

## SUPPORTING STATEMENT

### A. Justification:

1. The rule sections that govern interconnection of private land mobile radio service stations with the public switched telephone network are as follows:

(a) Pursuant to 47 CFR § 90.477(a), licensees of interconnected land stations must maintain as part of their station records a detailed description of how interconnection is accomplished.

(b) Pursuant to 47 CFR §§ 90.477 (b)(2), and (d)(2), at least one licensee participating in any cost sharing arrangement for telephone service must maintain cost sharing records, the costs must be distributed at least once a year, and a report of the distribution must be placed in the licensee's station records and made available to participants in the sharing arrangement and the Commission upon request.

(c) Pursuant to 47 CFR § 90.477(d)(3), licensees in the Industrial/Business Pool and those licensees who establish eligibility pursuant to 47 CFR § 90.20(a)(2), other than persons or organizations charged with specific fire protection activities, persons or organizations charged with specific forestry-conservation activities, or medical emergency systems in the 450-470 MHz band, and who seek to connect within 120 km (75 mi.) of 25 cities specified in § 90.477(d)(3), must obtain the consent of all co-channel licensees located both within 120 km (75 mi.) of the center of the city, and within 120 km (75 mi.) of the interconnected base station transmitter. Consensual agreements must specifically state the terms agreed upon and a statement must be submitted to the Commission indicating that all co-channel licensees have consented to the use of interconnection.

On December 14, 1998, the Federal Communications Commission ("the Commission") published a *Report and Order* in the *Federal Register* in WT Docket Nos. 98-20 and 96-188, at 63 FR 68904. This *Report and Order* consolidated, revised, and streamlined the Commission's rules governing licensing application procedures for radio services licensed by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau ("WTB") in order to fully implement the Universal Licensing System ("ULS").

ULS is the Commission's automated licensing system and integrated database for wireless services that enables licensees and applicants to file applications electronically. The *Report and Order* also adopted the new consolidated application forms and established procedures to ensure a smooth transition from the pre-existing licensing processes to the process developed for ULS. As a result of the ULS rule conversions in connection with this information collection, 47 CFR §90.477(a), interconnected systems now file all information (100 percent) electronically via ULS. Pursuant to 47 CFR § 90.477(d)(3), interconnected systems were changed to reflect NAD83 coordinates.

Statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in 47 U.S.C. § 332(a), as amended.

This information collection does not affect individuals or households; thus, there are no impacts under the Privacy Act.

The Commission is seeking OMB approval/clearance for the extension of this collection for a three-year period.

2. These requirements to keep records when the land stations involved are multiple licensed or shared is mandated by the requirements set forth in 47 U.S.C. 332(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, regarding inter-service sharing opportunities in the private mobile services. The information is used by the participating licensees to effect the required cost sharing.
3. Prior to finalizing rulemakings, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau conducts an analysis to insure that improved information technology cannot be used to reduce the burden on the public. This analysis considers the possibility of obtaining and/or computer-generating the required data from existing databases in the Commission or other federal agencies.
4. No similar information is available.
5. In conformance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Commission is making an effort to minimize the burden on all respondents, regardless of size. The Commission has limited the information requirements to those absolutely necessary for evaluating and processing applications and to deter against possible abuses.
6. The rules require that costs be distributed at least once per year. Since the licensees involved in these shared interconnection arrangements are likely to change relatively often, distribution periods greater than one year would be inappropriate.
7. Current data collection is consistent with 5 CFR § 1320.
8. Notice of the information collection appeared in the *Federal Register* on November 9, 2022 (87 FR 67685) in compliance with 5 CFR § 1320.8(d). No comments to the paperwork burden in this collection were filed.
9. There are no payments or gifts to respondents.
10. No questions of a confidential nature are asked with this collection of information.
11. This collection does not address any private matters of a sensitive nature.

12. The number of respondents for this information collection is based on the licensing statistics on interconnected systems which were extracted from ULS for the 25 major U.S. urbanized areas set forth below:

