

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 30-14**  
**DECEMBER 05, 2019**

*Office of Planning and Programming for Service Delivery*

**RADIO FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT**

**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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**Certified by:** W/OPPSD (K. Cooley)

**Type of Issuance:** Routine

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** This directive supersedes NWS Program Directive 30-14, dated September 19, 2002. Changes were made to reflect the NWS Headquarters reorganization effective April 1, 2015, and update references in Attachment 1.

1. The National Weather Service (NWS) uses radio frequency spectrum as a federal resource to acquire and transmit data and information in support of its mission to issue forecasts and warnings. Within the jurisdiction of the United States Government, use of the radio frequency spectrum shall be authorized by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and comply with the provisions of the Department of Commerce *National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management*, unless specific provisions for deviation are authorized by the NTIA.
2. The objective of the NWS Radio Frequency Management program is to ensure the NWS obtains and maintains the radio spectrum allocations and the Radio Frequency Assignment (RFA) Authorizations necessary to perform its mission, and experimental, developmental, and operational systems and equipment are operated in accordance with federal regulations and authorizations.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
  - 3.1 The Assistant Administrator for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring compliance with Radio Frequency Management policy.
  - 3.2 The Office of Planning and Programming for Service Delivery, Mission Assurance Branch, NWS Radio Frequency Manager is responsible for:
    - a. Serving as the primary point of contact for NWS for radio spectrum related matters, including inquiries and request for new frequency allocations and authorizations.
    - b. Serving as the NWS liaison to the Department of Commerce, Office of Radio Frequency Management (organizationally located in the NOAA Office of the Chief Information Officer, Radio Frequency Management Division) for radio spectrum related matters.

- c. Coordination and quality assurance of the five-year review process to maintain accurate NWS frequency assignments records in the Government Master File (GMF) database.
- d. Conducting the engineering analysis necessary to ensure electromagnetic compatibility of both new and existing systems between NWS and other government and non-government radio frequency systems, identifying potential interference sources, and managing efforts to mitigate interference to and from NWS radio frequency systems.
- e. Managing and coordinating planned NWS mission-based radio spectrum requirements in collaboration with the DOC Office of Radio Frequency Management, in the light of policies, rules, regulations, frequency allocations, and the availability of frequencies for consideration by the Frequency Assignment Subcommittee (FAS) of the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC).
- f. Managing NWS international frequency coordination in collaboration with the DOC Office of Radio Frequency Management to pursue strategic objectives through the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and with other countries within the ITU provisions, by or under the aegis of the Department of State.

3.3 NWS Regional Radio Frequency Managers are responsible for managing radio spectrum related matters in their NWS Region, including ensuring that all radio-frequency spectrum usage within their respective Regions is authorized and in conformance with NTIA policies and regulations, validating each RFA authorization in the GMF as part of the five year review process, and coordinating with the adjacent NWS Regions' and neighboring countries' focal points as appropriate. When new requirements arise, or changes to existing RFA authorizations are necessary, NWS Regional Radio Frequency Managers are responsible for preparing requests for RFA authorizations in accordance with NTIA regulations and submitting to the NWS Spectrum Manager for processing.

3.4 NWS Portfolio Programs are responsible for defining spectrum requirements for each system and operating station, gathering required technical data, and submitting the information necessary to prepare and submit requests for Spectrum Certification to the NWS Radio Frequency Manager for processing. Approval of Spectrum Certification must be obtained prior to making an investment in systems or equipment that operates using radio spectrum.

4. NWS will measure effectiveness with this policy directive by examining all requests for RFA. NWS will also examine the five year review process for timeliness, completeness, accuracy, justification, appropriate coordination, and adherence to the *NTIA Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management*, with a goal of having spectrum for all the operational needs of the NWS.

5. This policy directive is supported by the references listed in Attachment 1.

Signed

Louis W. Uccellini  
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

11/21/2019

Date

**Attachment 1 - REFERENCES**

Department of Commerce Administrative Order Number: DAO 201-39, RADIO FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT, Effective Date: 2009-04-16

[http://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/daos/dao201\\_39.html](http://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/daos/dao201_39.html)

The Department of Commerce *Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management*, § 2.3.3 is incorporated by reference in 47 Code of Federal Regulations §300.1.

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/redbook/redbook.html>.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Circular A-11, Section 31, Paragraph 31.12 Radio spectrum-dependent communications-electronics systems.

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/a11\\_current\\_year/a11\\_2016.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/a11_current_year/a11_2016.pdf)