

§§ 24.416–24.429 [Reserved]

**§ 24.430 Opposition to applications.**

(a) Petitions to deny (including petitions for other forms of relief) and responsive pleadings for Commission consideration must comply with § 1.2108 of this chapter and must:

(1) Identify the application or applications (including applicant's name, station location, Commission file numbers and radio service involved) with which it is concerned;

(2) Be filed in accordance with the pleading limitations, filing periods, and other applicable provisions of §§ 1.41 through 1.52 of this chapter except where otherwise provided in § 1.2108 of this chapter;

(3) Contain specific allegations of fact which, except for facts of which official notice may be taken, shall be supported by affidavit of a person or persons with personal knowledge thereof, and which shall be sufficient to demonstrate that the petitioner (or respondent) is a party in interest and that a grant of, or other Commission action regarding, the application would be prima facie inconsistent with the public interest; and

(4) Contain a certificate of service showing that it has been mailed to the applicant no later than the date of filing thereof with the Commission.

(b) A petition to deny a major amendment to a previously filed application may only raise matters directly related to the amendment which could not have been raised in connection with the underlying, previously filed application. This does not apply to petitioners who gain standing because of the major amendment.

(c) Parties who file frivolous petitions to deny may be subject to sanctions including monetary forfeitures, license revocation, if they are FCC licensees, and may be prohibited from participating in future auctions.

[59 FR 44072, Aug. 26, 1994, as amended at 65 FR 35855, June 6, 2000]

**§ 24.431 Mutually exclusive applications.**

(a) The Commission will consider applications to be mutually exclusive if their conflicts are such that the grant of one application would effectively

preclude by reason of harmful electrical interference, or other practical reason, the grant of one or more of the other applications. The Commission will presume "harmful electrical interference" to mean interference which would result in a material impairment to service rendered to the public despite full cooperation in good faith by all applicants or parties to achieve reasonable technical adjustments which would avoid electrical conflict.

(b) Mutually exclusive applications filed on Form 175 for the initial provision of narrowband PCS service are subject to competitive bidding in accordance with the procedures in subpart F of this part and in 47 CFR part 1, subpart Q.

(c) An application will be entitled to comparative consideration with one or more conflicting applications only if the Commission determines that such comparative consideration will serve the public interest.

§§ 24.432–24.444 [Reserved]

**Subpart H—Competitive Bidding Procedures for Broadband PCS**

SOURCE: 59 FR 37604, July 22, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 24.701 Broadband PCS subject to competitive bidding.**

Mutually exclusive initial applications to provide broadband PCS service are subject to competitive bidding procedures. The general competitive bidding procedures found in 47 CFR part 1, subpart Q will apply unless otherwise provided in this part.

**§ 24.702 Competitive bidding design for Broadband PCS licensing.**

(a) The Commission will employ the following competitive bidding designs when choosing from among mutually exclusive initial applications to provide broadband PCS service:

- (1) Simultaneous multiple round auctions.
- (2) Sequential auctions.

(b) The Commission may design and test alternative procedures. The Commission will announce by Public Notice before each auction the competitive

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bidding design to be employed in a particular auction.

(c) The Commission may use combinatorial bidding, which would allow bidders to submit all or nothing bids on combinations of licenses, in addition to bids on individual licenses. The Commission may require that to be declared the high bid, a combinatorial bid must exceed the sum of the individual bids by a specified amount or percentage. Combinatorial bidding may be used with any type of auction design.

(d) The Commission may use single combined auctions, which combine bidding for two or more substitutable licenses and award licenses to the highest bidders until the available licenses are exhausted. This technique may be used in conjunction with any type of auction.

### § 24.703 [Reserved]

### § 24.704 Withdrawal, default and disqualification penalties.

See § 1.2104 of this chapter.

[63 FR 50799, Sept. 23, 1998]

### § 24.705 [Reserved]

### § 24.706 Submission of upfront payments and down payments.

(a) All auction participants are required to submit an upfront payment in accordance with § 1.2106 of this chapter. Any C block applicant that has previously been in default on any Commission licenses or has previously been delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency must submit an upfront payment equal to 50 percent more than that set for each particular license.

(b) Winning bidders in an auction must submit a down payment to the Commission in accordance with § 1.2107(b) of this chapter and §§ 24.711(a)(2) and 24.716(a)(2).

(c) Each eligible bidder for licenses on frequency Blocks D and E subject to auction shall pay an upfront payment of \$0.06 per MHz per pop for the maximum number of licenses (in terms of MHz-pops) on which it intends to bid

pursuant to § 1.2106 of this chapter and procedures specified by Public Notice.

[61 FR 33868, July 1, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 50799, Sept. 23, 1998]

### § 24.707 [Reserved]

### § 24.708 License grant, denial, default, and disqualification.

(a) Except with respect to entities eligible for installment payments (see § 24.711), each winning bidder will be required to pay the balance of its winning bid in a lump sum payment within five (5) business days following the award of the license. Grant of the license will be conditioned upon full and timely payment of the winning bid amount.

(b) A bidder who withdraws its bid subsequent to the close of bidding, defaults on a payment due or is disqualified will be subject to the penalties specified in § 1.2109 of this chapter.

### § 24.709 Eligibility for licenses for frequency Blocks C and F.

(a) *General Rule for licenses offered for closed bidding.* (1) No application is acceptable for filing and no license shall be granted to a winning bidder in closed bidding for frequency block C or frequency block F, unless the applicant, together with its affiliates and persons or entities that hold interests in the applicant and their affiliates, have had gross revenues of less than \$125 million in each of the last two years and total assets of less than \$500 million at the time the applicant's short-form application (Form 175) is filed.

(2) The *gross revenues* and *total assets* of the applicant (or licensee), and its *affiliates*, and (except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section) of persons or entities that hold interests in the applicant (or licensee), and their *affiliates*, shall be attributed to the applicant and considered on a cumulative basis and aggregated for purposes of determining whether the applicant (or licensee) is eligible for a license for frequency block C or frequency block F under this section.

(3) Any licensee awarded a license won in closed bidding pursuant to the eligibility requirements of this section (or pursuant to § 24.839(a)(2)) shall

maintain its eligibility until at least five years from the date of initial license grant, except that a licensee's (or other attributable entity's) increased gross revenues or increased total assets due to nonattributable equity investments (i.e., from sources whose gross revenues and total assets are not considered under paragraph (b) of this section), debt financing, revenue from operations or other investments, business development, or expanded service shall not be considered.

(4) In order to be eligible for participation in a C block auction, an applicant must certify that it is not in default on any Commission licenses and that it is not delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency. See § 24.706 of this part.

(5) An applicant for participation in a C block auction must state under penalty of perjury whether or not it has ever been in default on any Commission licenses or has ever been delinquent on any non-tax debt owed to any Federal agency. See § 24.706 of this part.

(b) *Exceptions to General Rule.* (1) *Small Business Consortia.* Where an applicant (or licensee) is a *consortium of small businesses*, the *gross revenues* and *total assets* of each small business shall not be aggregated.

(2) *Publicly-Traded Corporations.* Where an applicant (or licensee) is a *publicly traded corporation with widely dispersed voting power*, the *gross revenues* and *total assets* of a person or entity that holds an interest in the applicant (or licensee), and its *affiliates*, shall not be considered.

(3) *25 Percent Equity Exception.* The *gross revenues* and *total assets* of a person or entity that holds an interest in the applicant (or licensee), and its *affiliates*, shall not be considered so long as:

(i) Such person or entity, together with its *affiliates*, holds only *nonattributable equity* equaling no more than 25 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity;

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) of this section, such person or entity is not a member of the applicant's (or licensee's) *control group*; and

(iii) The applicant (or licensee) has a *control group* that complies with the minimum equity requirements of para-

graph (b)(5) of this section, and, if the applicant (or licensee) is a corporation, owns at least 50.1 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) voting interests, and, if the applicant (or licensee) is a partnership, holds all of its general partnership interests.

