

The EBS Advisor

Proudly Serving the EBS Industry

September 2006

Transition Update

This issue will focus primarily on transition activities across the United States. Are multiple transition activities really occurring? Francis McDermott summed it up best in the movie Fargo: "You Betcha!"

In our August newsletter we reported on the Transition Initiation Plans filed July 19th in the following BTAs:

<u>Proponent</u>	<u>BTA</u>	<u>Est. Completion Date</u>
Sprint	Washington, DC*	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Baltimore, MD*	July 31, 2007
Clearwire	Cumberland, MD	November 30, 2006
Clearwire	Ironwood, MI	November 30, 2006
Clearwire	Marquette, MI	November 30, 2006
Clearwire	Middlesboro-Harlan, KY	November 30, 2006
Clearwire	Olean, NY - Bradford, PA	November 30, 2006
Clearwire	Pottsville, PA	November 30, 2006
Clearwire	Rocky Mount - Wilson, NC	November 30, 2006
Clearwire	Williamsport, PA	November 30, 2006

On August 29th Sprint held a kick-off meeting for the New York City and other Northeastern BTAs and simultaneously filed 6 new Transition Initiation Plans. Sprint filed 5 more Transition Initiation Plans on September 5th, 2006.

*For a complete list of affected licensees you may request a copy of the August edition of the EBS Advisor. Simply send an email request to info@ezta.net.

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{ "Transition Updates" continued on page 2 }

Transition Updates: {continued from page 1}

**Transition Initiation Plans
Filed August 29**

<u>Proponent</u>	<u>BTA</u>	<u>Est. Comp. Date</u>
Sprint	Dover, DE	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Elkhart, IN	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Kankakee, IL	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Lawrence, KS	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Marion, IN	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Michigan City-Laporte, IN	July 31, 2007

Filed September 5

Sprint	Emporia, KS*	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Joplin, MO - Miami, OK*	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Kansas City, MO*	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Manhattan - Junction City, KS*	July 31, 2007
Sprint	Topeka, KS*	July 31, 2007

(licenses impacted by these filings, that are not owned by Sprint, are listed on page 4)

This should be a resounding wake-up call for EBS licensees! Don't wait until the proverbial 11th hour before "getting ready". Be proactive and get started now!

When your "PTDR" (Pre Transition Data Request) arrives you should be ready, not getting ready. You have 45 days to reply and this is only one of several critical processes in the market transition for your license. We can assist you through the transition process or other EBS licensing and leasing issues. Just call! It's that EZ.

Eye On The Industry

**INDUSTRY LEADERS URGE
FCC TO ACCELERATE
BRS/EBS
WHITE SPACE AUCTION**

Historically, this industry has been able to advance new FCC rules and regulations, most effectively, when it does so on a united front. Ideas, that seem quite obvious, can be lost in the midst of heated debate and overlooked as we struggle to compromise on other more important issues.

In this case, there can be no mistaking the message the industry has sent to the FCC recently:

"We want a white space auction now!"

Despite the burden of completing a nationwide spectrum transition, companies like NextWave, Sprint, Clearwire (and others) have joined ranks with the NIA, CTN and a host of filers on this subject. Indeed, the industry is united on this front.

And why not? Fallow spectrum doesn't help anyone. Prior to auctioning the (then current) MDS Basic Trading Areas, bidders were informed that forfeited and vacant stations would be reverted to the winners of the auction.

EBS licensees also want to make use of spectral "gaps" that may exist in certain markets where ITFS licenses were not issued. There appears to be no rational reason for postponing a white space auction.

We applaud the industry, and its leadership, once again in uniting for a just cause. The greatest obstacle the FCC will face is the much needed cleanup of the ULS database. Recently, the FCC has made great strides in processing applications from years past. Removing terminated stations, still listed as "active", could help assess what's available for auction.

Transition Updates

Emporia, KS

<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Licensee Name</u>	<u>BTA</u>
WLX461	N. American Catholic Educ. Prog. Foundation, Inc.	BTA 129

Joplin, MO - Miami, OK

WHR956	Board of Governors, Missouri Southern State Univ.	BTA 220
WLX879	Carl Junction R-1 School District	BTA 220
WLX877	Carthage R-9 School District	BTA 220
WNC811	Carthage R-9 School District	BTA 220
WMH596	Fixed Wireless Holdings, LLC	BTA 220
WND550	Lamar R-1 School District	BTA 220
WNC544	Miami Public Schools	BTA 220
WLX875	Monett R-1 School District	BTA 220
WNC410	Northeast Technology Center	BTA 220

