be further addressed by the Commission. Because the Commission is subject to a statutory deadline of August 9, 1998, for licensing GWCS, there is insufficient time to seek comment on auction procedures after a ruling by the Commission. Rather, the Bureau finds that in these circumstances, it is in the public interest to maximize the time available to bidders between announcement of auction procedures and the start of the auction. Therefore, the Bureau will announce specific bidding procedures by public notice upon the release of the GWCS auction rules.

III. Conclusion

8. Comments are due on or before February 13, 1998, and reply comments are due on or before February 20, 1998. To file formally, parties must submit an original and four copies to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Room 222, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, DC 20554. In addition, parties must submit one copy to Kathleen O'Brien Ham, Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Room 5202, 2025 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554. Comments and reply comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the FCC Public Reference Room, Room 239, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Federal Communications Commission.

Magalie Roman Salas,

Secretary.

Technical Data on the Navy Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) System

I. Introduction

The purpose of this annex is to describe the technical characteristics of the Cooperative Engagement Capability

(CEC) Data Distribution System. The CEC, a major new networking system being developed by the military to provide connectivity between air, land, and sea units for Theater Air Defense, will operate in the bands immediately adjacent to the 4635–4685 MHz band. In order to minimize mutual interference between the CEC system and prospective GWCS users, certain CEC technical characteristics are being made available so that GWCS equipment can be designed to reduce susceptibility to interference. While details of the overall CEC program will remain unavailable for public release, the technical parameters as described below have been recently declassified to facilitate the release of this basic data. (The point of contact at the Naval Electromagnetic Spectrum Center is Mr. Scott A. Hoschar, at (202) 764–0312, or fax (202) 764–2666. The CEC Program Office point of contact is Ms. Lalitha Avula, PEO(TAD)CB12, at (703) 602–7413, or fax (703) 602–9181.)

II. Technical Parameters

The CEC operates in the bands above and below the 4635–4685 MHz band. In order to comply with NTIA regulations, the CEC authorized bandwidth will be contained wholly within the adjacent Federal bands so that it does not impinge upon the 4635–4685 MHz band. To achieve this, the center frequency of any CEC transmitted signal will not fall within the range 4624 to 4696 MHz.

The CEC system employs high power transmitters with directional antennas to achieve a maximum e.i.r.p. of 58 dBW (630 kW). Under most deployment scenarios, this maximum e.i.r.p. level will be directed towards the operational areas defined below or out to sea. However, under certain conditions, this maximum e.i.r.p. value may be directed at the horizon and inland from aircraft operating in the areas defined below.

The CEC emission characteristic was designed to be spectrally efficient to exceed NTIA requirements for unwanted emissions. Specific spectral parameters are as follows:

CEC SPECTRUM ROLL-OFF CHARACTERISTICS AT 4635–4685 MHz

Lower band edge		Upper band edge	
Frequency power		Frequency power	
(MHz)	(dBW/4kHz)	(MHz)	(dBW/4kHz)
4635.00	–3.8	4685.00	–3.8
4636.10	–7.8	4683.90	–7.8
4643.95	–17.8	4676.05	–17.8
4653.00	–37.8	4667.00	–37.8

Transmitter Noise: Between 4649.6 and 4670.4 MHz, less than -87 dBW/Hz.
Harmonics and Spurious: Less than -80 dBc, that is, dB below carrier power.

II. Operating Areas

The location in which large numbers of CEC nodes will be operating includes a number of Naval/joint military exercise areas. CEC units will be located on ships and aircraft, and at land based sites. The normal operating areas are coastal waters and the contiguous land mass extending 30 nautical mile inland. The operating altitude of CEC-equipped aircraft will typically extend to 35,000 feet.

Cooperative Engagement Capability Operating Area Descriptions

Eight areas are identified as essential to support training with a large number of Cooperating Units in a CEC network. The significance of these areas is that airborne CEC units with high power transmitters are expected to be flown directly overhead and extending out to sea in and around existing military operational areas. The areas are as follows.

(1) The area extending 30 nautical miles (nm) inland from the Atlantic Ocean between Wilmington, North Carolina (NC) and Lewes, Delaware (DE) facilitate Atlantic Fleet exercises. The land based CEC terminals at Wallops Island, Virginia (VA), Eastville, VA, and Dam Neck, VA are within the boundaries established for the Atlantic Fleet exercises. The Cherry Point and Onslow Bay NC areas are also included. The Naval Air Warfare Center at Patuxent River, Maryland (MD) and facilities at Greenville, South Carolina (SC), Jacksonville, Florida (FL), and St. Petersburg, FL are not included in the inland areas. The exclusion of the four sites does not preclude CEC Radio Frequency (RF) emissions at these sites.

(2) The area extending 30 nm inland from the Gulf of Mexico between the Louisiana (LA)-Mississippi (MS) state border and Panama City, FL, to support Gulf of Mexico exercises. The area includes Gulfport and Biloxi, MS, and Pensacola and Eglin AFL, FL.

