

Transition to Digital TV & Mobile Broadband: Impact on Wireless Mics & Solutions Adopted in the U.S.

Joe Ciaudelli - Director, Spectrum Affairs, SENNHEISER Research & Innovation

2nd ITU Regional Frequency Coordination Meeting on the use of the VHF band and the UHF band.

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Outline

- Wireless Microphones : Definition & Terms
- Frequencies traditionally used by Wireless Mics
- Review of the 700 MHz reallocation in the U.S. from a few years ago
- Licensed versus unlicensed mic operation
- White Space Devices (WSD)
- The FCC Incentive Auction (600 MHz band)
- Consequences of the TV band repacking to wireless mic operators
- Alternate frequency ranges outside of UHF
- Questions and answers

Definition & Terms

- The definition of “wireless microphone” includes a variety of devices used for content creation & live events:
 - Handheld
 - Body Packs with Lavaliers
 - Intercom systems
 - In-Ear monitoring Systems
 - Interruptible Fold-Back (IFB) Systems
- Several terms (i.e., applications) are associated with wireless microphones:
 - Services Ancillary to Broadcast and Program Making (SAB/SAP)
 - Programme Making & Special Events (PMSE)
 - Electronic News Gathering (ENG)
 - Outside Broadcast (OB)

Frequencies Traditionally Used for Wireless Mic's

Advantages - Disadvantages

30 - 45 MHz (8-m HF)

Antenna length ;
RF-interference from (electric) appliances

174 - 216 MHz (VHF)

Good wave propagation; TV-transmitters;
RF-distortions from digital equipment

470 - 960 MHz (UHF)

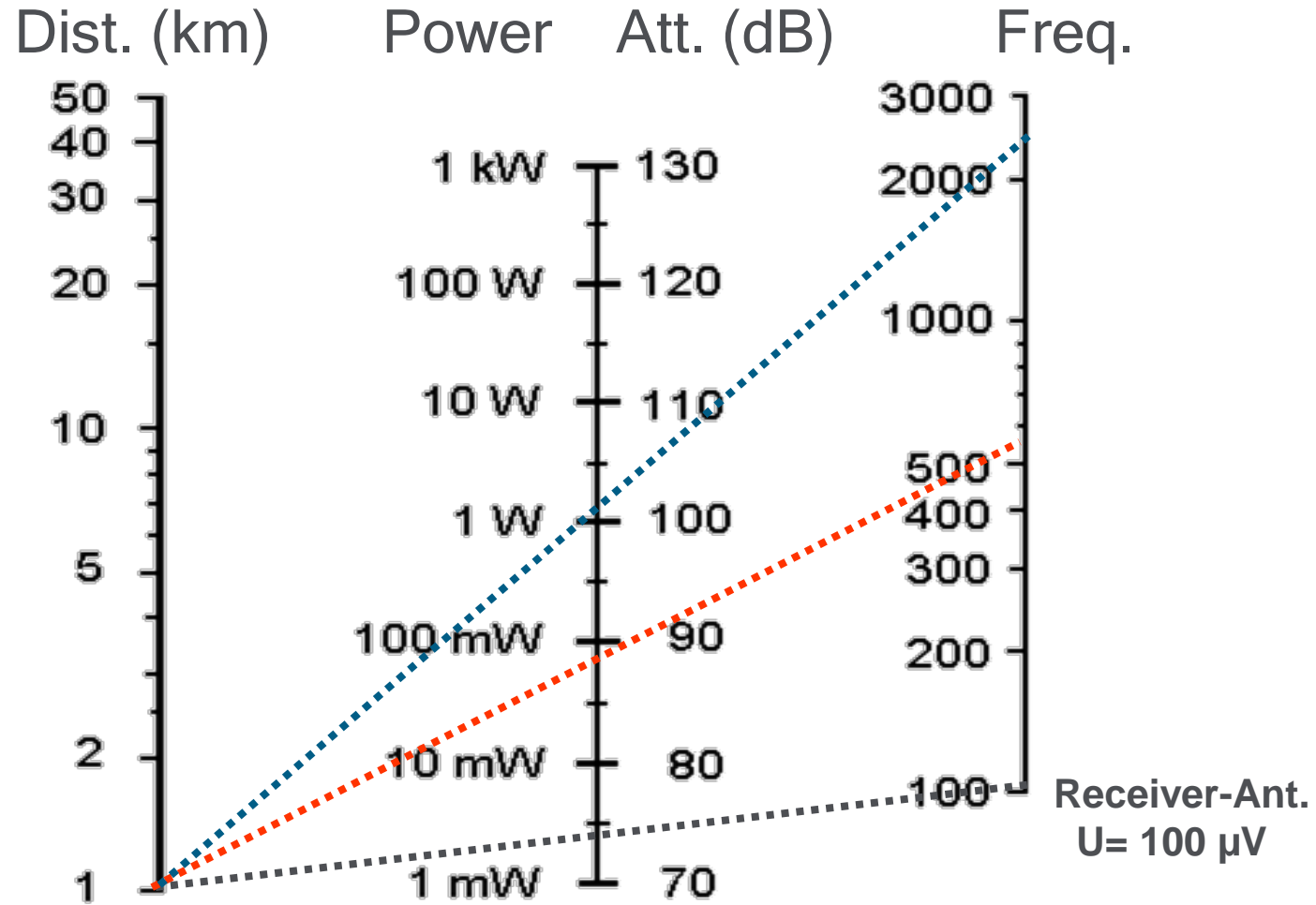
Excellent wave propagation
Compact antennas & other components

2400 - 2485 MHz (ISM)

Industrial-Scientific-Medical

Less favorable wave propagation ;
no exclusive frequencies
(license free devices);
interference from microwave-ovens

