

### **The FCC and deleting frequencies or sites**

For a long time there was a glitch in the FCC rules and regulations. You could easily cancel an entire license and give back to the FCC all the frequencies on it with no outside intervention.

But if you wanted to cancel just one or a few frequencies on a license or delete a site, well that was a different story. The FCC considered that a "major" change on the license and you had to run a license modification application through the frequency coordination process. That added extra time and coordination costs to what should have been a simple process. As a result, few agencies elected to cancel unused frequencies; why have to pay to give something back?

That situation existed for many years until it was pointed out not too long ago in a regular review of FCC policies and procedures. Actually, the rule made sense at one time since it kept the frequency coordinators aware of available frequencies. But with the ULS on-line system, coordinators can be updated on what's available on an almost daily basis.

The Commission recently issued an amendment of the rules (Docket 03-264, FCC 05-144) which among other things made deletion of frequencies or sites a "minor" change which DOES NOT require coordination. The rules changes were subsequently published in the Federal Register (2005 volume, page 61049) and became effective December 16, 2005. Remember those references... you may need them someday.

So now you can delete frequencies or sites on an existing license by using the ULS on-line license modification system. Coordination is NOT required, although it seems word has not filtered down to all levels of the FCC. FCC personnel may not have read their internal updates and may swear that you have to go through coordination to delete frequencies and sites. I even had the FCC ULS support group supervisor tell me that. Just recite the rule change references given above and tell them to process the application without coordination.

Here's a link to the rules change.

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-144A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-144A1.pdf)

Source: A. Nowakowski February 2006