(3) The area extending 30 nm inland from the Pacific Ocean between Vandenberg Air Force Base, California (CA) and Point Mugu Naval Air Station, CA, to support Pacific Fleet exercises.

(4) The area extending 30 nm inland from the Pacific Ocean between Newport Beach, CA, and the CA-Mexico international border to support Pacific Fleet exercises. The area includes Camp Pendleton, CA.

(5) The area that includes the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico (NM) and the Fort Bliss Military Reservation, Texas (TX) and NM to support the joint Chiefs of Staff Roving Sands Exercise.

(6) The area that includes the China Lake Naval Weapons Center and the Fort Irwin Military Reservation, CA.

(7) All of Hawaii, including the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

(8) All of Puerto Rico, including the Armed Forces Weapons Test Facility.

Potentially Affected Economic Areas

The following Economic Areas appear to be within the parameters defined by the Navy as being potentially affected by the CEC system. Estimated power levels within the 4635-4685 MHz band should be calculated on the basis of range from the boundaries of the CEC operating areas and the technical parameters given above.

COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT CAPABILITY IMPACTED ECONOMIC AREAS

Economic area	Name	Economic area grouping
3	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH-RI-VT	1
5	Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY	1
6	Syracuse, NY-PA	1
7	Rochester, NY-PA	1
8	Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY-PA	1
9	State College, PA	1
10	New York-No. New Jer.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA-MA-VT	1
11	Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, PA	1
12	Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atl. City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2
13	Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV-PA	2
14	Salisbury, MD-DE-VA	2
15	Richmond-Petersburg, VA	2
16	Staunton, VA-WV	2
17	Roanoke, VA-NC-WV	2
18	Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC-VA	2
19	Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC	2
20	Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC	2
21	Greenville, NC	2
22	Fayetteville, NC	2
23	Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC-SC	2
24	Columbia, SC	2
25	Wilmington, NC-SC	2
26	Charleston-North Charleston, SC	2
27	Augusta-Aiken, GA-SC	3
28	Savannah, GA-SC	3
29	Jacksonville, FL-GA	3
30	Orlando, FL	3
33	Sarasota-Bradenton, FL	3
34	Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	3
35	Tallahassee, FL-GA	3
36	Dothan, AL-FL-GA	3
37	Albany, GA	3
38	Macon, GA	3
39	Columbus, GA-AL	3
40	Atlanta, GA-AL-NC	3

COOPERATIVE ENGAGEMENT CAPABILITY IMPACTED ECONOMIC AREAS—Continued

Economic area	Name	Economic area grouping
41	Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, SC-NC	2
42	Asheville, NC	2
45	Johnson City-Kingsport-Bristol, TN-VA	2
46	Hickory-Morganton, NC-TN	2
47	Lexington, KY-TN-VA-WV	2
48	Charleston, WV-KY-OH	2
53	Pittsburgh, PA-WV	2
54	Erie, PA	1
73	Memphis, TN-AR-MS-KY	3
74	Huntsville, AL-TN	3
75	Tupelo, MS-AL-TN	3
76	Greenville, MS	3
77	Jackson, MS-AL-LA	3
78	Birmingham, AL	3
79	Montgomery, AL	3
80	Mobile, AL	3
81	Pensacola, FL	3
82	Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula, MS	3
83	New Orleans, LA-MS	3
84	Baton Rouge, LA-MS	3
85	Lafayette, LA	3
86	Lake Charles, LA	3
87	Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	5
88	Shreveport-Bossier City, LA-AR	3
89	Monroe, LA	3
90	Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR	3
122	Wichita, KS-OK	5
126	Western Oklahoma, OK	5
127	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX-AR-OK	5
128	Abilene, TX	5
129	San Angelo, TX	5
131	Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	5
135	Odessa-Midland, TX	5
136	Hobbs, NM-TX	5
137	Lubbock, TX	5
138	Amarillo, TX-NM	5
139	Santa Fe, NM	5
140	Pueblo, CO-NM	5
141	Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO-KS-NE	5
151	Reno, NV-CA	6
152	Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT-ID	5
153	Las Vegas, NV-AZ-UT	6
154	Flagstaff, AZ-UT	5
155	Farmington, NM-CO	5
156	Albuquerque, NM-AZ	5
157	El Paso, TX-NM	5
158	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ-NM	5
159	Tucson, AZ	5
160	Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA-AZ	6
161	San Diego, CA	6
162	Fresno, CA	6
163	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	6
164	Sacramento-Yolo, CA	6
172	Honolulu, HI	6
174	Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands	3

[FR Doc. 98-3085 Filed 2-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY****[FEMA-1198-DR]****State of Maine; Major Disaster and
Related Determinations****AGENCY:** Federal Emergency
Management Agency (FEMA).**ACTION:** Notice.**SUMMARY:** This is a notice of the
Presidential declaration of a major
disaster for the State of Maine (FEMA-
1198-DR), dated January 13, 1998, and
related determinations.**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 13, 1998.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**
Madge Dale, Response and Recovery
Directorate, Federal Emergency