



White Space Legislative Update December 14, 2012

The FCC has invited Public Comment and is refreshing the public record in their Wireless Microphones Proceeding. Specifically, they are seeking Comments on whether the Commission should provide a limited expansion of license eligibility that would permit some wireless mic users to operate under Part 74. Before September, 2010, wireless mics operated without permission and since then, under Part 15. The FCC is also seeking Comment on more efficient use of the Broadcast Spectrum - ie - migration from analog mics to digital - and input from the field on what that time-frame should be. Further, since spectrum auction legislation passed Congress, giving the FCC authority to move forward with spectrum auction, there is great concern that wireless microphones will once again have to move where they operate in the broadcast spectrum, and that there is expense associated with any move. Last, as the FCC moves forward with spectrum auction, and subsequent re-packing of the spectrum, that there will be less White Space, and the FCC may take away the two safe-haven channels.

TCG has convened a Performing Arts Wireless Microphone Working Group and is preparing to file Comments with the FCC in January. Input from experts in the field is welcome. Please contact Laurie Baskin, director of government and education programs at lbaskin@tcg.org. We are also pleased to have pro bono legal advice from Skadden, Arps on this issue.

Our Working Group was able to secure a meeting last week at the FCC with staff from the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) and the Wireless Bureau to talk about all of these concerns. An Ex Parte letter which describes the meeting at the FCC has to be filed after any meetings, and is now posted on our website here.

In current news, the FCC is moving forward on its nationwide launch of the wireless microphone geo-location database, and in allowing the operation of White Space devices in certain states (to be followed by nationwide operations in January.) Here are those Public Notices:

12/6/2012

PUBLIC NOTICE (DA 12-1956)

Office of Engineering and Technology Authorizes TV White Space Database Administrators to Provide Service to Unlicensed Devices Operating on Unused TV Spectrum in the East Coast Region

[pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1206/DA-12-1956A1.pdf) (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1206/DA-12-1956A1.pdf)

[Word](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-1956A1.doc) (http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-1956A1.doc)

12/6/2012

PUBLIC NOTICE (DA 12-1957)

Office of Engineering and Technology and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Announce Nationwide Launch of Unlicensed Wireless Microphone Registration System

[pdf](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1206/DA-12-1957A1.pdf) (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1206/DA-12-1957A1.pdf)

[Word](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1206/DA-12-1957A1.doc) (http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1206/DA-12-1957A1.doc)

This means that new TV Band Devices - White Space devices - are now allowed in the East Coast region, and the database is national. TV Band Devices will be allowed nationwide sometime in January. The potential for interference is now becoming a reality.

TCG has asked the FCC - OET staff to hold a nationwide conference call for sound engineers and TCG will keep the field posted if/when it gets scheduled.