

Main Points of Proceedings of the 896th Radio Regulatory Council Meeting

1. Date

Wednesday, June 8, 2005 16:18 to 17:47PM

2. Venue

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications conference room (conference room No. 1002, 10th floor)

3. Participants (honorific titles omitted)

(1) Committee member of the Radio Regulatory Council

Yasuhiko YASUDA (Chairman), Takeo IGUCHI, Hatsuko UKIKAWA

(2) Hearing examiner of the Radio Regulatory Council

Tasuku KIYASU

(3) Secretary

Masao OKAMOTO (Assistant Director of the General Affairs Division, Telecommunications Bureau)

(4) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (hereinafter referred to as “the MIC” in this section)

ARITOMI (Director General of the Telecommunications Bureau), HORIE (Director General of the Information and Communications Policy Bureau), TAKEDA (Director General of the Radio Department), OGASAWARA (Councilor) and others

4. Contents of proceedings

(1) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Law Enforcement Regulations, Radio Equipment Regulations, the Ordinance Concerning Technical Regulations Conformity Certification of Specified Radio Equipment and the Ordinance Concerning a Survey of Radio Spectrum Usage, etc. and a plan to amend part of the frequency allocation plan (Inquiries No. 17 and No. 18, dated April 13, 2005)

Concerning the captioned ministerial ordinance plan related to the amendment of technical standards for radio equipment of a broadcasting station performing shortwave broadcasting, establishment of technical standards for an embedded-in-body type medical data transmission system, alleviation of technical conditions for a low-power security system and deletion of relevant rules due to the termination of aircraft telephony services in accordance with the amendment of technical standards concerning permissible values of spurious emission intensity

of radio equipment and the amendment of radio communications regulations by the World Radio Communications Conference (WRC), as well as a plan to amend part of the frequency allocation plan, the members of the Radio Regulatory Council deliberated on a protocol submitted by the Hearing Examiner who presided over the hearing and the written opinions (see written opinions obtained at the 400th Radio Regulatory Council Meeting) and replied to the effect that the amendment plans are appropriate on the whole.

Furthermore, the participants added their opinion to the effect that the ministerial ordinance to amend part of the Radio Equipment Regulations, the validity of the transitional measures for radio equipment of a radio station for which a license has been obtained should be extended for a specific period of time and regarding the technical conditions for carrier-sensing radio equipment for a specified low-power radio station using emissions of a frequency in a range higher than 402 MHz to 405 MHz, measures to make the emission of radio waves possible, even when the radio equipment receives radio waves from other radio stations that exceed reception input power prescribed in the technical conditions, should be taken.

(2) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Station Operation Regulations (Inquiry No. 19, dated April 13, 2005)

Concerning the captioned ministerial ordinance plan related to the addition of the type of monitored emissions in air traffic control communications, the participants deliberated on a protocol submitted by the Hearing Examiner who presided over the hearing and the written opinions (see written opinions obtained at 401st Radio Regulatory Council Meeting) and replied to the effect that the ministerial ordinance plan is appropriate.

(3) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Equipment Regulations (Inquiry No. 20, dated April 13, 2005)

Concerning the captioned ministerial ordinance plan related to the amendment of technical standards for a NAVTEX receiver, etc. for maritime communications, members of the Radio Regulatory Council deliberated on a protocol submitted by the Hearing Examiner who presided over the hearing and the written opinions (see written opinions obtained at 402nd Radio Regulatory Council Meeting) and replied to the effect that the ministerial ordinance plan is appropriate.

(4) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Law Enforcement

Regulations (Inquiry No. 25)

Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Law Enforcement Regulations related to the establishment of a system in accordance with the use of frequencies in the 1.7 GHz or 2 GHz bands as frequencies for mobile radio communications, a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was held, as set out below.

A hearing of inquiry No. 19, is obligatory pursuant to Article 99.12, paragraph 1 of the Radio Law, and Tasuku KIYASU was designated as the hearing examiner to preside over the hearing procedure.

a. Explanation by the MIC

In establishing guidelines for the installation of the specified base station using a new frequency in a 1.7 GHz or 2 GHz band, this ministerial ordinance plan is intended to amend part of the Radio Law Enforcement Regulations in such a way that the term of validity of the attestation of the installation plan of the specified base station shall be five years.