| Urban Area                                 | North Latitude | West Longitude |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| New York, New York-Northeastern New Jersey | 40° 45' 06.4"  | 73° 59' 37.5"  |
| Los Angeles-Long Beach, California         | 34° 03' 15.0"  | 118° 14' 31.3" |
| Chicago, Illinois-Northwestern, Indiana    | 41° 52' 28.1"  | 87° 38' 22.2"  |
| Philadelphia, Pennsylvania/New Jersey      | 39° 56' 58.4"  | 75° 9' 19.6"   |
| Detroit, Michigan                          | 42° 19' 48.1"  | 83° 2' 56.7"   |
| San Francisco-Oakland, California          | 37° 46' 38.7"  | 122° 24' 43.9" |
| Boston, Massachusetts                      | 42° 21' 24.4"  | 71° 03' 23.2"  |
| Washington, DC/Maryland/Virginia           | 38° 53' 51.4"  | 77° 00' 31.9"  |
| Cleveland, Ohio                            | 41° 29' 51.2"  | 81° 41' 49.5"  |
| St. Louis, Missouri/Illinois               | 38° 37' 45.2"  | 90° 12' 22.4"  |
| Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania                   | 40° 26' 19.2"  | 79° 59' 59.2"  |
| Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota            | 44° 58' 56.9"  | 93° 15' 43.8"  |
| Houston, Texas                             | 29° 45' 26.8"  | 95° 21' 37.8"  |
| Baltimore, Maryland                        | 39° 17' 26.4"  | 76° 36' 43.9"  |
| Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas                   | 32° 47' 09.5"  | 96° 47' 38.0"  |
| Milwaukee, Wisconsin                       | 43° 02' 19.0"  | 87° 54' 15.3"  |
| Seattle-Everett, Washington                | 47° 36' 31.4"  | 122° 20' 16.5" |
| Miami, Florida                             | 25° 46' 38.4"  | 80° 11' 31.2"  |
| San Diego, California                      | 32° 42' 53.2"  | 117° 09' 24.1" |
| Atlanta, Georgia                           | 33° 45' 10.4"  | 84° 23' 36.7"  |
| Cincinnati, Ohio/Kentucky                  | 39° 06' 07.2"  | 84° 30' 34.8"  |
| Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas               | 39° 04' 56.0"  | 94° 35' 20.8"  |
| Buffalo, New York                          | 42° 52' 52.2"  | 78° 52' 20.1"  |
| Denver, California                         | 39° 44' 58.0"  | 104° 59' 23.9" |
| San Jose, California                       | 37° 20' 15.8"  | 121° 53' 27.8" |

**Note: Coordinates are referred to North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)**

Pursuant to 47 CFR § 90.476(c), Commercial Mobile Radio Services (“CMRS”) are exempt from complying with the provisions of §§ 90.476 - 90.483, and therefore are not subject to the requirements set forth in these rule sections. Consequently, the following statistics are based on filings from private radio service licensees that are interconnected and therefore subject to rule sections 90.476 – 90.483.

**(a) Interconnected licensees – 90.477(a).** According to ULS data compiled over the past three year period 2014, 2015, and 2016), there were a total of 450 licensees authorized under a total of 1161 licenses in the Private Land Mobile Services, that are authorized for interconnection and are required to comply with 47 CFR § 90.477(a); however, this requirement is to be met when a license is either initially authorized or modified for interconnection and is not an annual requirement. We conclude that the estimated time needed to complete this requirement is 15 minutes (0.25 hrs.) on average. We divide the total number of licenses

authorized over the past three years by three to estimate the annual number of licensees subject to this requirement.

$$450 \div 3 = 150 \text{ (respondents)} \times 0.25 \text{ (hours)} = \mathbf{37.5 \text{ hrs. (rounded to 38 hours)}}$$

**(b) Interconnected cost-sharing licensees above 800 MHz – 90.477(b)(2).** The **annual** number of licensees in the frequency ranges above 800 MHz and are involved in cost-sharing arrangements which required them to comply with **§ 90.477(b)(2) annually** is 152 licensees. We conclude that the estimated time needed to complete this requirement is 15 minutes (0.25 hrs.) on average.

$$152 \text{ (above 800 MHz licensees)} \times 0.25 \text{ (hours)} = \mathbf{38 \text{ hrs.}}$$

**Interconnected cost-sharing licensees below 800 MHz – 90.477(d)(2).** The **annual** number of licensees in the frequency ranges below 800 MHz and are involved in cost-sharing arrangements which required them to comply with **§ 90.477(d)(2) annually** is 200 licensees. We conclude that the estimated time needed to complete this requirement is 15 minutes (0.25 hrs.) on average.

$$200 \text{ (below 800 MHz licensees)} \times 0.25 \text{ (hours)} = \mathbf{50 \text{ hrs.}}$$

**(c) Interconnected urban licensees -90.477(d)(3).** According to ULS data compiled over the past three year period (2014, 2015 and 2016), there were a total of 75 licensees that are required to comply with **§ 90.477(d)(3)**. We estimate that it will take these urbanized licensees 2 hours per authorization on average to satisfy the rule 90.477(d)(3) requirement, as the requirement is imposed on a per application basis at the time of licensing. We divide the total number of licenses authorized over the past three years by three to estimate the annual number of licensees subject to this requirement.

$$25 \text{ (respondents)} \times 2 \text{ (hours)} = \mathbf{50 \text{ hrs.}}$$

**Total Annual Burden Hours:**

$$\text{We add } ((a) 38 + (b) 38 + 50 + (c) 50) = \mathbf{176 \text{ hours.}}$$

**Total Number of Respondents:**

$$\text{We add } ((a) 150 + (b) 152 + 200 + (c) 25) = \mathbf{527 \text{ to get the total number of respondents.}}$$

**Total Number of Annual Responses: 527.**

We estimate that applicants will use in-house clerical personnel (equivalent to a GS 7, Step 5, at an average of \$27.50 per hour) in order to meet these requirements.

$$176 \text{ hours} \times \$27.50/\text{hour} = \mathbf{\$4,840.}$$

**Total In-House Cost Burden is: \$4,840.**

13. There are no external costs to the respondents.
14. There are no costs to the Federal Government.
15. There are no program changes or adjustments to this collection.
16. The data will not be published for statistical use.
17. We do not seek approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection.
18. There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

**B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods:**

No statistical methods were employed for submission of information covered under this submission.