Kansas City, MO

WLX693	Concordia Reorganized School District #2	BTA 226
WLX339	Easton Unified School District #449	BTA 226
WLX327	Eudora Unified School District #491	BTA 226
WLX335	Garnett Unified School District #365	BTA 226
WLX960	Grundy County R-V Schools	BTA 226
WLX709	Hispanic Information & Telecom. Network, Inc.	BTA 226
WHR511	Instructional Telecommunications Foundations, Inc.	BTA 226
WLX575	Jr. College District of Metro KS City MO	BTA 226
WLX658	Lamonte School District	BTA 226
WLX620	Leeton R-X School District	BTA 226
WLX865	Linn County R-I Public School	BTA 226
WLX669	Marshall School District	BTA 226
WLX340	Mayetta Unified School District #337	BTA 226
WHR523	Network for Instructional TV, Inc.	BTA 226
WHR531	Public Television 19, Inc.	BTA 226
WLX360	Sabetha Unified School District #441	BTA 226
WLX330	Santa Fe Trail USD #434	BTA 226
WLX606	Sweet Springs R-VII School District	BTA 226
WLX473	Trinity Lutheran	BTA 226

Manhattan - Junction City, KS

WLX835	Blue Valley Unified School District #384	BTA 275
WLX782	Pottawatomie West USD #323	BTA 275
WLX776	Unified School District #378	BTA 275
WLX783	Unified School District #379	BTA 275
WLX927	Washington USD #222	BTA 275

Topeka, KS

WLX714	Auburn-Washburn USD #437	BTA 445
WND448	Kaw Valley Unified School District #321	BTA 445
WNC430	Seaman Unified School District #345	BTA 445
WLX588	Shawnee Heights USD #450	BTA 445
WLX904	Silver Lake Unified School District #372	BTA 445

The "Headlines" Broadband Over Power Lines

August 3, 2006: FCC ADOPTS MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER ON BROADBAND OVER POWER LINES. In its continued efforts to promote broadband availability to all Americans, the FCC affirmed its rules for Access Broadband over Power Lines ("Access BPL"). The rules maintain certain safeguards against harmful interference to existing radio services. The FCC emphasized that Part 15 rules changes were made to ensure that Access BPL operations do not become a source of harmful interference to licensed radio services.

This is welcome news to the equipment vendors poised to deliver FCC compliant and type accepted products and even better news for the homes currently receiving Access BPL services, like those in Manassas, VA. Access BPL services have been deployed, either in BETA mode or on a "near commercial" basis, in various towns across the US. Often deemed the "3rd wire" into the home, electric utility lines are considered the only ubiquitous source of delivery available today.

Rural areas of America may be the ultimate benefactors of Access BPL, provided, however, that the deployment costs yield a logical return on investment. Although the copper (and in many cases aluminum) wires used by utility companies do have some setbacks (e.g. limitation of raw throughput rates) this type of service could ultimately be embraced by rural electric cooperatives ("REC") seeking an entry route into the telecom sector. With a pre-existing infrastructure at their disposal RECs could upgrade and provision electric lines at a lower cost per square mile than wireless and/or fiber optic cables.

Since the utility companies already possess valuable rights-of way, own the poles and typically have large staffs, Access BPL might actually have a fighting chance. It's not likely that this type of service will have a competitive edge against deeply entrenched DSL and cable modem providers. It could, however, become a very attractive niche market for electric utility providers. In many cases, rural homes lie outside of the DSL central office coverage area. Furthering the notion that rural homes are the most likely targets for this service is the fact that many rural households subscribe to satellite TV services from the likes of DirectTV and Echostar. With neither DSL nor cable modem available in many rural locations consumers must seek services from wireless providers or from satellite sources like WildBlue.

Network reliability shouldn't be an issue either. Very rarely do we experience long term outages of electricity. Typically, today's Internet connections pale in comparison to the level of reliability we expect from our electric company. Access BPL is literally in the infancy stage. Seems like only yesterday when I had my first Internet connection from Prodigy. Although cumbersome to use and incredibly slow, that first dial-up connection increased the quality of life in my home.

Wi-Fi Activity

MINNEAPOLIS WI-FI CONTRACT AWARDED TO US INTERNET

How hot is the Wi-Fi market right now? 80+ companies recently submitted bids for the Wi-Fi project in Minneapolis.

US Internet prevailed over other notable companies (EarthLink) to win the 54 square mile citywide contract. The city is expected to pay US Internet \$1,250,000 per year and \$2,000,000 upfront to ensure that the city, and it's first responders, can be the primary tenants on the network.

Users will pay approximately \$20/month for 1 Mbps speeds. BelAir will supply the Wi-Fi equipment for this project.

Springfield, IL WI-FI CONTRACT AWARDED TO AT&T

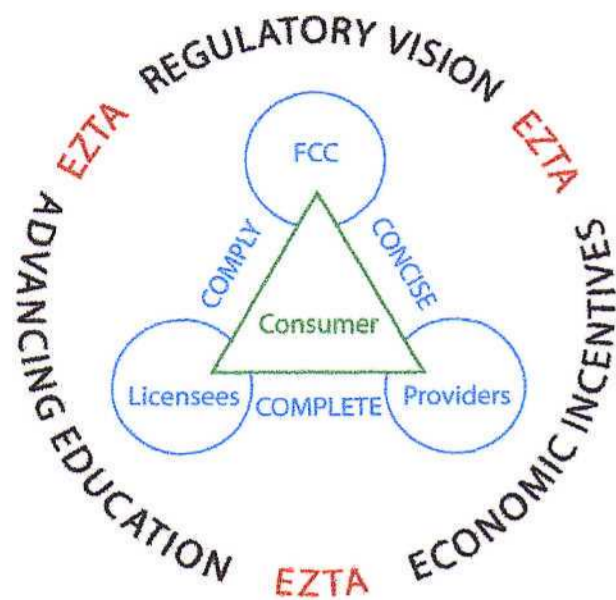
AT&T announced that it has been selected to provide a multi-tiered Wi-Fi to residents and businesses in Springfield, IL. This is the first such contract for phone giant AT&T.

The Wi-Fi network will cover an 25-30 square mile area. An "ad based - free service" will allow users access speeds of 250 kbps. Fee based services will allow users to hit speeds closer to 1 Mbps.

AT&T plans to pursue Wi-Fi projects in other cities across the U.S.

Wi-Fi Announcements: Corvallis, OR

Sealed proposals for the "Unwire Corvallis" project will be accepted until 4:00 October 31, 2006. The RFP can be obtained by calling (541) 766-6990 or email at Unwire@ci.corvallis.or.us



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FCC "Briefs"

1.4 GHZ AUCTION SET FOR February 7, 2007

On August 28 the FCC released a Public Notice announcing Auction No. 69 currently slated for February 7, 2007. Paired licenses at 1392-1393.5 MHz & 1432-1433.5 MHz (Block A) and 1393.5-1395 MHz & 1433.5 - 1435 MHz (Block B) will be offered in the 6 Economic Area Groupings. Also slated for this auction will be unpaired 2 MHz blocks at 1390-1392 MHz. These are to be auctioned in each of the 52 Major Economic Areas.

The "Headlines" - {cont. from page 4}

An interesting characteristic of an Access BPL system is that every electric device is connected to the electric distribution grid. In other words, a BPL system has the ability to be a wide scale network for Internet traffic or a local area network for the home. San Diego Gas & Electric is planning to test "smart meters" during a filed trial over the next few months. Smart meters communicate across a BPL network in ways similar to computers on a network.

In 1975 Pico Electronics developed the X10 industry standard for communication among devices used for home automation. This standard was used for power line wiring (in the home) for signaling and control. X10 home automation exploits the zero crossing voltage point in the AC wave to deliver a synchronized interval of communications. The zero crossing point (for alternating current) is the point at which there is no voltage present for an instantaneous moment. PLC modems can use the X10 standard, or other standards, and then transmit signals in medium frequencies (usually starting at 1.6 MHz) or in ranges as high as 30 MHz on the electric carrier.

In the US, electric companies tend to have relatively few homes connected to a distribution transformer. And this single device (the transformer) has been the devil in the details. BPL signals do not propagate well through the transformer although the signals carry well across the grid. In order to make BPL more cost effective vendors are now looking at using fixed wireless transmitters as a way to "work around" this issue.

The IEEE and the Universal Powerline Association have aligned themselves to create new standards so that companies like Amperion, Inc., Corinex, Current Technologies and others can provide BPL services to the consumer household. The city of Manassas, VA launched a BPL service in October 2005 to 35,000 residents offering service for approximately \$30 per month.

Great ideas require an incubation period before hitting full maturity. It wasn't that long ago that we were introduced to the electronic video game (we all remember PONG), the fax machine, the home computer, the Internet and the cell phone. BPL may not have a foothold in American society today but it could gain a strong presence in years to come.

Next Edition: Summary of the AWS auction