

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast)	
Bands)	ET Docket No. 04-186
)	
Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices)	
Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band)	ET Docket No. 02-380

August 17, 2004

OPPOSITION TO REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE

The IEEE 802.18 Radio Regulatory Technical Advisory Group (IEEE 802.18) has requested that the Federal Communications Commission extend the deadline for comments and reply comments in the above-captioned Proceeding (“the NPRM”) by 180 days beyond their current dates of September 1, 2004 and October 1, 2004 respectively. The New America Foundation and Media Access Project request that the Federal Communications Commission not grant this request for extension.

Given that it is summer and that there are many other proceedings concerning the broadcast band with comments due early in the fall, we think a 30-day delay is reasonable. But 180 days is far too much given the widely acknowledged importance of this spectrum band for bringing broadband service to America, the already lengthy duration of this proceeding, and the 21 year history of warehousing this spectrum while potential uses were studied to death.

As evidenced by the outpouring of comments in the Notice of Inquiry preceding this NPRM, there are many parties other than IEEE and MSTV who are interested in this proceeding, which has already been going on for close to two years. We believe the process of public deliberation would be enhanced by getting the facts and arguments out in the open sooner rather

than later. Interested parties in this proceeding first petitioned the FCC to warehouse this spectrum in 1983, when MSTV petitioned the Commission to reserve the entire TV band for emerging HDTV technologies. We believe that continuing to warehouse this spectrum “white space” while waiting for yet additional studies is not in the public interest.

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