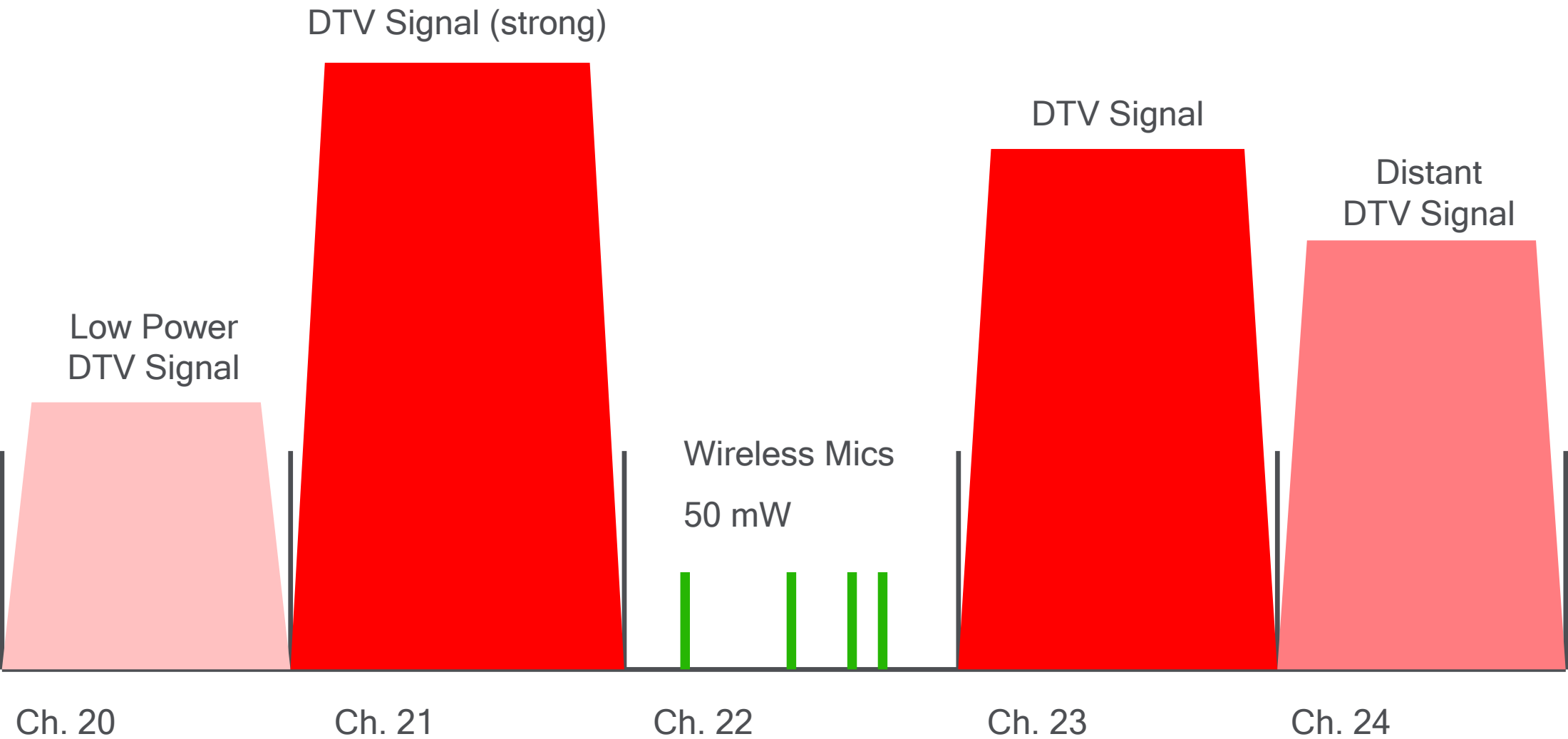
Range / Power / Frequency



UHF is the beach front property in the spectrum

- Provides exceptional wave propagation characteristics
 - Travels through foliage, walls, furniture, etc
- Operates with compact antennas and filter components
 - Important for small mobile transmitters like mics
- Less susceptible to noise from electronic devices
- Long transmission range using moderate power output

Operating in vacant (“white space”) TV channels



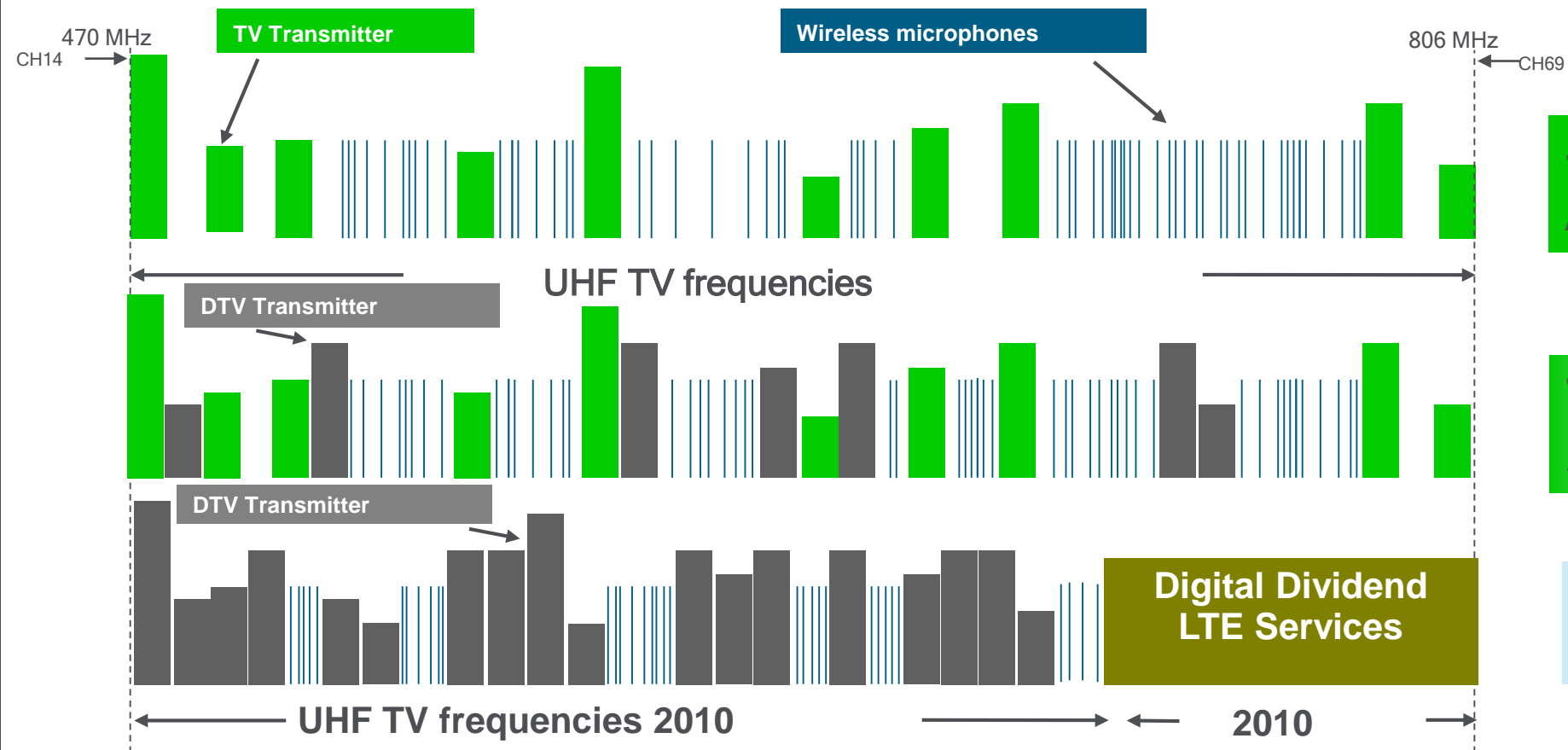
Review of 700 MHz Reallocation

DIGITAL
DIVIDEND

DTV

LTE





~20 years ago:
Analog TV only

Transition:
Analog & DTV

Now:
Full Digital Scenario

FCC Established Unlicensed Class

- Licensed (FCC Part 74)
 - Priority over any unlicensed operation
 - Operate up to 250 mW in UHF band
 - Can reserve channels in white space database system
- Unlicensed (FCC Part 15)
 - Limited to 50 mW
 - No recourse if interference is experienced

Part 74 License Eligibility

- Previously only broadcasters, cable TV operators, film and content providers were eligible to obtain a license.
- Now sound companies and venues who routinely use 50 mics are too.
- FCC plans to further expand eligibility
 - Issued Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM)

U.S. Television Spectrum pre-2017

Former TV Band Ch. 2 - 69

TV Ch. 2 - 51

Ch. 52 - 69

Digital Switchover 2010

Wireless Microphones
& White Space Devices (WSD)
operating in locally vacant TV
channels

Repurposed TV
Channels

White Space Devices (WSD)

a.k.a. TV White Space (TVWS) or TV Band Devices (TVBD)

- TV “White Space” channels are open to unlicensed devices:
 - Rural broadband internet
 - Metropolitan broadband internet
 - Multimedia services
 - Home networking systems
 - Consumer electronics: PDA’s and cell phones w/ advanced features
 - Future products

Safeguards For Wireless Mics

- FCC rules governing WSD include safeguards to avoid interference to wireless microphones:
 - Reserved channels: currently 2 UHF TV channels in each market are reserved for wireless mics.
 - In the future, wireless mics will have portions of the duplex gap and guard band that are exclusive for their use.
- WSD must use Geolocation/Database system to find channels that are not reserved for TV broadcast or by wireless mic operators
 - Currently WSD “pull” info from database once a day. This means it may take nearly 48 hours to clear channels.
 - Future: database system will “push” info to WSD upon new mic reservation, clearing channels of WSD in about 20 minutes.

Database System

Licensed mic operators can reserve white space channels



The screenshot shows the Spectrum Bridge website. The header features the Spectrum Bridge logo with the tagline 'ENABLING UNIVERSAL SPECTRUM ACCESS' and a search bar. The navigation menu includes links for Company, Products & Services, Markets We Serve, Partners, Contact Us, and a Login button. On the left sidebar, a menu lists 'White Space Overview', 'White Space Plus' (highlighted with a red circle), 'Register for Protection', and 'Knowledge Center'. The main content area is titled 'White Space Plus for Operators & Users' and contains a paragraph about Spectrum Bridge's vision, followed by two service descriptions: 'White Space Plus' and 'White Space Basic'.

SPECTRUM BRIDGE
ENABLING UNIVERSAL SPECTRUM ACCESS

site search

[Company](#) | [Products & Services](#) | [Markets We Serve](#) | [Partners](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Login](#)

[White Space Overview](#)
White Space Plus
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White Space Plus for Operators & Users

Spectrum Bridge's vision is to empower the wireless Internet by improving the availability, access and allocation of wireless spectrum. In this pursuit, Spectrum Bridge has developed an FCC certified spectrum management platform to manage the White Space ecosystem. Spectrum Bridge offers two tiers of service designed to help you optimize the performance of your network:

White Space Plus: Spectrum Bridge's White Space Plus service provides advanced features designed to help you optimize the performance of your unlicensed network. This service includes planning tools to facilitate better network design and ensures the best performance in daily operation.

White Space Basic: This service provides radio devices with direct access to the database and channel lists, ensures FCC compliant operations and is offered for the lifetime of the device.

