



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 17, 2026

Mr. Alexander Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to submit the information collection described herein under the “emergency processing” provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (5 CFR § 1320.13). The Commission is requesting clearance for a modified, currently approved collection entitled: 3060-1272, 3.7 GHz Band Space Station Operator Accelerated Relocation Elections and Transition Plans; 3.7 GHz Band Earth Station Lump Sum Payment Elections.¹ We respectfully request OMB approval for this information collection no later than 35 days after it is received at OMB.

On July 22, 2026, pursuant to its statutory imperative in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act,² and with the goal of releasing more mid-band spectrum into the market for next-generation wireless services, the Commission adopted a Report and Order, Order of Proposed Modification, and Order on Reconsideration, in which it repurposed the use of part of the 3.98-4.2 GHz band, which is also known as the Upper C-Band.³ The OBBB Act directed the Commission to “grant licenses through systems of competitive bidding . . . including by completing a system of competitive bidding not later than [July 4, 2027,] for not less than 100 megahertz in the band between 3.98 gigahertz and 4.2 gigahertz.” To that end, the *Upper C-band R&O* will relocate existing Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) operations out of the 4.0-4.16 GHz band and make 3.98-4.14 GHz⁴ available for flexible-use throughout the contiguous United States through a Commission-administered public auction of licenses. That auction is scheduled to commence on April 27, 2027, before the statutory deadline of July 4, 2027.⁵ As detailed herein, well in advance of the auction start, potential bidders need to have more granular information about the potential transition costs for which they would be responsible as a condition of the *Upper C-band R&O*, thus

¹ The Commission also seeks to revise the title of this collection to: 3.7 GHz Band Space Station Operator Transition Plans; 3.7 GHz Band Earth Station Lump Sum Payment Elections. This revised title more accurately reflects the current nature of the collection, which no longer includes accelerated relocation elections.

² Pub. L. No. 119-21, § 40002(b)(2), 139 Stat. 72 (2025) (OBBB Act).

³ See generally *Upper C-band (3.98–4.2 GHz), Expanding Flexible Use of the 3.7 to 4.2 GHz Band*, GN Docket Nos. 25-59 and 18-122, Report and Order, Order of Proposed Modification, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 26-46 (July 24, 2026) (*Upper C-band R&O*).

⁴ The 20 megahertz from 4.14-4.16 GHz is being reserved as a guard band.

⁵ See OBBB Act, § 40002(b)(2); *Auction of Flexible-Use Licenses in the Upper C-band for Next-Generation Wireless Services Scheduled for April 27, 2027, Comment Sought on Competitive Bidding Procedures for Auction 115*; AU Docket No. 26-191, Public Notice, DA 26-769 (OEA/WTB July 24, 2026) (*Auction 115 Comment PN*).

necessitating modification of the existing information collection which was used in conjunction with the earlier Lower C-band transition.

In order to meet its Congressional command and spectrum priorities, the Commission adopted a transition schedule designed to achieve an expeditious relocation of FSS operations, ensure that a significant amount of spectrum is quickly made available for next-generation wireless deployments, and provide appropriate accommodation to relocated incumbent users. The *Upper C-band R&O* establishes two deadlines for the transition of FSS operations: a Primary Transition Deadline of December 30, 2030, for the relocation of the top 75 Partial Economic Areas (PEAs) in the contiguous United States; and a Final Transition Deadline of June 30, 2031, for all remaining PEAs in the contiguous United States.⁶ Auction bidders who become licensees in the Upper C-band will be required to reimburse eligible space station operators⁷ and incumbent earth stations⁸ for their reasonable and necessary relocation costs. Such licensees must also make incentive payments to eligible space station operators that meet the relevant Transition Deadlines.