(4) *49.9 Percent Equity Exception.* The *gross revenues* and *total assets* of a person or entity that holds an interest in the applicant (or licensee), and its *affiliates*, shall not be considered so long as:

(i) Such person or entity, together with its *affiliates*, holds only *nonattributable equity* equaling no more than 49.9 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity;

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(6) of this section, such person or entity is not a member of the applicant's (or licensee's) *control group*; and

(iii) The applicant (or licensee) has a *control group* that complies with the minimum equity requirements of paragraph (b)(6) of this section and, if the applicant (or licensee) is a corporation, owns at least 50.1 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) voting interests, and, if the applicant (or licensee) is a partnership, holds all of its general partnership interests.

(5) *Control Group Minimum 25 Percent Equity Requirement.* In order to be eligible to exclude *gross revenues* and *total assets* of persons or entities identified in paragraph (b)(3) of this section, and applicant (or licensee) must comply with the following requirements:

(i) Except for an applicant (or licensee) whose sole control group member is a *preexisting entity*, as provided in paragraph (b)(5)(ii) of this section, at the time the applicant's short-form application (Form 175) is filed and until at least three years following the date of initial license grant, the applicant's (or licensee's) *control group* must own at least 25 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity as follows:

(A) At least 15 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity must be held by *qualifying investors*, either unconditionally or in the form of options exercisable, at the option of the holder, at any time and at any exercise price equal to or less than the market value at the time the applicant files its short-form application (Form 175);

(B) Such *qualifying investors* must hold 50.1 percent of the voting stock and all general partnership interests within the control group, and must have *de facto* control of the control group and of the applicant;

(C) The remaining 10 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity may be owned, either unconditionally or in the form of stock options, by any of the following entities, which may not comply with §24.720(n)(1):

(1) *Institutional Investors*;

(2) Noncontrolling *existing investors* in any *preexisting entity* that is a member of the *control group*;

(3) Individuals that are members of the applicant's (or licensee's) management; or

(4) *Qualifying investors*, as specified in §24.720(n)(4).

(D) Following termination of the three-year period specified in paragraph (b)(5)(i) of this section, *qualifying investors* must continue to own at least 10 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity, either unconditionally or in the form of stock options subject to the restrictions in paragraph (b)(5)(i)(A) of this section. The restrictions specified in paragraph (b)(5)(i)(C)(1) through (4) of this section no longer apply to the remaining equity after termination of such three-year period.

(ii) At the election of an applicant (or licensee) whose *control group's* sole member is a *preexisting entity*, the 25 percent minimum equity requirements set forth in paragraph (b)(5)(i) of this section shall apply, except that only 10 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity must be held by *qualifying investors* and that the remaining 15 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity may be held by *qualifying investors* or noncontrolling *existing investors* in such *control group* member or individuals that are members of the applicant's (or licensee's) management. These restrictions on the identity of the holder(s) of the remaining 15 percent of the licensee's total equity no longer apply after termination of the three-year period specified in paragraph (b)(5)(i) of this section.

(6) *Control Group Minimum 50.1 Percent Equity Requirement*. In order to be eligible to exclude *gross revenues* and *total*

*assets* of persons or entities identified in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, an applicant (or licensee) must comply with the following requirements:

(i) Except for an applicant (or licensee) whose sole control group member is a *preexisting entity*, as provided in paragraph (b)(6)(ii) of this section, at the time the applicant's short-form application (Form 175) is filed and until at least three years following the date of initial license grant, the applicant's (or licensee's) *control group* must own at least 50.1 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity as follows:

(A) At least 30 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity must be held by *qualifying investors*, either unconditionally or in the form of options, exercisable at the option of the holder, at any time and at any exercise price equal to or less than the market value at the time the applicant files its short-form application (Form 175);

(B) Such *qualifying investors* must hold 50.1 percent of the voting stock and all general partnership interests within the control group and must have *de facto* control of the control group and of the applicant;

(C) The remaining 20.1 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity may be owned by *qualifying investors*, either unconditionally or in the form of stock options not subject to the restrictions of paragraph (b)(6)(i)(A) of this section, or by any of the following entities which may not comply with §24.720(n)(1):

(1) *Institutional investors*, either unconditionally or in the form of stock options;

(2) Noncontrolling *existing investors* in any *preexisting entity* that is a member of the *control group*, either unconditionally or in the form of stock options;

(3) Individuals that are members of the applicant's (or licensee's) management, either unconditionally or in the form of stock options; or

(4) *Qualifying investors*, as specified in 24.720(n)(4).

(D) Following termination of the three-year period specified in paragraph (b)(6)(i) of this section, *qualifying investors* must continue to own at least 20 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity unconditionally or in the form of stock options subject to

the restrictions in paragraph (b)(6)(i)(A) of this section. The restrictions specified in paragraph (b)(6)(i)(C)(I) through (4) of this section no longer apply to the remaining equity after termination of such three-year period.

(ii) At the election of an applicant (or licensee) whose *control group's* sole member is a *preexisting entity*, the 50.1 percent minimum equity requirements set forth in paragraph (b)(6)(i) of this section shall apply, except that only 20 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity must be held by *qualifying investors*, and that the remaining 30.1 percent of the applicant's (or licensee's) total equity may be held by *qualifying investors*, or noncontrolling *existing investors* in such *control group* member or individuals that are members of the applicant's (or licensee's) management. These restrictions on the identity of the holder(s) of the remaining 30.1 percent of the licensee's total equity no longer apply after termination of the three-year period specified in paragraph (b)(6)(i) of this section.

(7) *Calculation of Certain Interests.* Except as provided in paragraphs (b)(5) and (b)(6) of this section, ownership interests shall be calculated on a fully diluted basis; all agreements such as warrants, stock options and convertible debentures will generally be treated as if the rights thereunder already have been fully exercised, except that such agreements may not be used to appear to terminate or divest ownership interests before they actually do so, in order to comply with the *non-attributable equity* requirements in paragraphs (b)(3)(i) and (b)(4)(i) of this section.

(8) *Aggregation of Affiliate Interests.* Persons or entities that hold interest in an applicant (or licensee) that are *affiliates* of each other or have an identify of interests identified in §24.720(1)(3) will be treated as though they were one person or entity and their ownership interests aggregated for purposes of determining an applicant's (or licensee's) compliance with the *nonattributable equity* requirements in paragraphs (b)(3)(i) and (b)(4)(i) of this section.

*Example 1 for paragraph (b)(8).* ABC Corp. is owned by individuals, A, B, and C, each having an equal one-third voting interest in ABC Corp. A and B together, with two-thirds of the stock have the power to control ABC Corp. and have an identity of interest. If A & B invest in DE Corp., a broadband PCS applicant for block C, A and B's separate interests in DE Corp. must be aggregated because A and B are to be treated as one person.

*Example 2 for paragraph (b)(8).* ABC Corp. has subsidiary BC Corp., of which it holds a controlling 51 percent of the stock. If ABC Corp. and BC Corp., both invest in DE Corp., their separate interests in DE Corp. must be aggregated because ABC Corp. and BC Corp. are affiliates of each other.

(9) *Special rule for licensees disaggregating or returning certain spectrum in frequency block C.*

(i) In addition to entities qualifying for closed bidding under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, any entity that was eligible for and participated in the auction for frequency block C, which began on December 18, 1995, or the reauction for frequency block C, which began on July 3, 1996, will be eligible to bid for C block licenses offered in closed bidding in any reauction of frequency block C spectrum that begins within two years of March 23, 1999.

