



Recommendation WG3.20.002

Protection of Prior Coordination Notice Paths During FCC Filing Process

Subject Area: Protection of PCN Notices

1. Discussion

There has been some confusion on how to treat PCNs during the application process when the FCC activity is in flux. There has been some discussion that once the PCN enters the application process, the prior coordination process is considered completed and any future prior coordination activity or status would have to be re-engaged with a new PCN. Other discussion was based on the thought that during the period the PCN is active (within the first 6 months + 10 days of initial coordination or under a current renewal period) it should always be valid regardless of the FCC activity ongoing.

2. Recommendation

Consistent with NSMA's Primer for Frequency Coordination (WG 3.87.001), Prior Coordination Notices (PCNs) should be considered to be actively in coordination for 6 months from the date of issue. The 6-month active period of a PCN is unaffected by the application or licensing status of its paths.

If an application for a prior coordinated path is dismissed by the FCC within 6 months of the last PCN issued, the path is still protected by the PCN. Similarly, if a licensed path is terminated or canceled and the PCN is still within its active 6-month period, the coordinated path is still active. When applications are dismissed or licenses terminated on a path and the underlying PCN is no longer active (more than 6 months after the last issue of a PCN), the paths lose all priority and may be claimed by incoming parties. If the path is still required, a new PCN must be issued and cleared before proceeding with regular application and licensing.

Approved by WG3: 11/17/2020

Approved by NSMA Board: 12/17/2020

To Membership for Comment: 12/8/2021

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