



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

JUL - 2 2010



Ms. Evelyn H. Hirt
President, IEEE-USA
2000 L Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036-5104

Dear Ms. Hirt:

Thank you for your May 6, 2010 letter providing suggestions related to management of the radio frequency spectrum. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) currently works to establish spectrum rights and responsibilities for all spectrum users, particularly with respect to interference and interference protection, whenever possible and practical. When we are able to do so, the time taken by long drawn-out interference disputes is shortened or eliminated without detrimentally affecting reasonable expectations of all interested parties, promoting greater access to, and more efficient use of the spectrum.

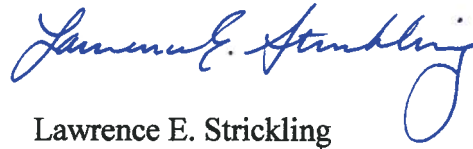
One of the key steps in any interference, electromagnetic compatibility, or sharing assessment is identifying an appropriate level of interference. While there are many different definitions that could be considered in a discussion on interference, including the term "harmful interference" mentioned in your letter, NTIA looks at interference protection criteria (IPC). NTIA has completed the first phase of a study that reviewed existing standards and identified available interference protection criteria (IPC) values for the various radio services in the 30 MHz to 30 GHz frequency range.¹ The study considered national and international standards and concluded that, for many of the radio services, the IPC values contained in the various publications are incomplete and vary due to the specific type of interfering signal being received. The second phase of the NTIA study will develop and refine the IPC values for frequency sharing cases for which IPC are incomplete, missing, or unclear. We will emphasize the need to ensure that IPC or other spectrum sharing criteria are available for frequency sharing situations of practical importance.

NTIA also agrees that developing realistic operational scenarios in conjunction with standardized IPC values will provide more of the certainty and predictability that an incumbent or new user of the spectrum desires. We appreciate your letter and look forward to working with

1. National Telecommunications Information Administration Report 05-432, *Interference Protection Criteria – Phase 1 Compilation from Existing Sources* (Oct. 2005).

organizations such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers as we address these and the many other technical issues related to managing the radio frequency spectrum for the benefit of Federal and non-Federal users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence E. Strickling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'L' at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Lawrence E. Strickling