(ii) In cases of merger, acquisition, or other business combination of entities, where each of the entities is eligible to bid for C block licenses offered in closed bidding in any reauction of C block spectrum on the basis of the eligibility exception set forth in paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section, the resulting entity will also be eligible for the exception specified in paragraph (b)(9)(i).

(iii) In cases of merger, acquisition, or other business combination of entities, where one or more of the entities are ineligible for the exception set forth in paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section, the resulting entity will not be eligible pursuant to paragraph (b)(9)(i) unless an eligible entity possesses *de jure* and *de facto* control over the resulting entity.

(iv) The following restrictions will apply for any reauction of frequency block C spectrum conducted after March 24, 1998:

(A) Applicants that elected to disaggregate and surrender to the Commission 15 MHz of spectrum from any

or all of their frequency block C licenses, as provided in Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Installment Payment Financing for Personal Communications Services (PCS) Licensees, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, WT Docket No. 97-82, 12 FCC Rcd 16,436 (1997), as modified by the Order on Reconsideration of the Second Report and Order, WT Docket No. 97-82, FCC 98-46 (rel. Mar. 24, 1998), will not be eligible to apply for such disaggregated spectrum until 2 years from the start of the reauction of that spectrum.

(B) Applicants that surrendered to the Commission any of their frequency block C licenses, as provided in Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Installment Payment Financing for Personal Communications Services (PCS) Licensees, Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making, WT Docket No. 97-82, 12 FCC Rcd 16,436 (1997), as modified by the Order on Reconsideration of the Second Report and Order, WT Docket No. 97-82, FCC 98-46 (rel. Mar. 24, 1998), will not be eligible to apply for the licenses that they surrendered to the Commission until 2 years from the start of the reauction of those licenses if they elected to apply a credit of 70% of the down payment they made on those licenses toward the prepayment of licenses they did not surrender.

(c) *Short-Form and Long-Form Applications: Certifications and Disclosure.* (1) *Short-form Application.* In addition to certifications and disclosures required by Part 1, subpart Q of this chapter and §24.813, each applicant for a license for frequency block C or frequency block F shall certify on its short-form application (Form 175) that it is eligible to bid on and obtain such license(s), and (if applicable) that it is eligible for designated entity status pursuant to this section and §24.720, and shall append the following information as an exhibit to its Form 175:

(i) For an applicant that is a *publicly traded corporation with widely disbursed voting power*:

(A) A certified statement that such applicant complies with the requirements of the definition of *publicly trad-*

*ed corporation with widely disbursed voting power* set forth in §24.720(m);

(B) The identify of each *affiliate* of the applicant if not disclosed pursuant to §24.813; and

(C) The applicant's *gross revenues* and *total assets*, computed in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(ii) For all other applicants:

(A) The identity of each member of the applicant's *control group*, regardless of the size of each member's total interest in the applicant, and the percentage and type of interest held;

(B) The citizenship and the gender or minority group classification for each member of the applicant's *control group* if the applicant is claiming status as a *business owned by members of minority groups and/or women*;

(C) The status of each *control group* member that is an *institutional investor*, an *existing investor*, and/or a member of the applicant's management;

(D) The identify of each *affiliate* of the applicant and each *affiliate* of individuals or entities identified pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1)(ii)(A) and (c)(1)(ii)(C) of this section if not disclosed pursuant to §24.813;

(E) A certification that the applicant's sole *control group* member is a *preexisting entity*, if the applicant makes the election in either paragraph (b)(5)(ii) or (b)(6)(ii) of this section; and

(F) The applicant's *gross revenues* and *total assets*, computed in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

(iii) For each applicant claiming status as a *small business consortium*, the information specified in paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, for each member of such consortium.

(2) *Long-form Application.* In addition to the requirements in subpart I of this part and other applicable rules (e.g., §§20.6(e) and 20.9(b) of this chapter), each applicant submitting a long-form application for a license(s) for frequency block C or frequency block F shall, in an exhibit to its long-form application:

(i) Disclose separately and in the aggregate the *gross revenues* and *total assets*, computed in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, for each of the following: the applicant;

the applicant's *affiliates*, the applicant's *control group* members; the applicant's attributable investors; and *affiliates* of its attributable investors;

(ii) List and summarize all agreements or other instruments (with appropriate references to specific provisions in the text of such agreements and instruments) that support the applicant's eligibility for a license(s) for frequency block C or frequency block F and its eligibility under §§ 24.711, 24.712, 24.714 and 24.720, including the establishment of *de facto* and *de jure* control; such agreements and instruments include articles of incorporation and by-laws, shareholder agreements, voting or other trust agreements, partnership agreements, management agreements, joint marketing agreements, franchise agreements, and any other relevant agreements (including letters of intent), oral or written; and

(iii) List and summarize any investor protection agreements and identify specifically any such provisions in those agreements identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(2)(ii) of this section, including rights of first refusal, supermajority clauses, options, veto rights, and rights to hire and fire employees and to appoint members to boards of directors or management committees.

(3) *Records Maintenance*. All applicants, including those that are winning bidders, shall maintain at their principal place of business an updated file of ownership, revenue and asset information, including those documents referenced in paragraphs (c)(2)(ii) and (c)(2)(iii) of this section and any other documents necessary to establish eligibility under this section or under the definitions of *small business and/or business owned by members of minority groups and/or women*. Licensees (and their successors in interest) shall maintain such files for the term of the license. Applicants that do not obtain the license(s) for which they applied shall maintain such files until the grant of such license(s) is final, or one year from the date of the filing of their short-form application (Form 175), whichever is earlier.

(d) *Audits*. (1) Applicants and licensees claiming eligibility for closed bidding under this section or for other provisions under §§ 24.711 through 24.720

shall be subject to audits by the Commission, using in-house and contract resources. Selection for audit may be random, on information, or on the basis of other factors.

(2) Consent to such audits is part of the certification included in the short-form application (Form 175). Such consent shall include consent to the audit of the applicant's or licensee's books, documents and other material (including accounting procedures and practices) regardless of form or type, sufficient to confirm that such applicant's or licensee's representations are, and remain, accurate. Such consent shall include inspection at all reasonable times of the facilities, or parts thereof, engaged in providing and transacting business, or keeping records regarding licensed broadband PCS service and shall also include consent to the interview of principals, employees, customers and suppliers of the applicant or licensee.

(e) *Tiers*. (1) For purposes of determining spectrum to which the eligibility requirements of this section are applicable, the BTA service areas (see § 24.202(b)) are divided into two tiers according to their population as follows:

(i) Tier 1: BTA service areas with population equal to or greater than 2.5 million;

(ii) Tier 2: BTA service areas with population less than 2.5 million.

(2) For Auction No. 35, the population of individual BTA service areas will be based on the 1990 census. For auctions beginning after the start of Auction No. 35, the population of individual BTA service areas will be based on the most recent available decennial census.

(f) *Application of eligibility requirements*. (1) The following categories of licenses will be subject to closed bidding pursuant to the eligibility requirements of this section in auctions that begin after the effective date of this paragraph.

(i) For Tier 1 BTAs, one of the 10 MHz C block licenses (1895–1900 MHz paired with 1975–1980 MHz);

(ii) For Tier 2 BTAs, two of the 10 MHz C block licenses (1895–1900 MHz paired with 1975–1980 MHz; 1900–1905 MHz paired with 1980–1985 MHz) and all 15 MHz C block licenses.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (f)(1) of this section, any C block license for operation on spectrum that has been offered, but not won by a bidder, in closed bidding in any auction beginning on or after March 23, 1999, will not be subject in a subsequent auction to closed bidding pursuant to the eligibility requirements of this section.

