§ 90.681 EA-based SMR service areas.

EA licenses in for channels 711 through 830 and Spectrum Blocks A through V listed in Tables 4 and 5 of §90.617 are available in 175 Economic Areas (EAs) as defined in §90.7.

§ 90.683 EA-based SMR system operations.

(a) EA-based licensees authorized in the 809–824/854–869 MHz band pursuant to §90.681 of this part may construct and operate base stations using any of the base station frequencies identified in their spectrum block anywhere within their authorized EA, provided that:

1. The EA licensee affords protection, in accordance with §90.621(b), to all previously authorized co-channel stations that are not associated with another EA license;

2. The EA licensee complies with any rules and international agreements that restrict use of frequencies identified in their spectrum block, including the provisions of §90.619 relating to U.S./Canadian and U.S./Mexican border areas;

3. The EA licensee limits the field strength of its base stations at any location on the border of the EA service area in accordance with §90.689;

4. Upon request by an incumbent licensee or the Commission, the EA licensees shall furnish the technical parameters, location and coordinates of the completion of the addition, removal, relocation or modification of any of its facilities within the EA. The EA licensee must provide such information within ten (10) days of receiving a written request.

(h) The relevant Regional Planning Committee shall be informed of any proposed changes to any NPSPAC channel.
§ 90.685 Authorization, construction and implementation of EA licenses.

(a) EA licenses in the 809–824/854–869 MHz band will be issued for a term not to exceed ten years. Additionally, EA licensees generally will be afforded a renewal expectancy only for those stations put into service after August 10, 1996.

(b) EA licensees in the 809–824/854–869 MHz band must, within three years of the grant of their initial license, construct and place into operation a sufficient number of base stations to provide coverage to at least one-third of the population of its EA-based service area. Further, each EA licensee must provide coverage to at least two-thirds of the population of the EA-based service area within five years of the grant of their initial license. EA-based licensees may, in the alternative, provide substantial service to their markets within five years of the grant of their initial license. Substantial service shall be defined as: “Service which is sound, favorable, and substantially above a level of mediocre service.”

(c) Channel use requirement. In addition to the population coverage requirements described in this section, we will require EA licensees in Channel blocks A, B and C in the 816–821/861–866 MHz band to construct 50 percent of the total channels included in their spectrum block in at least one location in their respective EA-based service area within three years of initial license grant and to retain such channel usage for the remainder of the construction period.

(d) An EA licensee’s failure to meet the population coverage requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, will result in forfeiture of the entire EA license. Forfeiture of the EA license, however, would not result in the loss of any constructed facilities authorized to the licensee prior to the date of the commencement of the auction for the EA licenses.

§ 90.687 Special provisions regarding assignments and transfers of authorizations for incumbent SMR licensees in the 809–824/854–869 MHz band.

An SMR license initially authorized on any of the channels listed in Tables 4 and 5 of §90.617 may transfer or assign its channel(s) to another entity subject to the provisions of §1.948 of this chapter and §90.609(b). If the proposed transferee or assignee is the EA licensee for the spectrum block to which the channel is allocated, such transfer or assignment presumptively will be deemed to be in the public interest. However, such presumption will be rebuttable.

[69 FR 67852, Nov. 22, 2004]