

MAY 7, 2020

Client Memo

## Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS)

### Grandfathered Protection Zones Filing Window and Procedures Announced

On April 7, 2017, the FCC released its Public Notice, DA 17-340, in which the FCC has opened the four month filing window for Part 90 licensees to submit the required supplemental information in order to define their Grandfathered Wireless Protection Zones. The deadline for filing an application to secure the Part 90 Grandfathered Wireless Protection Zones is **August 7, 2017.**

**Background:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) expanded the existing 50MHz of shared spectrum in the 3650-3700MHz (NN Service<sup>1</sup>) band by 100MHz. Combined, 3550-3700MHz, makes 150MHz of spectrum available and has formed the new Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) band. The FCC released its Report and Order, FCC 15-47, in which it defined the CBRS band, introduced the CBRS governing Part 96 rules, and sunsets the existing Part 90 rules.

As of the adoption date of FCC 15-47, April 17, 2015, the FCC began no longer granting new non-exclusive nationwide (NN) Service licenses. Existing NN Service operators' networks filed with the FCC prior to the April 17th date, and operational by April 17, 2016, are considered Grandfathered Wireless Broadband Providers and will receive interference protections from CBRS operations within a Grandfathered Wireless Protection Zone for a term of five years or the remainder of their license term, whichever is longer. New Part 90 base stations can be registered under an existing NN Service license, but these new stations will not extend Grandfathered Wireless Protection Zone or be afforded interference protections outside the established Grandfathered Wireless Protection Zone.

In August of 2016, the FCC released its Public Notice, DA 16-946, in which the FCC defined the proposed methodology for determining the protected contours for Grandfathered Part 90 licensees. DA 16-946 details a two-prong approach in defining the Part 90 for each eligible registered base station, as follows:

- Sectors supporting unregistered Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) devices will receive a 5.3km (3.29 miles) radii, confined to the azimuth and beamwidth of the antenna, as previously registered with the FCC.
- Sectors supporting registered CPE devices will receive a radii sufficient to encompass the furthest registered and supported CPE device, confined to the azimuth and beamwidth of the antenna, as previously registered with the FCC.

If you have any questions or require assistance with the Grandfathered Protection Zone filings, please feel free to contact any of the following VPS staff members for assistance:

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<sup>1</sup> 47 CFR Part 90, Subpart Z