(g) *Definitions.* The terms *affiliate, business owned by members of minority groups and/or women, and gross revenues* used in this section are defined in §1.2110 of this chapter. The terms *consortium of small businesses, control group, existing investor, institutional investor, nonattributable equity, preexisting entity, publicly traded corporation with widely dispersed voting power, qualifying investor, small business, and total assets* used in this section are defined in §24.720 of this chapter.

[59 FR 63232, Dec. 7, 1994; 60 FR 5335, Jan. 27, 1995, as amended at 60 FR 37795, July 21, 1995; 61 FR 33868, July 1, 1996; 63 FR 17122, Apr. 8, 1998; 63 FR 50799, Sept. 23, 1998; 65 FR 53637, Sept. 5, 2000]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 53637, Sept. 5, 2000, §24.229 was amended by revising paragraphs (a), (a)(1), (a)(3), (b)(9)(i), redesignating paragraph (b)(9)(ii) as paragraph (b)(9)(iv), adding new paragraphs (b)(9)(ii), (b)(9)(iii), revising paragraph (d)(1), redesignating paragraph (e) as paragraph (g), and adding new paragraphs (e) and (f), effective Nov. 6, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

**§ 24.709 Eligibility for licenses for frequency Blocks C and F.**

(a) *General Rule.* (1) No application is acceptable for filing and no license shall be granted for frequency block C or frequency block F, unless the applicant, together with its *affiliates* and persons or entities that hold interests in the applicant and their *affiliates*, have *gross revenues* of less than \$125 million in each of the last two years and *total assets* of less than \$500 million at the time the applicant's short-form application (Form 175) is filed.

\* \* \* \* \*

(3) Any licensee awarded a license pursuant to this section (or pursuant to §24.839(d)(2)) shall maintain its eligibility until at least five years from the date of initial license grant, except that a licensee's (or other attributable entity's) increased *gross revenues* or increased *total assets* due to *nonattributable equity* investments (i.e., from sources whose

*gross revenues* and *total assets* are not considered under paragraph (b) of this section), debt financing, revenue from operations or other investments, business development or expanded service shall not be considered.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) \* \* \*

(9) \* \* \*

(i) In addition to entities qualifying under this section, any entity that was eligible for and participated in the auction for frequency block C, which began on December 18, 1995, or the reauction for frequency block C, which began on July 3, 1996, will be eligible to bid in any reauction of block C spectrum that begins within two years of the start date of the first reauction of C block spectrum following the effective date of this rule.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) \* \* \* (1) Applicants and licensees claiming eligibility under this section or §§24.711 through 24.720 shall be subject to audits by the Commission, using in-house and contract resources. Selection for audit may be random, on information, or on the basis of other factors.

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 24.710 Limitation on licenses won at auction for frequency Blocks C and F.**

(a) No applicant may be deemed the winning bidder of more than 98 of the licenses available for frequency Blocks C and F. Any applicant who is the high bidder for more than 98 of the licenses available for frequency Blocks C and F shall be required to withdraw its bid(s) for a sufficient number of licenses to achieve compliance with this section and may be subject to bid withdrawal penalties under §24.704.

(b) For purposes of paragraph (a) of this section, licenses will be deemed to be won by the same bidder if an entity that controls or has the power to control any applicant that wins licenses at the auction, has the power to control any other applicant that wins licenses at the auction.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 53637, Sept. 5, 2000, §24.710 was removed and reserved, effective Nov. 6, 2000.

**§ 24.711 Upfront payments, down payments and installment payments for licenses for frequency Block C.**

(a) *Upfront Payments and Down Payments.* (1) Each eligible bidder for licenses subject to auction on frequency Block C shall pay an upfront payment as set forth in a Public Notice pursuant to the procedures in § 1.2106 of this chapter.

(2) Each winning bidder shall make a down payment and pay the balance of its winning bids pursuant to § 1.2107 and § 1.2109 of this chapter.

(b) *Installment payments.* Each eligible licensee of frequency Block C or F may pay the remaining 90 percent of the net auction price for the license in installment payments pursuant to § 1.2110(g) of this chapter and under the following terms:

(1) For an eligible licensee with *gross revenues* exceeding \$75 million (calculated in accordance with § 24.709(a)(2) and (b)) in each of the two preceding years (calculated in accordance with § 24.720(f)), interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted, plus 3.5 percent; payments shall include both principal and interest amortized over the term of the license.

(2) For an eligible licensee with *gross revenues* not exceeding \$75 million (calculated in accordance with § 24.709(a)(2) and (b)) in each of the two preceding years, interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted, plus 2.5 percent; payments shall include interest only for the first year and payments of interest and principal amortized over the remaining nine years of the license term.

(3) For an eligible licensee that qualifies as a Small business or as a consortium of small businesses, interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted, plus 2.5 percent; payments shall include interest only for the first two years and payments of interest and principal amortized over the remaining eight years of the license term.

(4) For an eligible licensee that qualifies as a business owned by members of minority groups and/or women, interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted; payments shall include interest only for the first three years and payments of interest and principal amortized over the remaining seven years of the license term.

(5) For an eligible licensee that qualifies as a small business owned by members of minority groups and/or women or as a consortium of small business owned by members of minority groups and/or women, interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted; payments shall include interest only for the first six years and payments of interest and principal amortized over the remaining four years of the license term.

(c) *Unjust enrichment.* See § 1.2111 of this chapter.

[59 FR 63235, Dec. 7, 1994; 60 FR 5335, Jan. 27, 1995, as amended at 60 FR 37796, July 21, 1995; 63 FR 2349, Jan. 15, 1998; 63 FR 50799, Sept. 23, 1998]

**§ 24.712 Bidding credits for licenses for frequency Block C.**

(a) Except with respect to licenses won in closed bidding in auctions that begin after March 23, 1999, a winning bidder that qualifies as a small business or a consortium of small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(1) or § 24.720(b)(4) may use a bidding credit of fifteen percent, as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(iii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

(b) Except with respect to licenses won in closed bidding in auctions that begin after March 23, 1999, a winning bidder that qualifies as a very small business or a consortium of very small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(2) or § 24.720(b)(5) may use a bidding credit of twenty-five percent as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(ii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

(c) *Unjust enrichment.* See § 1.2111 of this chapter. The unjust enrichment provisions of § 1.2111(d) and (e)(2) shall

not apply with respect to licenses acquired in either the auction for frequency block C that began on December 18, 1995, or the reauction of block C spectrum that began on July 3, 1996.

[65 FR 53637, Sept. 5, 2000]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 53637, Sept. 5, 2000, § 24.712 was revised, effective Nov. 6, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

**§ 24.712 Bidding credits for licenses for frequency Block C.**

(a) A winning bidder that qualifies as a small business or a consortium of small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(1) or § 24.720(b)(4) of this part may use a bidding credit of fifteen percent, as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(iii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

(b) A winning bidder that qualifies as a very small business or a consortium of very small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(2) or § 24.720(b)(5) of this part may use a bidding credit of twenty-five percent as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(ii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

(c) *Unjust enrichment.* See § 1.2111 of this chapter.

**§ 24.713 [Reserved]**

**§ 24.714 Partitioned licenses and disaggregated spectrum.**

(a) *Eligibility.* (1) Parties seeking approval for partitioning and disaggregation shall request an authorization for partial assignment of a license pursuant to § 24.839.

(2) Broadband PCS licensees in spectrum blocks A, B, D, and E and broadband PCS C and F block licenses not subject to the eligibility requirements of § 24.709 may apply to partition their licensed geographic service area or disaggregate their licensed spectrum at any time following the grant of their licenses.

(3) Broadband PCS licensees that acquired C or F block licenses in closed bidding subject to the eligibility requirements of § 24.709 may partition their licensed geographic service area or disaggregate their licensed spectrum at any time to an entity that meets the eligibility criteria set forth in § 24.709 at the time the request for partial assignment of license is filed or to an entity that holds license(s) for frequency blocks C and F that met the eligibility criteria set forth in § 24.709

at the time of receipt of such license(s). Partial assignment applications seeking partitioning or disaggregation of broadband PCS licenses in spectrum blocks C and F must include an attachment demonstrating compliance with this section.

(b) *Technical standards—(1) Partitioning.* In the case of partitioning, applicants and licensees must file FCC Form 603 pursuant to § 1.948 of this chapter and list the partitioned service area on a schedule to the application. The geographic coordinates must be specified in degrees, minutes, and seconds to the nearest second of latitude and longitude and must be based upon the 1983 North American Datum (NAD83).

(2) *Disaggregation.* Spectrum may be disaggregated in any amount.

(3) *Combined partitioning and disaggregation.* The Commission will consider requests for partial assignment of licenses that propose combinations of partitioning and disaggregation.

(c) *Unjust enrichment—(1) Installment payments.* Licensees in frequency Blocks C and F making installment payments that partition their licenses or disaggregate their spectrum to entities not meeting the eligibility standards for installment payments, will be subject to the provisions concerning unjust enrichment as set forth in §§ 1.2111 of this chapter and 24.716(d).

(2) *Bidding credits.* Licensees in frequency Blocks C and F that received a bidding credit and partition their licenses or disaggregate their spectrum to entities not meeting the eligibility standards for such a bidding credit, will be subject to the provisions concerning unjust enrichment as set forth in §§ 1.2110(f) of this chapter and 24.717(c).

(3) *Apportioning unjust enrichment payments.* Unjust enrichment payments for partitioned license areas shall be calculated based upon the ratio of the population of the partitioned license area to the overall population of the license area and by utilizing the most recent census data. Unjust enrichment payments for disaggregated spectrum shall be calculated based upon the ratio of the amount of spectrum

disaggregated to the amount of spectrum held by the licensee.

(d) *Installment payments*—(1) *Apportioning the balance on installment payment plans.* When a winning bidder elects to pay for its license through an installment payment plan pursuant to §§ 1.2110(e) of this chapter or 24.716, and partitions its licensed area or disaggregates spectrum to another party, the outstanding balance owed by the licensee on its installment payment plan (including accrued and unpaid interest) shall be apportioned between the licensee and partitionee or disaggregatee. Both parties will be responsible for paying their proportionate share of the outstanding balance to the U.S. Treasury. In the case of partitioning, the balance shall be apportioned based upon the ratio of the population of the partitioned area to the population of the entire original license area calculated based upon the most recent census data. In the case of disaggregation, the balance shall be apportioned based upon the ratio of the amount of spectrum disaggregated to the amount of spectrum allocated to the licensed area.

(2) *Parties not qualified for installment payment plans.* (i) When a winning bidder elects to pay for its license through an installment payment plan, and partitions its license or disaggregates spectrum to another party that would not qualify for an installment payment plan or elects not to pay for its share of the license through installment payments, the outstanding balance owed by the licensee (including accrued and unpaid interest) shall be apportioned according to § 24.714(d)(1).

(ii) The partitionee or disaggregatee shall, as a condition of the approval of the partial assignment application, pay its entire pro rata amount within 30 days of Public Notice conditionally granting the partial assignment application. Failure to meet this condition will result in a rescission of the grant of the partial assignment application.

(iii) The licensee shall be permitted to continue to pay its pro rata share of the outstanding balance and shall receive new financing documents (promissory note, security agreement) with a revised payment obligation, based on the remaining amount of time on the

original installment payment schedule. These financing documents will replace the licensee's existing financing documents which shall be marked "superseded" and returned to the licensee upon receipt of the new financing documents. The original interest rate, established pursuant to § 1.2110(e)(3)(i) of this chapter at the time of the grant of the initial license in the market, shall continue to be applied to the licensee's portion of the remaining government obligation. We will require, as a further condition to approval of the partial assignment application, that the licensee execute and return to the U.S. Treasury the new financing documents within 30 days of the Public Notice conditionally granting the partial assignment application. Failure to meet this condition will result in the automatic cancellation of the grant of the partial assignment application.

(iv) A default on the licensee's payment obligation will only affect the licensee's portion of the market.

(3) Parties qualified for installment payment plans. (i) Where both parties to a partitioning or disaggregation agreement qualify for installment payments, the partitionee or disaggregatee will be permitted to make installment payments on its portion of the remaining government obligation, as calculated according to § 24.714(d)(1).

(ii) Each party will be required, as a condition to approval of the partial assignment application, to execute separate financing documents (promissory note, security agreement) agreeing to pay their pro rata portion of the balance due (including accrued and unpaid interest) based upon the installment payment terms for which they qualify under the rules. The financing documents must be returned to the U.S. Treasury within thirty (30) days of the Public Notice conditionally granting the partial assignment application. Failure by either party to meet this condition will result in the automatic cancellation of the grant of the partial assignment application. The interest rate, established pursuant to § 1.2110(e)(3)(i) of this chapter at the time of the grant of the initial license in the market, shall continue to be applied to both parties' portion of the balance due. Each party will receive a

license for their portion of the partitioned market or disaggregated spectrum.

(iii) A default on an obligation will only affect that portion of the market area held by the defaulting party.

(iv) Partitionees and disaggregatees that qualify for installment payment plans may elect to pay some of their pro rata portion of the balance due in a lump sum payment to the U.S. Treasury and to pay the remaining portion of the balance due pursuant to an installment payment plan.

(e) *License term.* The license term for a partitioned license area and for disaggregated spectrum shall be the remainder of the original licensee's license term as provided for in §24.15.

(f) *Construction requirements—(1) Requirements for partitioning.* Parties seeking authority to partition must meet one of the following construction requirements:

(i) The partitionee may certify that it will satisfy the applicable construction requirements set forth in §24.203 for the partitioned license area; or

(ii) The original licensee may certify that it has or will meet its five-year construction requirement and will meet the ten-year construction requirement, as set forth in §24.203, for the entire license area. In that case, the partitionee must only satisfy the requirements for "substantial service," as set forth in §24.16(a), for the partitioned license area by the end of the original ten-year license term of the licensee.

(iii) Applications requesting partial assignments of license for partitioning must include a certification by each party as to which of the above construction options they select.

(iv) Partitionees must submit supporting documents showing compliance with the respective construction requirements within the appropriate five- and ten-year construction benchmarks set forth in §24.203.

(v) Failure by any partitionee to meet its respective construction requirements will result in the automatic cancellation of the partitioned or disaggregated license without further Commission action.

(2) *Requirements for disaggregation.* Parties seeking authority to

disaggregate must submit with their partial assignment application a certification signed by both parties stating which of the parties will be responsible for meeting the five- and ten-year construction requirements for the PCS market as set forth in §24.203. Parties may agree to share responsibility for meeting the construction requirements. Parties that accept responsibility for meeting the construction requirements and later fail to do so will be subject to license forfeiture without further Commission action.

[62 FR 661, Jan. 6, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 68953, Dec. 14, 1998; 65 FR 53638, Sept. 5, 2000]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 53638, Sept. 5, 2000, §24.714 was amended by revising paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) effective Nov. 6, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

**§ 24.714 Partitioned licenses and disaggregated spectrum.**

(a) \* \* \*

(2) Broadband PCS licensees in spectrum blocks A, B, D, and E may apply to partition their licensed geographic service area or disaggregate their licensed spectrum at any time following the grant of their licenses.

(3) Broadband PCS licensees in spectrum blocks C and F may not partition their licensed geographic service area or disaggregate their licensed spectrum for the first five years of the license term unless it is to an entity that meets the eligibility criteria set forth in §24.709 at the time the request for partial assignment of license is filed or to an entity that holds license(s) for frequency blocks C and F that met the eligibility criteria set forth in §24.709 at the time of receipt of such license(s). Partial assignment applications seeking partitioning or disaggregation of broadband PCS licenses in spectrum blocks C and F must include an attachment demonstrating compliance with this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

**§ 24.716 Upfront payments, down payments, and installment payments for licenses for frequency Block F.**

(a) *Upfront Payments and Down Payments.* (1) Each eligible bidder for licenses subject to auction on frequency Block F shall pay an upfront payment as set forth in a Public Notice pursuant to the procedures in §1.2106 of this chapter.

(2) Each winning bidder shall make a down payment and pay the balance of

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its winning bids pursuant to § 1.2107 and § 1.2109 of this chapter.

(b) *Installment Payments.* Each eligible licensee of frequency Block F may pay the remaining 80 percent of the net auction price for the license in installment payments pursuant to § 1.2110(e) of this chapter and under the following terms:

(1) For an eligible licensee with *gross revenues* exceeding \$75 million (calculated in accordance with § 24.709 (a)(2) and (b)) in each of the two preceding years (calculated in accordance with § 24.720(f)), interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted, plus 3.5 percent; payments shall include both principal and interest amortized over the term of the license;

(2) For an eligible licensee with *gross revenues* not exceeding \$75 million (calculated in accordance with § 24.709 (a)(2) and (b)) in each of the two preceding years (calculated in accordance with § 24.720(f)), interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted, plus 2.5 percent; payments shall include interest only for the first year and payments of interest and principal amortized over the remaining nine years of the license term; or

(3) For an eligible licensee that qualifies as a small business or as a consortium of small businesses, interest shall be imposed based on the rate for ten-year U.S. Treasury obligations applicable on the date the license is granted; payments shall include interest only for the first two years and payments of interest and principal amortized over the remaining eight years of the license term.

(c) *Late installment payments.* See § 1.2110(f)(4) of this chapter.

(d) *Unjust enrichment.* See § 1.2111 of this chapter.

[60 FR 37799, July 21, 1995, as amended at 61 FR 33868, July 1, 1996; 63 FR 2349, Jan. 15, 1998; 63 FR 50799, Sept. 23, 1998]

§ 24.717 Bidding credits for licenses for frequency Block F.

(a) Except with respect to licenses won in closed bidding in auctions that begin after March 23, 1999, a winning

bidder that qualifies as a small business or a consortium of small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(1) or § 24.720(b)(4) may use a bidding credit of fifteen percent, as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(iii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

(b) Except with respect to licenses won in closed bidding in auctions that begin after March 23, 1999, a winning bidder that qualifies as a very small business or a consortium of very small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(2) or § 24.720(b)(5) may use a bidding credit of twenty-five percent as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(ii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

(c) *Unjust enrichment.* See § 1.2111 of this chapter.

[63 FR 50800, Sept. 23, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 53638, Sept. 5, 2000]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 53638, Sept. 5, 2000 § 24.717 was amended by revising paragraphs (a) and (b) effective Nov. 6, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 24.717 Bidding credits for licenses for frequency Block F.

(a) A winning bidder that qualifies as a small business or a consortium of small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(1) or § 24.720(b)(4) of this part may use a bidding credit of fifteen percent, as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(iii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

(b) A winning bidder that qualifies as a very small business or a consortium of very small businesses as defined in § 24.720(b)(2) or § 24.720(b)(5) of this part may use a bidding credit of twenty-five percent, as specified in § 1.2110(e)(2)(ii) of this chapter, to lower the cost of its winning bid.

\* \* \* \* \*

§ 24.720 Definitions.

(a) Scope. The definitions in this section apply to §§ 24.709 through 24.717, unless otherwise specified in those sections.

(b) *Small business; very small business; consortia.* (1) A *small business* is an entity that, together with its *affiliates* and persons or entities that hold interest in such entity and their affiliates, has average annual *gross revenues* that are not more than \$40 million for the preceding three years.

(2) A *very small business* is an entity that, together with its *affiliates* and

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persons or entities that hold interests in such entity and their *affiliates*, has average annual *gross revenues* that are not more than \$15 million for the preceding three years.

(3) For purposes of determining whether an entity meets the \$40 million average annual *gross revenues* size standard set forth in paragraph (b)(1) of this section or the \$15 million average annual *gross revenues* size standard set forth in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the *gross revenues* of the entity, its *affiliates*, persons or entities holding interests in the entity and their *affiliates* shall be considered on a cumulative basis and aggregated subject to the exceptions set forth in §24.709(b).

(4) A *small business consortium* is a conglomerate organization formed as a joint venture between or among mutually independent business firms, each of which individually satisfies the definition of a *small business* in paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3) of this section.

(5) A *very small business consortium* is a conglomerate organization formed as a joint venture between or among mutually independent business firms, each of which individually satisfies the definition of a *very small business* in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this section.

(c) *Business Owned by Members of Minority Groups and/or Women*. A *business owned by members of minority groups and/or women* is an entity:

(1) In which the *qualifying investor* members of an applicant's *control group* are members of minority groups and/or women who are United States citizens; and

(2) That complies with the requirements of §24.709 (b)(3) and (b)(5) or §24.709 (b)(4) and (b)(6).

(d) *Small Business Owned by Members of Minority Groups and/or Women: Consortium of Small Businesses Owned by Members of Minority and/or Women*. A *small business owned by members of minority groups and/or women* is an entity that meets the definitions in both paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section. A *consortium of small businesses owned by members of minority groups and/or women* is a conglomerate organization formed as a joint venture between mutually-independent business firms, each of which individually satisfies the defini-

tions in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(e) *Rural Telephone Company*. A *rural telephone company* is a local exchange carrier operating entity to the extent that such entity:

(1) Provides common carrier service to any local exchange carrier study area that does not include either;

(i) Any incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants or more, or any part thereof, based on the most recently available population statistics of the Bureau of the Census; or

(ii) Any territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in an urbanized area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census as of August 10, 1993;

(2) Provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines;

(3) Provides telephone exchange service to any local exchange carrier study area with fewer than 100,000 access lines; or

(4) Has less than 15 percent of its access lines in communities of more than 50,000 on the date of enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

(f) *Gross Revenues*. *Gross revenues* shall mean all income received by an entity, whether earned or passive, before any deductions are made for costs of doing business (e.g., cost of goods sold), as evidenced by audited financial statements for the relevant number of most recently completed calendar years, or, if audited financial statements were not prepared on a calendar-year basis, for the most recently completed fiscal years preceding the filing of the applicant's short-form application (Form 175). If an entity was not in existence for all or part of the relevant period, gross revenues shall be evidenced by the audited financial statements of the entity's predecessor-in-interest or, if there is no identifiable predecessor-in-interest, unaudited financial statements certified by the applicant as accurate. When an applicant does not otherwise use audited financial statements, its gross revenues may be certified by its chief financial officer or its equivalent.

(g) *Total Assets*. *Total assets* shall mean the book value (except where

generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) require market valuation) of all property owned by an entity, whether real or personal, tangible or intangible, as evidenced by the most recent audited financial statements or certified by the applicant's chief financial officer or its equivalent if the applicant does not otherwise use audited financial statements.

(h) *Institutional Investor*. An *institutional investor* is an insurance company, a bank holding stock in trust accounts through its trust department, or an investment company as defined in 15 U.S.C. 80a-3(a), including within such definition any entity that would otherwise meet the definition of investment company under 15 U.S.C. 80a-3(a) but is excluded by the exemptions set forth in 15 U.S.C. 80a-3 (b) and (c), without regard to whether such entity is an issuer of securities; provided that, if such investment company is owned, in whole or in part, by other entities, such investment company, such other entities and the *affiliates* of such other entities, taken as a whole, must be primarily engaged in the business of investing, reinvesting or trading in securities or in distributing or providing investment management services for securities.

(i) *Members of Minority Groups*. Members of minority groups include individuals of African American, Hispanic-surnamed, American Eskimo, Aleut, American Indian, and Asian American extraction.

(j) *Nonattributable Equity*. (1) *Nonattributable equity* shall mean:

(i) For corporations, voting stock or non-voting stock that includes no more than twenty-five percent of the total voting equity, including the right to vote such stock through a voting trust or other arrangement;

(ii) For partnerships, joint ventures and other non-corporate entities, limited partnership interests and similar interests that do not afford the power to exercise control of the entity.

(2) For purposes of assessing compliance with the equity limits in §24.709 (b)(3)(i) and (b)(4)(i), where such interests are not held directly in the applicant, the total equity held by a person or entity shall be determined by successive multiplication of the ownership

percentages for each link in the vertical ownership chain.

(k) *Control Group*. A *control group* is an entity, or a group of individuals or entities, that possesses *de jure* control and *de facto* control of an applicant or licensee, and as to which the applicant's or licensee's charters, bylaws, agreements and any other relevant documents (and amendments thereto) provide:

(1) That the entity and/or its members own unconditionally at least 50.1 percent of the total voting interests of a corporation;

(2) That the entity and/or its members receive at least 50.1 percent of the annual distribution or any dividends paid on the voting stock of a corporation;

(3) That, in the event of dissolution or liquidation of a corporation, the entity and/or its members are entitled to receive 100 percent of the value of each share of stock in its possession and a percentage of the retained earnings of the concern that is equivalent to the amount of equity held in the corporation; and

(4) That, for other types of businesses, the entity and/or its members have the right to receive dividends, profits and regular and liquidating distributions from the business in proportion to the amount of equity held in the business.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (k): Voting control does not always assure *de facto* control, such as for example, when the voting stock of the control group is widely dispersed (see e.g., §24.720(1)(2)(iii)).

(1) *Affiliate*. (1) *Basis for Affiliation*. An individual or entity is an *affiliate* of an applicant or of a person holding an attributable interest in an applicant (both referred to herein as "the applicant") if such individual or entity:

(i) Directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control the applicant, or

(ii) Is directly or indirectly controlled by the applicant, or

(iii) Is directly or indirectly controlled by a third party or parties that also controls or has the power to control the applicant, or

(iv) Has an "identity of interest" with the applicant.

*(2) Nature of control in determining affiliation.*

(i) Every business concern is considered to have one or more parties who directly or indirectly control or have the power to control it. Control may be affirmative or negative and it is immaterial whether it is exercised so long as the power to control exists.

*Example for paragraph (1)(2)(i).* An applicant owning 50 percent of the voting stock of another concern would have negative power to control such concern since such party can block any action of the other stockholders. Also, the bylaws of a corporation may permit a stockholder with less than 50 percent of the voting to block any actions taken by the other stockholders in the other entity. Affiliation exists when the applicant has the power to control a concern while at the same time another person, or persons, are in control of the concern at the will of the party or parties with the power of control.

(ii) Control can arise through stock ownership; occupancy of director, officer or key employee positions; contractual or other business relations; or combinations of these and other factors. A key employee is an employee who, because of his/her position in the concern, has a critical influence in or substantive control over the operations or management of the concern.

(iii) Control can arise through management positions where a concern's voting stock is so widely distributed that no effective control can be established.

*Example for paragraph (1)(2)(iii).* In a corporation where the officers and directors own various size blocks of stock totaling 40 percent of the corporation's voting stock, but no officer or director has a block sufficient to give him or her control or the power to control and the remaining 60 percent is widely distributed with no individual stockholder having a stock interest greater than 10 percent, management has the power to control. If persons with such management control of the other entity are persons with attributable interests in the applicant, the other entity will be deemed an affiliate of the applicant.

*(3) Identity of interest between and among persons.* Affiliation can arise between or among two or more persons with an identity of interest, such as members of the same family or persons with common investments. In determining if the applicant controls or is

controlled by a concern, persons with an identity of interest will be treated as though they were one person.

*Example 1.* Two shareholders in Corporation Y each have attributable interests in the same PCS application. While neither shareholder has enough shares to individually control Corporation Y, together they have the power to control Corporation Y. The two shareholders with these common investments (or identity of interest) are treated as though they are one person and Corporation Y would be deemed an affiliate of the applicant.

*Example 2.* One shareholder in Corporation Y, shareholder A, has an attributable interest in a PCS application. Another shareholder in Corporation Y, shareholder B, has a nonattributable interest in the same PCS application. While neither shareholder has enough shares to individually control Corporation Y, together they have the power to control Corporation Y. Through the common investment of shareholders A and B in the PCS application, Corporation Y would still be deemed an affiliate of the applicant.

(i) *Spousal Affiliation.* Both spouses are deemed to own or control or have the power to control interests owned or controlled by either of them, unless they are subject to a legal separation recognized by a court of competent jurisdiction in the United States.

(ii) *Kinship Affiliation.* Immediate family members will be presumed to own or control or have the power to control interests owned or controlled by other immediate family members. In this context "immediate family member" means father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, father- or mother-in-law, son- or daughter-in-law, brother- or sister-in-law, step-father, or -mother, step-brother, or -sister, step-son, or -daughter, half brother or sister. This presumption may be rebutted by showing that

(A) The family members are estranged,

(B) The family ties are remote, or

(C) The family members are not closely involved with each other in business matters.

*Example for paragraph (1)(3)(ii).* A owns a controlling interest in Corporation X. A's sister-in-law, B, has an attributable interest in a PCS application. Because A and B have a presumptive kinship affiliation, A's interest in Corporation X is attributable to B, and

thus to the applicant, unless B rebuts the presumption with the necessary showing.

(4) *Affiliation through stock ownership.*

(i) An applicant is presumed to control or have the power to control a concern if he or she owns or controls or has the power to control 50 percent or more of its voting stock.

(ii) An applicant is presumed to control or have the power to control a concern even though he or she owns, controls or has the power to control less than 50 percent of the concern's voting stock, if the block of stock he or she owns, controls or has the power to control is large as compared with any other outstanding block of stock.

(iii) If two or more persons each owns, controls or has the power to control less than 50 percent of the voting stock of a concern, such minority holdings are equal or approximately equal in size, and the aggregate of these minority holdings is large as compared with any other stock holding, the presumption arises that each one of these persons individually controls or has the power to control the concern; however, such presumption may be rebutted by a showing that such control or power to control, in fact, does not exist.

(5) *Affiliation arising under stock options, convertible debentures, and agreements to merge.* Stock options, convertible debentures, and agreements to merge (including agreements in principle) are generally considered to have a present effect on the power to control the concern. Therefore, in making a size determination, such options, debentures, and agreements will generally be treated as though the rights held thereunder had been exercised. However, neither an affiliate nor an applicant can use such options and debentures to appear to terminate its control over another concern before it actually does so.

*Example 1 for paragraph (1)(5).* If company B holds an option to purchase a controlling interest in company A, who holds an attributable interest in a PCS application, the situation is treated as though company B had exercised its rights and had become owner of a controlling interest in company A. The gross revenues of company B must be taken into account in determining the size of the applicant.

*Example 2 for paragraph (1)(5).* If a large company, BigCo, holds 70% (70 of 100 outstanding shares) of the voting stock of company A, who holds an attributable interest in a PCS application, and gives a third party, SmallCo, an option to purchase 50 of the 70 shares owned by BigCo, BigCo will be deemed to be an affiliate of company A, and thus the applicant, until SmallCo actually exercises its options to purchase such shares. In order to prevent BigCo from circumventing the intent of the rule which requires such options to be considered on a fully diluted basis, the option is not considered to have present effect in this case.