The background to this is that because an environment for introducing IMT-2000 into a 1.7 GHz band has been prepared, we have to work out a licensing policy.

For an attestation system for installing a specific type of base station, such as a base station for mobile phones, which needs to be installed in a large number of places, only specific people are allowed to apply for a license for the necessary frequency and only for a specific period, so that the specified base station can be installed smoothly. Under this attestation system, any person who wishes to use any of the frequencies announced by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications will draft a base station installation in accordance with the licensing policy and the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications will attest the base station. Only persons who have obtained attestation may apply for a base station license and only they can install the base station.

The duration for which people can apply for an exclusive license is stipulated in the Radio Law as the period of the attestation validity, namely 5 years. Regarding a specified base station using frequencies in the 1.7 GHz or 2 GHz bands, about 15,000 to 20,000 base stations are required to cover mobile phones nationally and since it takes a considerable amount of time to install such a large number of base stations, we think it appropriate that the attestation validity term should be,

in principle, a period of 5 years, which is the upper limit prescribed by the Radio Law.

This ministerial ordinance is to be amended on the occasion of introducing specified base stations into the 1.7 GHz or 2 GHz bands. We will establish a universal term of validity of attestation of 5 years for mobile phones, etc. regardless of whether these fall in a specific frequency or not and we will make exceptional regulations for each individual frequency only in cases where there are special circumstances to shorten the attestation validity term.

b. Main questions and answers

- Are there any radio systems subject to attestation, other than mobile phones and PHS? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“Currently, the only radio systems available internationally are mobile phones and PHS, but we will make any similar systems that are introduced in the future subject to attestation.”*

(5) Concerning a pre-permit for a terrestrial digital television broadcasting station (Inquiry No. 26)

Concerning a pre-permit for a terrestrial digital television broadcasting station, a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was conducted, as set out below. After deliberation, members of the Radio Regulatory Council replied to the effect that the pre-permit is appropriate.

a. Explanation by the MIC

NHK has 13 broadcasting stations that are the subject of this inquiry and commercial broadcasters have 40 such broadcasting stations. 19 Prefectures will be new areas for a terrestrial digital television broadcasting station.

Some broadcasting stations will start operating from December 1 this year and others will start operating by October 1, 2006, at the latest. The broadcasting stations subject to this inquiry are characterized by the ability to operate at full power from the outset, but NHK Fukuoka, NHK Okinawa and Tochigi TV want to increase power gradually.

When terrestrial digital broadcasting commences in 19 prefectures, about 12,000,000 households will be able to receive it directly. In addition, about 20,000,000 households that have already been able to receive it directly will mean that about 70% of all households will be able to receive this type of broadcasting.

We examined the contents of the applications and found that all the applications had completely satisfied the requirements for simulcast and high vision and had complied with the licensing policy. Besides, the applicants submitted sound business revenue and expenditure estimates that showed no financial problems.

About 16 NHK broadcasting stations and about 60 commercial broadcasters have not yet made applications for terrestrial digital broadcasting, but they are preparing to make applications *en bloc* by this summer. We will make inquiries with the Radio Regulatory Council this year and will establish an environment for starting terrestrial digital broadcasting in each prefectural capital around the country by no later than the end of next year.

b. Main questions and answers

- How widely have receivers for terrestrial digital broadcasting been disseminated? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“We are in the process of checking this now, but there are about 4 million receivers for terrestrial digital broadcasting and when broadcasting programs that are being viewed by cable transmission are added, the diffusion rate of receivers for terrestrial digital broadcasting is about 8%. So the diffusion of terrestrial digital receivers is progressing steadily.”*

- What about the diffusion of BS digital broadcasting? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“There are a total of about 8,900,000 households that receive BS digital broadcasting, while about 12,000,000 households still receive BS analog broadcasting. However, we expect BS digital broadcasting to surpass analog sooner or later.”*

(6) Other subjects

A participant from the MIC reported on the following three matters: collection of public comments on a guideline plan for the establishment of a specified base station; an outline of NHK’s fiscal 2004 settlement of accounts and business report; and a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Regulations for Enforcement of the Law Concerning Broadcasting over a Telecommunications service.

(Responsibility for the wording: Secretariat of the Radio Regulatory Council)