

Contact: Dane Ericksen
707-996-5200
dericksen@h-e.com
www.eibass.org

Engineers for the Integrity of Broadcast Auxiliary Services Spectrum

EIBASS Press Release

[EIBASS Action May Have Helped Prevent a VHF RPU Coastal Shipwreck](#)

San Francisco, California October 30, 2010: Proactive action by EIBASS may have prevented action that could have been bad news for Part 74 VHF RPU users in coastal areas.

According to EIBASS Co-Chair Dane Ericksen, "The July 30, 2010 FCC Daily Digest carried an innocuous sounding item, "FCC Seeks Comment on Recommendations Approved by the Advisory Committee for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference" (WARC). The attachment contained a Part 74 zinger: Nineteen 25-kHz wide Maritime coastal station channels from 161.500 through 161.925 MHz were proposed. These Maritime stations would span the entire 161.625–161.775 MHz portion of the Part 74, Subpart D, Remote Pickup (RPU) band."

Concerned that an allocation for co-channel Maritime coastal stations could cause interference to 161 MHz RPU operations in markets with port operations, such as Boston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle, plus others, on August 14, 2010, EIBASS filed comments pointing out this conflict and objecting to the proposed allotment. EIBASS was the only party to do so.

The October 28, 2010 FCC Daily Digest carried another public notice, again calling for comments on the WARC 2012 Advisory Committee recommendations. This time, the attachments carried no trace of the previous proposal for 161 MHz Maritime stations.

So did the filing by EIBASS prevent a frequency spectrum shipwreck between 161 MHz RPU operations and imprudently proposed 161 MHz Maritime stations? Since EIBASS was unable to attend WARC International Working Group (IWG) negotiations in Washington, we cannot say for sure.

While the FCC WARC IWG's work under a docketed proceeding, there are no Report & Orders (R&Os) summarizing the positions of commenting parties or giving reasons why the subsequent rulemaking came out the way it did. Instead, one has to wade through many pages of WARC annex and resolution inserts, and try and figure out what is, or isn't, going on.

Ericksen concluded, "This time 161 MHz RPU licensees got lucky. EIBASS was the only party to spot the problem and prepare and file comments. The FCC apparently paid attention."

The EIBASS Comments can be viewed at [<http://tinyurl.com/EIBASS-04-286>]. The EIBASS mission is to protect BAS spectrum to the best of its ability. EIBASS is comprised of eleven broadcast industry subject-expert engineers who all volunteer their time.