*Example 3 for paragraph (1)(5).* If company A has entered into an agreement to merge with company B in the future, the situation is treated as though the merger has taken place.

(6) *Affiliation under voting trusts.* (i) Stock interests held in trust shall be deemed controlled by any person who holds or shares the power to vote such stock, to any person who has the sole power to sell such stock, and to any person who has the right to revoke the trust at will or to replace the trustee at will.

(ii) If a trustee has a familial, personal or extra-trust business relationship to the grantor or the beneficiary, the stock interests held in trust will be deemed controlled by the grantor or beneficiary, as appropriate.

(iii) If the primary purpose of a voting trust, or similar agreement, is to separate voting power from beneficial ownership of voting stock for the purpose of shifting control of or the power to control a concern in order that such concern or another concern may meet the Commission's size standards, such voting trust shall not be considered valid for this purpose regardless of whether it is or is not recognized within the appropriate jurisdiction.

(7) *Affiliation through common management.* Affiliation generally arises where officers, directors, or key employees serve as the majority or otherwise as the controlling element of the board of directors and/or the management of another entity.

(8) *Affiliation through common facilities.* Affiliation generally arises where one concern shares office space and/or employees and/or other facilities with another concern, particularly where such concerns are in the same or related industry or field of operations, or

where such concerns were formerly affiliated, and through these sharing arrangements one concern has control, or potential control, of the other concern.

(9) *Affiliation through contractual relationships.* Affiliation generally arises where one concern is dependent upon another concern for contracts and business to such a degree that one concern has control, or potential control, of the other concern.

(10) *Affiliation under joint venture arrangements.* (i) A joint venture for size determination purposes is an association of concerns and/or individuals, with interests in any degree or proportion, formed by contract, express or implied, to engage in and carry out a single, specific business venture for joint profit for which purpose they combine their efforts, property, money, skill and knowledge, but not on a continuing or permanent basis for conducting business generally. The determination whether an entity is a joint venture is based upon the facts of the business operation, regardless of how the business operation may be designated by the parties involved. An agreement to share profits/losses proportionate to each party's contribution to the business operation is a significant factor in determining whether the business operation is a joint venture.

(ii) The parties to a joint venture are considered to be affiliated with each other

(11) For purposes of § 24.709(a)(2) and paragraphs (b)(2) and (d) of this section, Indian tribes or Alaska Regional or Village Corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), or entities owned and controlled by such tribes or corporations, are not considered affiliates of an applicant (or licensee) that is owned and controlled by such tribes, corporations or entities, and that otherwise complies with the requirements of § 24.709 (b)(3) and (b)(5) or § 24.709 (b)(4) and (b)(6), except that gross revenues derived from gaming activities conducted by affiliated entities pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*) will be counted in determining such applicant's (or licensee's) compliance with the financial requirements of § 24.709(a) and paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section,

unless such applicant establishes that it will not receive a substantial unfair competitive advantage because significant legal constraints restrict the applicant's ability to access such gross revenues.

(m) *Publicly Traded Corporation with Widely Dispersed Voting Power.* A *publicly traded corporation with widely dispersed voting power* is a business entity organized under the laws of the United States:

(1) Whose shares, debt, or other ownership interests are traded on an organized securities exchange within the United States;

(2) In which no person

(i) Owns more than 15 percent of the equity; or

(ii) Possesses, directly or indirectly, through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise, the power to control the election of more than 15 percent of the members of the board of directors or other governing body of such publicly traded corporation; and

(3) Over which no person other than the management and members of the board of directors or other governing body of such publicly traded corporation, in their capacities as such, has *de facto* control.

(4) The term *person* shall be defined as in section 13(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (15 U.S.C. 78(m)), and shall also include investors that are commonly controlled under the indicia of control set forth in the definition of *affiliate* in paragraphs (1)(2) through (1) of this section.

(n) *Qualifying Investor; Qualifying Minority and/or Woman Investor.*

(1) A qualifying investor is a person who is (or holds an interest in) a member of the applicant's (or licensee's) control group and whose gross revenues and total assets, when aggregated with those of all other attributable investors and affiliates, do not exceed the gross revenues and total assets limits specified in § 24.709(a), or, in the case of an applicant (or licensee) that is a small business, do not exceed the gross revenues limit specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) A *qualifying minority and/or woman investor* is a person who is a *qualifying investor* under paragraph (n)(1), who is

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(or holds an interest in) a member of the applicant’s (or licensee’s) control group and who is a member of a minority group or a woman and a United States citizen.

(3) For purposes of assessing compliance with the minimum equity requirements of §24.709(b) (5) and (6), where such equity interests are not held directly in the applicant, interests held by qualifying investors or qualifying minority and/or woman investors shall be determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages for each link in the vertical ownership chain.

(4) For purposes of §24.709 (b)(5)(i)(C) and (b)(6)(i)(C), a qualifying investor is a person who is (or holds an interest in) a member of the applicant’s (or licensee’s) control group and whose gross revenues and total assets do not exceed the gross revenues and total assets limits specified in §24.709(a).

(o) Preexisting entity; Existing investor. A preexisting entity is an entity that was operating and earning revenues for at least two years prior to December 31, 1994. An existing investor is a person or entity that was an owner of record of a preexisting entity’s equity as of November 10, 1994, and any person or entity acquiring de minimus equity holdings in a preexisting entity after that date.

NOTE: In applying the term existing investor to de minimus interests in preexisting entities obtained or increased after November 10, 1994, the Commission will scrutinize any significant restructuring of the preexisting entity that occurs after that date and will presume that any change of equity that is five percent or less of the preexisting entity’s total equity is de minimis. The burden is on the applicant (or licensee) to demonstrate that changes that exceed five percent are not significant.

[59 FR 63236, Dec. 7, 1994; 60 FR 5335, Jan 27, 1995; 60 FR 8571, 8572, Feb. 15, 1995, as amended at 60 FR 37800, July 21, 1995; 61 FR 33869, July 1, 1996; 61 FR 51234, Oct. 1, 1996; 65 FR 53638, Sept. 5, 2000]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 65 FR 53638, Sept. 5, 2000, §24.720 was amended by revising paragraph (i), effective Nov. 6, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 24.720 Definitions.

\* \* \* \* \*

(i) Members of Minority Groups. Members of minority groups includes Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.

\* \* \* \* \*

Subpart I—Interim Application, Licensing, and Processing Rules for Broadband PCS

SOURCE: 59 FR 37610, July 22, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§§ 24.801–24.803 [Reserved]

§ 24.804 Eligibility.

(a) General. Authorizations will be granted upon proper application if:

- (1) The applicant is qualified under all applicable laws and Commission regulations, policies and decisions;
(2) There are frequencies available to provide satisfactory service; and
(3) The public interest, convenience or necessity would be served by a grant.

(b) Alien ownership. A broadband PCS authorization to provide Commercial Mobile Radio Service may not be granted to or held by:

- (1) Any alien or the representative of any alien.
(2) Any corporation organized under the laws of any foreign government.
(3) Any corporation of which more than one-fifth of the capital stock is owned of record or voted by aliens or their representatives or by a foreign government or representative thereof or any corporation organized under the laws of another country.

(4) Any corporation directly or indirectly controlled by any other corporation of which more than one-fourth of the capital stock is owned of record or voted by aliens, their representatives, or by a foreign government or representative thereof, or by any corporation organized under the laws of a foreign country, if the Commission finds that the public interest will be served by the refusal or revocation of such a license.

(c) A broadband PCS authorization to provide Private Mobile Radio Service