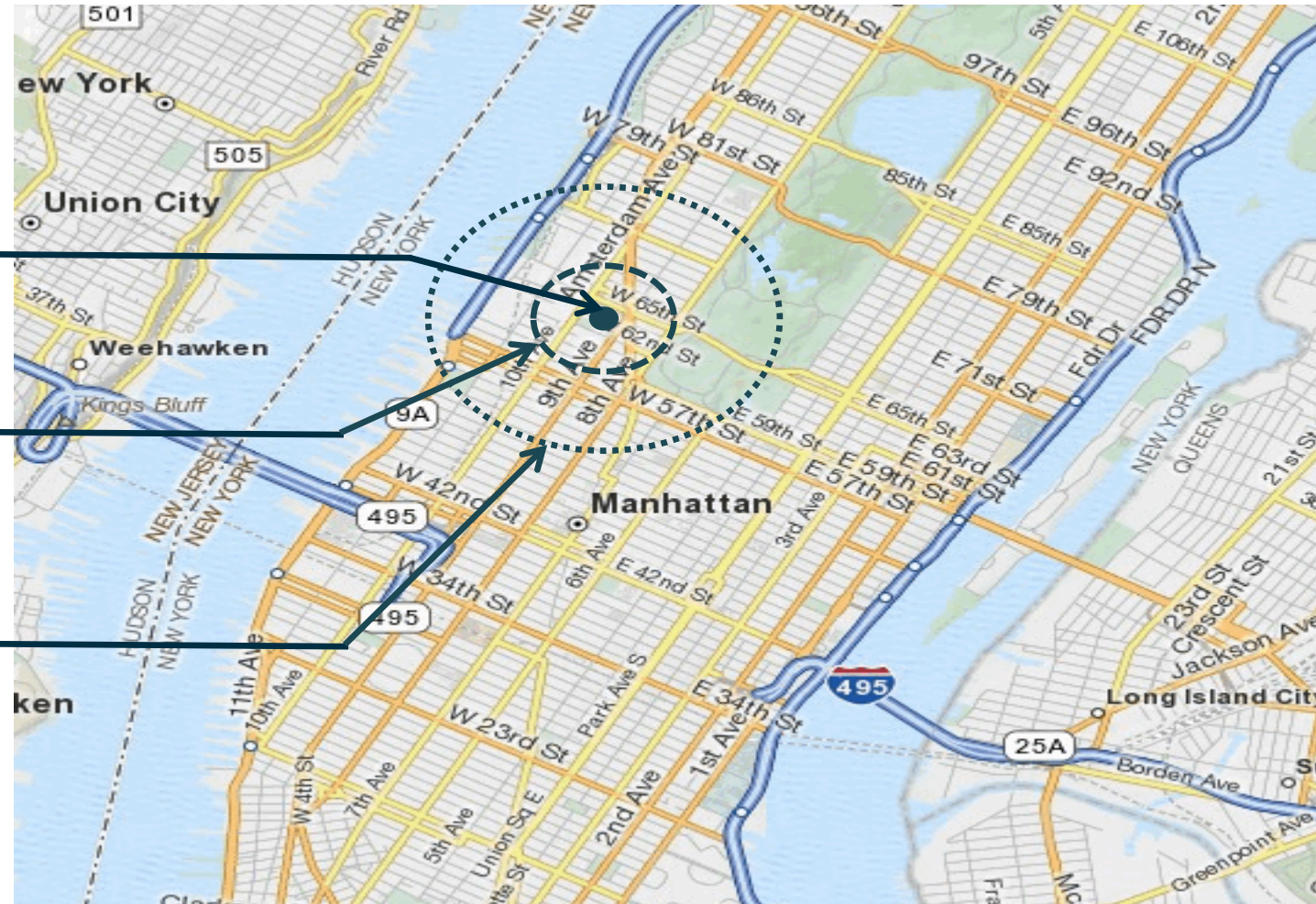
Wireless Microphone Protection Area

Microphone operating around a geographic point

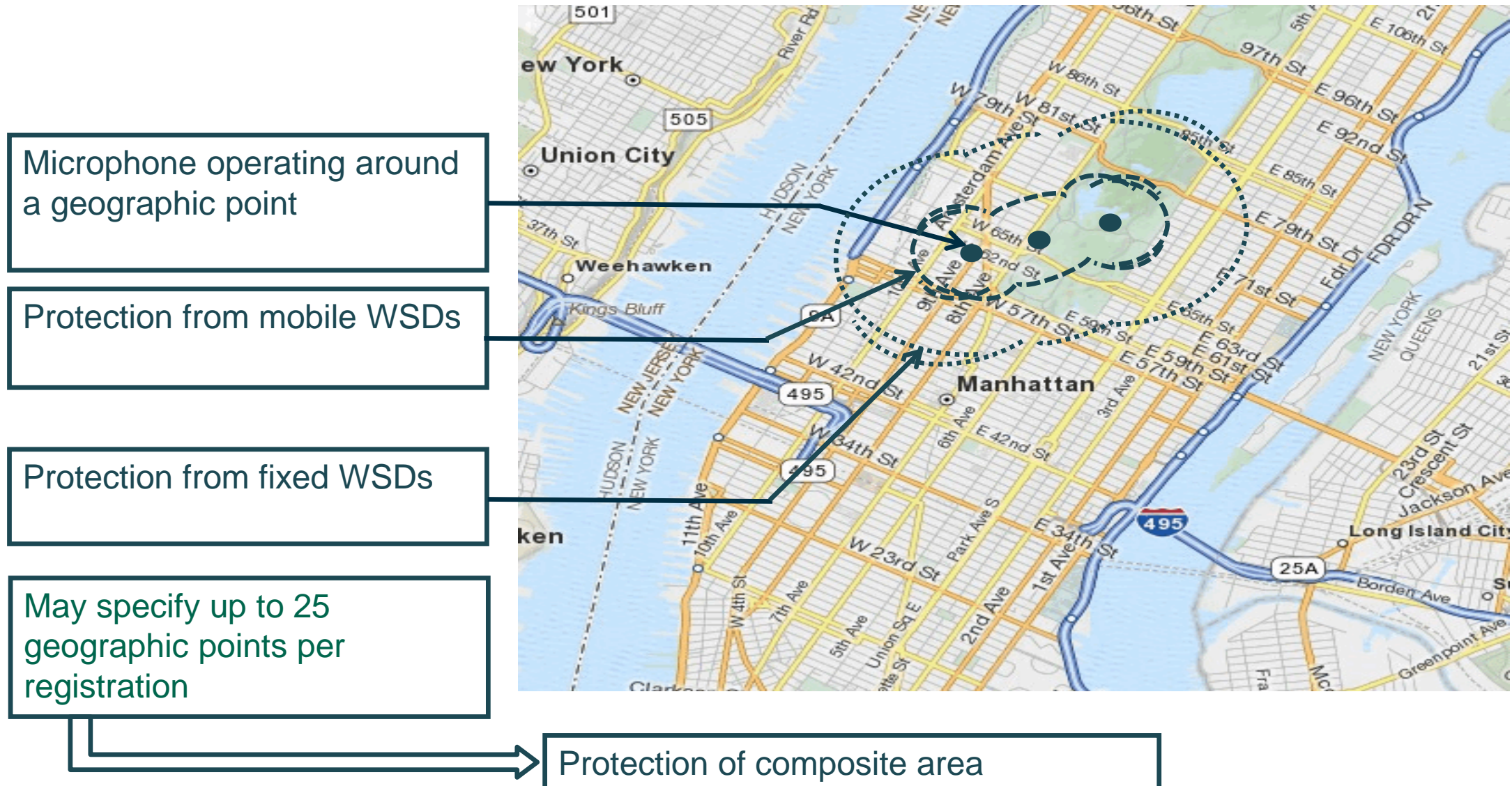
Protection from mobile WSDs

Protection from fixed WSDs

May specify up to 25 geographic points per registration



Wireless Microphone Protection Area, cont'd.



Wireless Microphone Protection Area, cont'd.

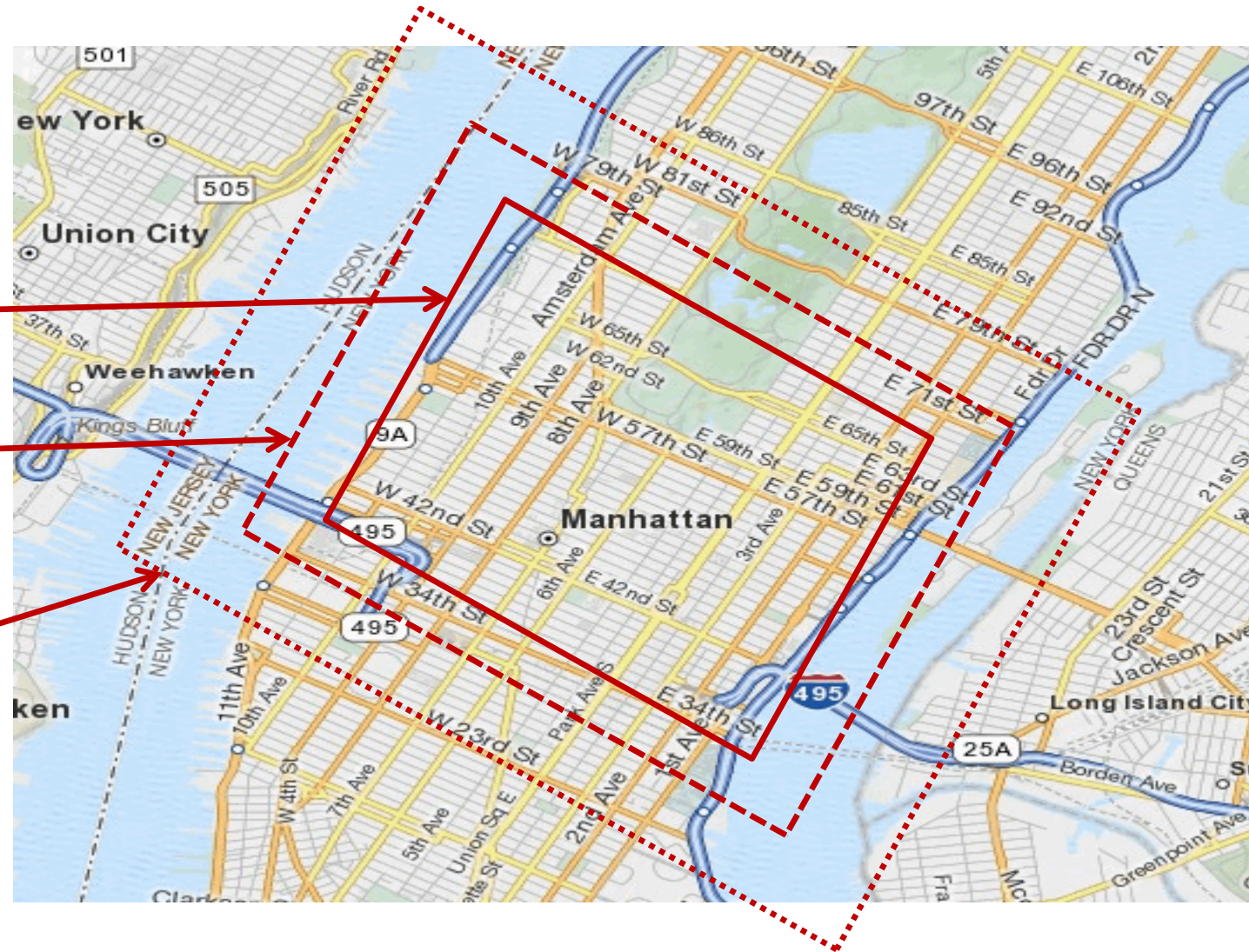
Polygon – limited to 4 vertices & 3 km sides

Microphone operating area

Protection from mobile WSDs

Protection from fixed WSDs

May specify up to 4 polygons per registration



Wireless Microphone Protection Area, cont'd.

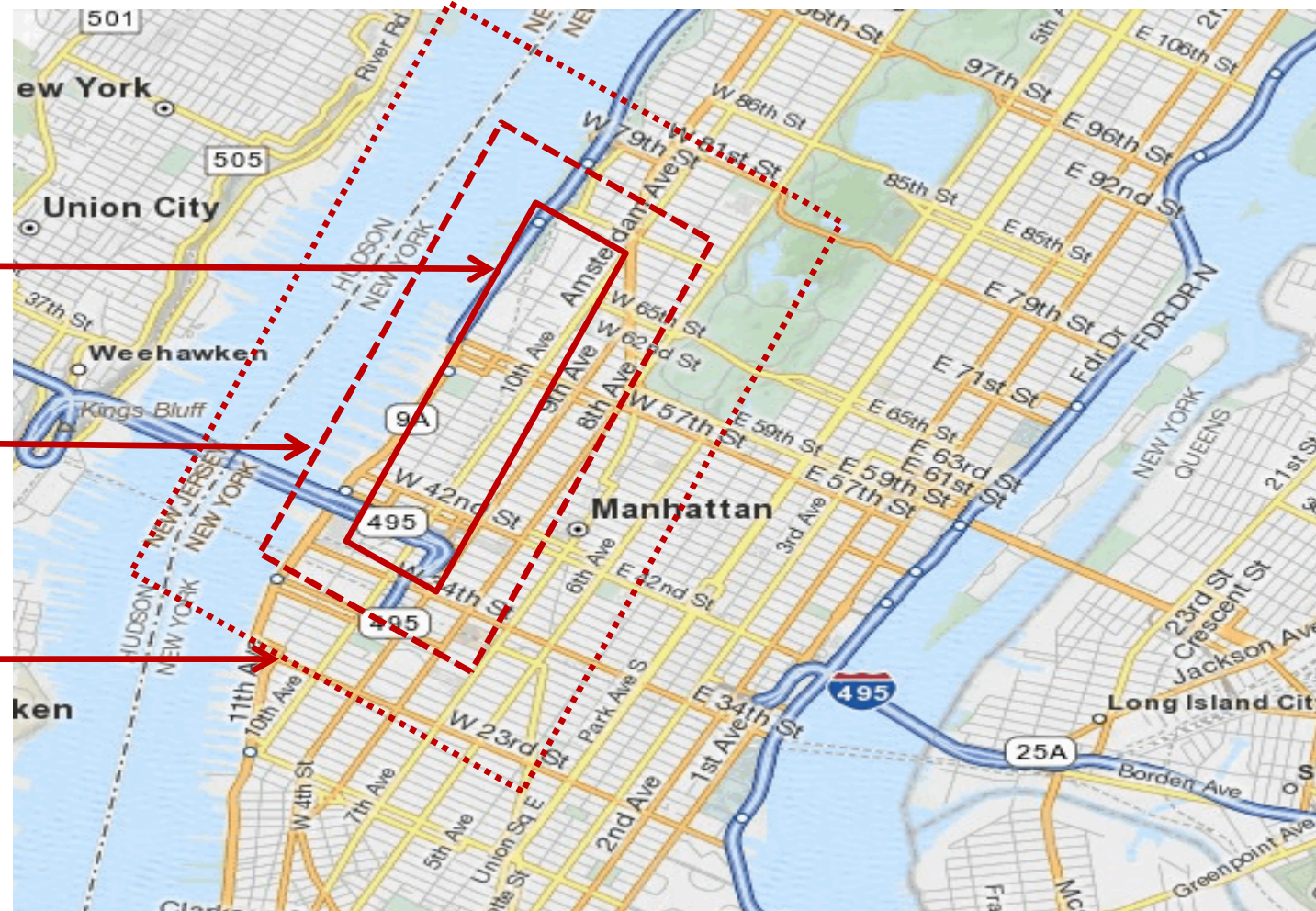
Polygon – limited to 4 vertices & 3 km sides

Microphone operating area

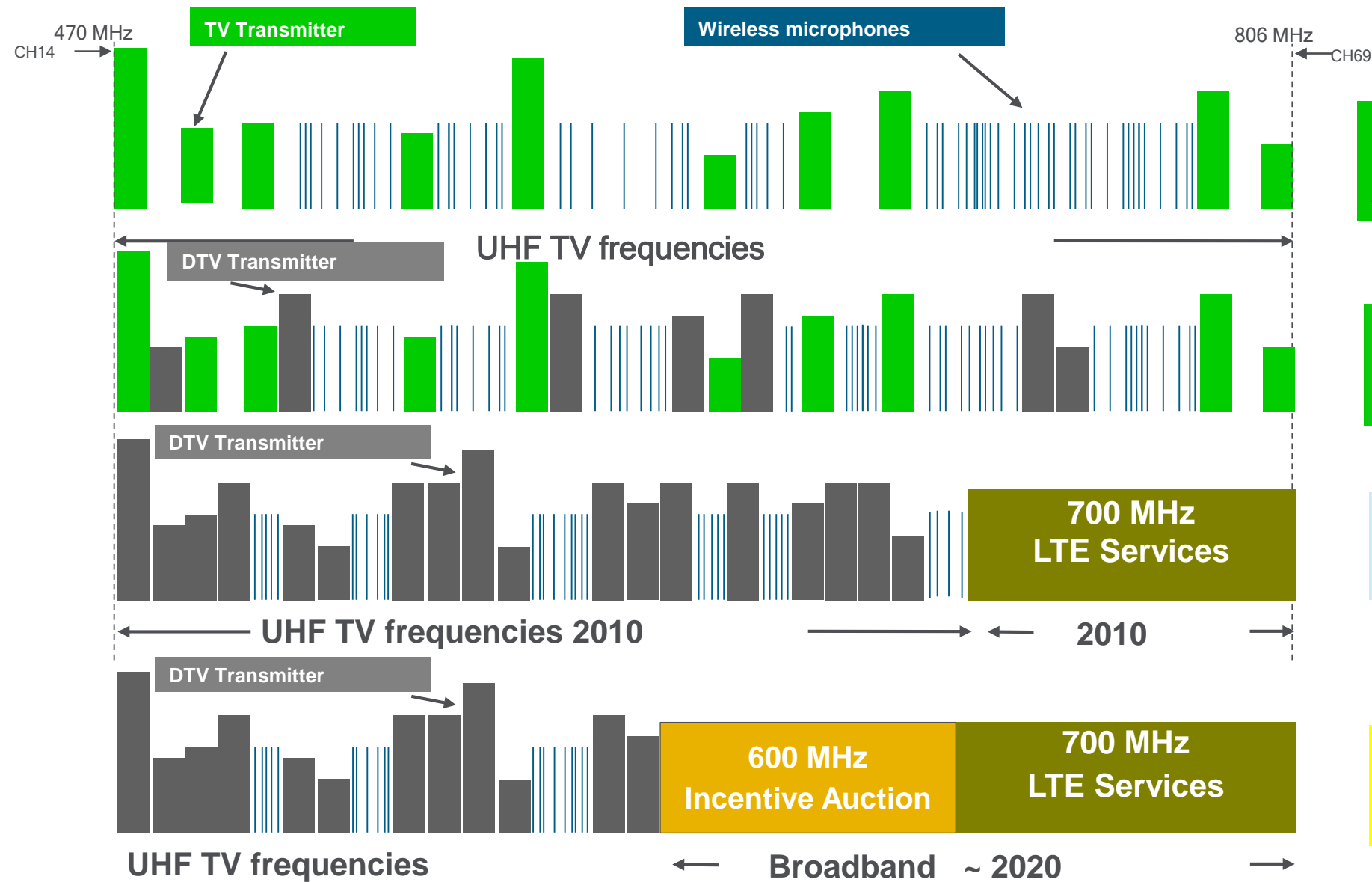
Protection from mobile WSDs

Protection from fixed WSDs

May specify up to 4 polygons
per registration



Incentive Auction & TV Band Repacking

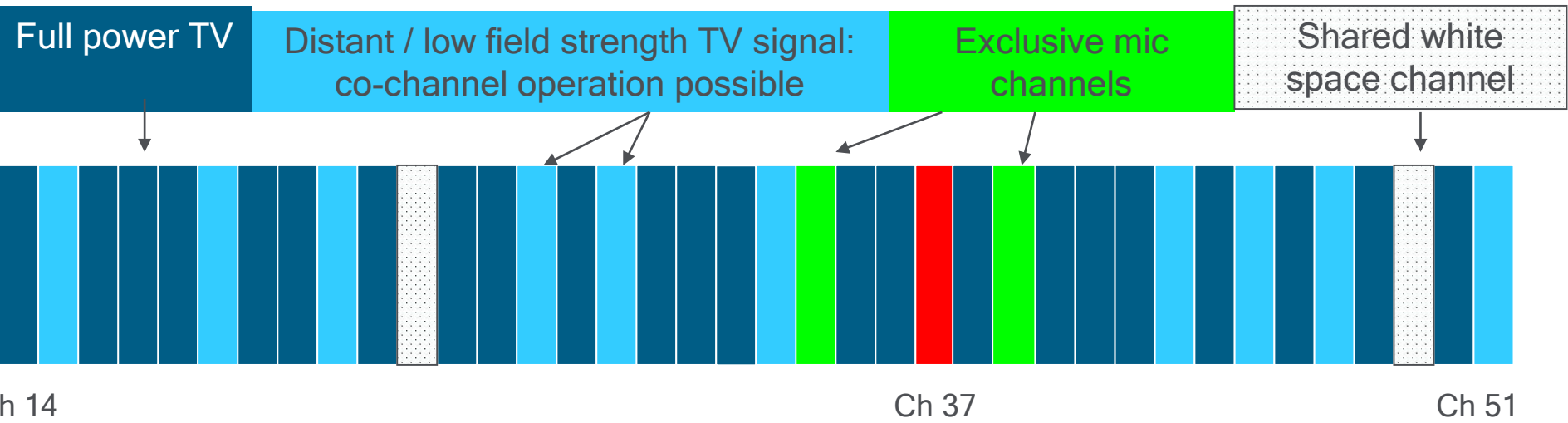


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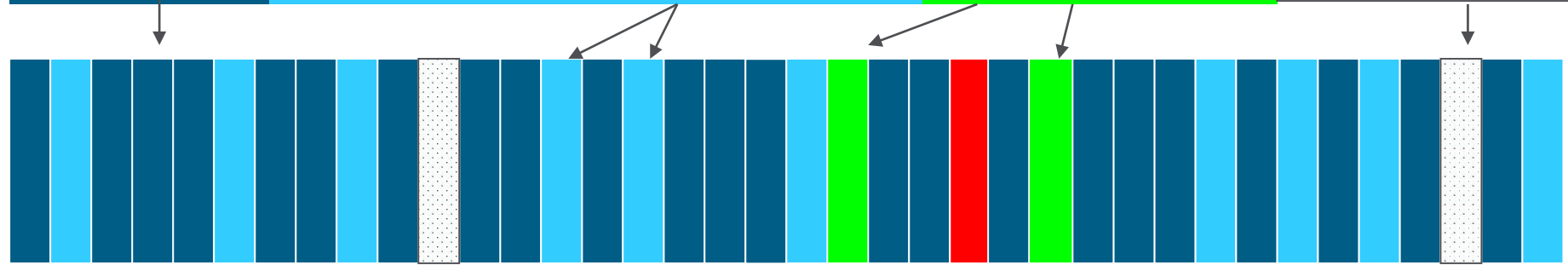
Now:
Full Digital Scenario

Future:
More Broadband services



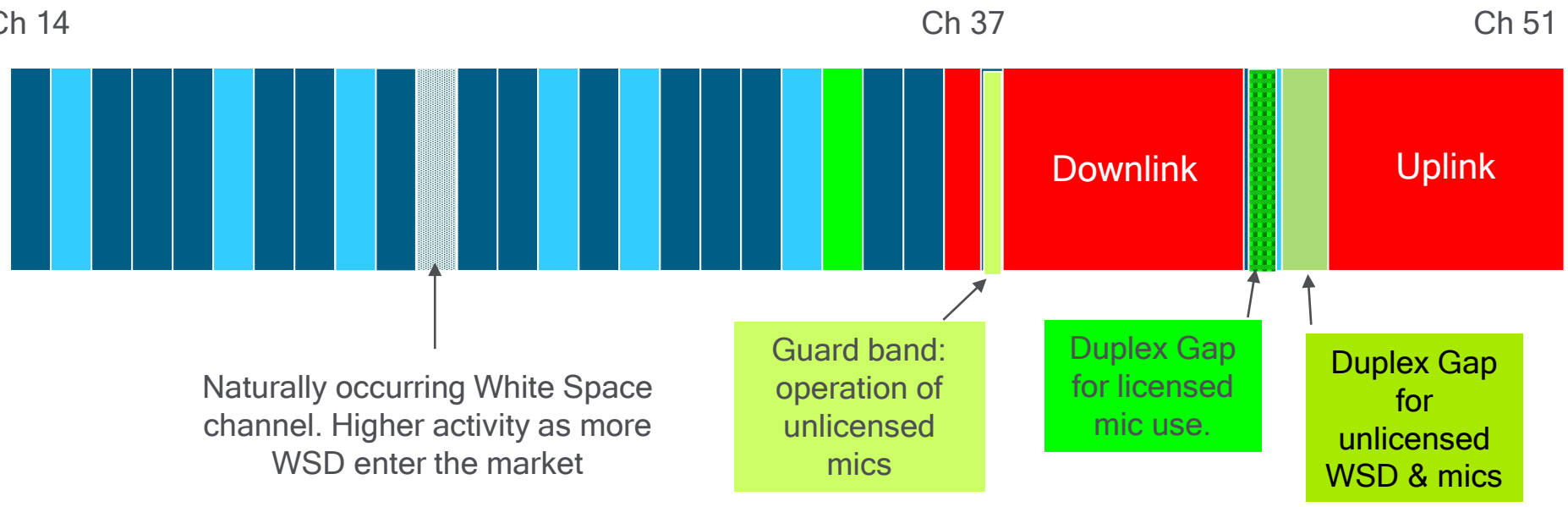
Current TV Band

White Space Devices (WSD) devices are presently few and far between



Current TV Band

White Space Devices (WSD) devices are presently few and far between



Repacking Scenario
(simplified)

some stations go off air
some stations relocated

FCC Incentive Auction Outcome

- A large portion of the 600 MHz band, specifically 614-698 MHz, will be repurposed and become unavailable at the end of a 39 month transition period in July 2020.
- About half the existing UHF equipment in the U.S. will need to be modified or replaced.
- There will be pockets (duplex gap and guard band) in the repurposed spectrum where mics will be allowed to operate.
- Co-channel operation rules are revised.
- Mics now have access to alternate ranges

Wireless microphones and monitors can operate in the white and green channels.
They are also permitted to use the light blue channels under certain conditions.

Example (simplified):
UHF (470 - 698 MHz)
band plan for a U.S.
city (no specific one)

Current TV Band

White Space Devices
(WSD) are presently
few and far between

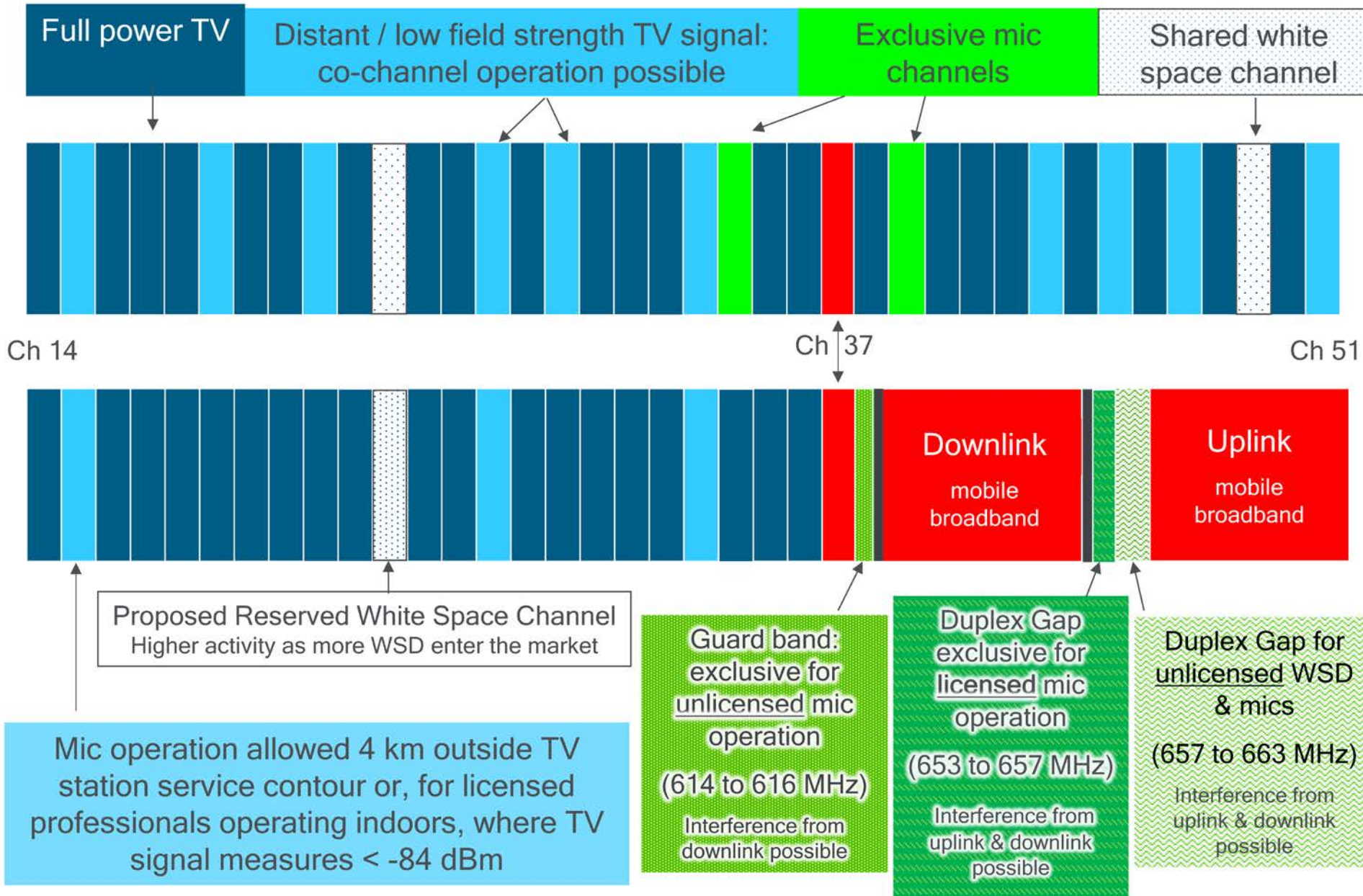
Future

After UHF band
repacking circa 2021
with 600 MHz band
repurposed for mobile
broadband.

Contact: Joe Ciaudelli

860-848-3132

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Co-Channel Operation

- The FCC revised rules regarding co-channel operation with TV broadcast, opening channels to wireless mics at locations that were formerly prohibited.
 - 4 km outside of TV service contour, rather than 100 km away from TV antenna, or...
 - Licensed operators can use field a strength benchmark where the TV signal < -84 dBm (indoors), rather than geographical separation.

Alternative Ranges

- **169 - 172 MHz** (just below high band VHF TV channels) rules were revised to make it more practical for wireless mics
- Additional frequency ranges above the TV Bands are now available to licensed wireless microphone operators:
 - **941.5 - 960 MHz** - effectively extends current STL band
 - Now open to all part 74 licensees.
 - **1435 - 1525 MHz** shared with flight training
 - Requires approval from AFTRCC (coordinating agency for this range)
 - Equipment will use an electronic key which will allow its operation at the approved time and location.
 - **6875 - 6900 & 7100 - 7125 MHz** : OK for short range applications

Thank you!



Contact:
Joe Ciaudelli
+1 860-848-3132 info@spectrumaffairs.com