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JAN 12 1999

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January 12, 1999

Mr. Carl Huie
Experimental Licensing Branch
Office of Engineering and Technology
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W., Room 230
Washington, D.C. 20554

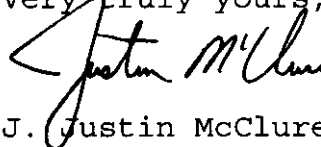
Re: SkyTel Communications, Inc.
Amendment to FCC Form 442 - Application for
Experimental Radio Station Authorization
File No. 0017-EX-PL-98

Dear Mr. Huie:

Pursuant to our discussion and on behalf of SkyTel Communications, Inc. ("SkyTel"), please find enclosed herewith a minor amendment to the referenced application filed on November 17, 1998, requesting grant of an Experimental Radio Station Authorization to permit SkyTel to operate over a second 50 KHz 940 MHz channel in order to permit further testing and improvement of its Narrowband PCS service. By the enclosed amendment and in response to your request, SkyTel provides further detail and clarification with respect to the requested number of base stations and mobile units, the status of type-acceptance of the equipment to be utilized, and how the mobile units will be employed in the testing. Accordingly, please associate this amendment with the subject application.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and should any questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


J. Justin McClure

Enclosure
cc: Neal Smith

A M E N D M E N T

The application of SkyTel Communications, Inc. ("SkyTel") on FCC Form 442 (File No. 0017-EX-PL-98) filed on November 17, 1998, requesting grant of an Experimental Radio Station Authorization to permit SkyTel to operate over a second 50 KHz 940 MHz channel in order to permit further testing and improvement of its Narrowband PCS service is hereby amended by providing further detail and clarification regarding its proposed testing and operations.

A. Number of Base Station and Mobile Units

In its application, SkyTel requested up to 15 base stations and 250 mobile units for its testing to be centered around Jackson, Mississippi. However, SkyTel amends its application to request authority for up to 5 base stations which should prove sufficient to provide adequate coverage in the proposed testing area. SkyTel still requests authority for up to 250 mobile units so that SkyTel will have a sufficient statistical sample with which to obtain adequate feedback regarding the network and the mobile test units in high use situations.

B. Status of Type Acceptance of Equipment to be Utilized

The purpose of the testing is to examine the configuration and operation of a frequency agile paging or messaging device. In particular, the goal is to allow the paging unit itself to determine when to change frequency in high traffic areas. The subject application was necessitated because SkyTel must use non-type accepted equipment. SkyTel proposes to use off the shelf type-accepted paging or messaging devices for these tests. Minor modifications will be made to the unit's software. It is not known at this time whether the proposed software modification to the mobile units can be undertaken as a permissible change to the unit's FCC type-acceptance grant. SkyTel and its vendors, Motorola, Inc. and Glenayre, Inc., do not plan to modify the RF operating parameters of the units, rather they plan to only modify the software in the units. Thus, SkyTel believes that such modifications would be permissible. In the event the testing proves to be successful and type-acceptance is required, SkyTel submits that the units will be fully qualified by the FCC prior to production.

With respect to the base stations, SkyTel will utilize type-accepted equipment in its testing.

C. Use of Mobile Units in Test

No member of the general public will be provided with any test units. SkyTel proposes to place the majority of the mobile units in laboratory test beds which may be moved to various locations within the testing area from time to time. Some mobile test units may be carried by SkyTel employees in order to monitor the network, test traffic and review the technology. These test units will not be used for communication purposes by the employees.

In all other respects, the application is unchanged.