The Commission concluded in the *Upper C-band R&O* that, before the public auction of new licenses commences, it is essential for potential bidders to have clarity as to when they will get access to the auctioned Upper C-band spectrum, and to have an estimate of how much they would be required to pay for incumbent relocation costs and incentive payments should they become licensees. To facilitate providing this information to potential auction bidders, the Commission is seeking approval for a modified, previously approved information collection to permit it to collect the following from incumbents, as adopted in the *Upper C-band R&O*:

- (1) *Transition Plans*. Each eligible space station operator must, by November 5, 2026, submit and make available for public review a formal Transition Plan detailing all relocation steps and estimated costs necessary to clear 4.0-4.16 GHz and its specific timeline for doing so, consistent with the Primary and Final Transition Deadlines.
- (2) *Incumbent Earth Station Lump Sum Elections*. An incumbent earth station operator has the option of either accepting actual cost reimbursement payments for its reasonable and necessary transition costs, or opting out of the actual cost reimbursement process and accepting a lump sum payment. This lump sum mechanism will afford incumbent earth station operators in the contiguous United States the option to: (1) perform their own transition work to maintain FSS service; (2) migrate to an alternative distribution technology such as an IP-delivered service; or (3) discontinue service altogether. The lump sum payment will be based on the average estimated, reasonable costs of transitioning existing FSS C-band service out of 4.0–4.16 GHz, including costs related to the potential migration of downlink service to an alternative band, which are expected to be greater than those costs associated with a repack within the Upper C-band. An incumbent earth station operator that wishes to irrevocably opt out of the actual cost

⁶ See *Upper C-band R&O* at 55, para. 111.

⁷ An “eligible space station operator” is an incumbent space station operator that has demonstrated as of February 1, 2020, that it has an existing relationship to provide service via C-band satellite transmission to one or more incumbent earth stations in the contiguous United States. *Upper C-band R&O* at 45, para. 93.

⁸ “Incumbent earth stations” include fixed and temporary fixed earth stations that were operational as of April 19, 2018, and that: (1) continue to be operational; (2) were licensed or registered in the IBFS (now ICFS) database on November 7, 2018; and (3) timely certified the accuracy of the information on file with the Commission by May 28, 2019. *Upper C-band R&O* at 45, para. 94.

reimbursement process and accept a lump sum payment for some or all of its incumbent earth stations in the contiguous United States must do so no later than 60 days after the release of the Cost Catalog that will announce the lump sum amounts.

The information reported under this modified information collection is necessary to implement the Commission's framework for reforming the Upper C-band on an expedited timeline, as required by the OBBB Act. Crucially, the information will serve as the starting point for planning and managing the process and timelines for efficiently and expeditiously clearing existing operations out of 4.0-4.16 GHz so that the spectrum can be auctioned for flexible-use service licenses. The Commission and prospective auction bidders will use the information to ascertain when, how, and at what cost existing operations in 4.0-4.16 GHz will be relocated.

The Commission expects bidding for new Upper C-band licenses to commence on April 27, 2027.⁹ The aggressive schedule for collecting the above-described information is necessary to ensure that the Commission will be able to obtain, process, and provide information well in advance of the start of bidding to guide potential auction bidders on how much they may be required to pay—should they become licensees—for incumbent relocation costs and incentive payments sufficiently in advance of the time they must decide whether to apply to participate in the auction. This process will also ensure that the auction can commence as scheduled. Because the dates by which respondents must submit their responses to this information collection are fewer than four months away, the Commission is requesting emergency processing and approval of this modified information collection.

Requiring the Commission to seek OMB's approval for this new collection under the regular PRA processing procedures would significantly delay implementation of the framework for reforming the Upper C-band adopted by the Commission. If the Commission were to wait 120 days to formally notify the public and potential interested parties of its intent to collect the above-described information under this collection, the Commission's ability to obtain, process, and provide the necessary information to potential bidders sufficiently in advance of deadline to apply to participate in the auction would be substantially delayed. Such a delay could push back the auction itself, and that further delay could threaten the Commission's ability to meet its statutory obligation to complete the auction by July 4, 2027.

Due to the emergency nature of this request, the Commission is requesting a waiver of the requirement to publish a 60-day notice in the Federal Register. The Commission will instead publish a 30-day notice in the Federal Register seeking comments from the public concerning this information collection, in accordance with the emergency processing procedures. This will give the public an opportunity to comment on this emergency submission, while allowing the Commission to meet its statutory obligation. The Commission will conduct all of the necessary regular submission requirements under the PRA after approval of this emergency request.

The Commission's staff is ready to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to facilitate OMB's approval of this emergency request for these modified information collections no later than 35 days after it is received at OMB. Please have your PRA Desk

⁹ See *Auction 115 Comment PN* at 2, para. 2.

Officer contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418-2918 or cathy.williams@fcc.gov if there are any questions or need for additional information.

Sincerely,

Daniel Daly
Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission