

megahertz. We will also modify the Group P channels to list them every 6.25 kHz and allow licensees to stack up to two channels. Further, we will require new Remote Pickup station equipment designed to operate on channels 30 kilohertz wide or less to comply with the part 90 technical standards, including emission mask, frequency tolerance, and transient frequency behavior. By harmonizing all RPU channels and equipment with the Part 90 PLMR channel plan, licensees will benefit from economies of scale resulting from the use of equipment consistent with part 90 operations. Additionally, this will simplify station coordination and reduce the potential for harmful interference.

32. To ease the transition to this new channel plan, we adopted our proposal to provide a three-year period for licensees operating on the channels adopted in 1984 to modify their licenses to the new channels. After three years, they may remain on their current channel assignments, but on a secondary, non-interference basis. Consistent with our action for the N₁ and N₂ channels we will also provide three years to licensees operating on the 10 kilohertz P channels to modify their licenses to the new channel plan. After that time they may remain on their current channel assignment but on a secondary basis. This will provide for a smooth transition to the new channels where incumbent operations will not inhibit the growth of systems on the new frequency plan.

Federal Narrowbanding of 162–174 MHz Band Land Mobile Frequencies

33. In accordance with the comments of SBE and our proposal, we amended the rules to require that existing and applied for Remote Pickup BAS facilities on 166.25 MHz and 170.15 MHz use no more than 12.5 kilohertz channel bandwidth by January 1, 2005. This will apply to all stations on these frequencies that obtained licenses or applied for licenses on or before the effective date of the rules in this *Report and Order*. This approach will ensure that existing licensed stations and applicants who are planning stations on these frequencies have adequate time to transition to narrowband equipment. To further ease this transition, we will not require licensees to modify their licenses. Instead, the Commission will automatically issue a superseded license, effective January 1, 2005, showing the reduction in authorized bandwidth. Additionally, in the event that the January 1, 2005 deadline for Federal Government systems is extended, we will consider amending

the rules to implement the extension for Non-Government systems on the 166.25 MHz and 170.15 MHz frequencies as well. Stations applied for after the effective date of the rules in the *Report and Order* must comply with the 12.5 kilohertz channel bandwidth requirement. Rather than placing these requirements in footnote US11 as proposed, we will instead amend § 74.462. This action is appropriate as it consolidates all Remote Pickup BAS service rules in one place.

34. With respect to Remote Pickup BAS base stations operating as an integral part of the EAS, we are adopting a procedure recommended by NTIA to ensure that such stations will be protected. Under this procedure NTIA will place a notation in the Government Master Frequency (GMF) database licensing record of these stations which will require Government stations to protect them from harmful interference. Thus, there is no need to amend footnote US11.

950 MHz Aural BAS Channel Splits

35. The *Report and Order* in MM Docket 85–36, 50 FR 48596, November 26, 1985, specified that the 950 MHz Aural BAS Channel Plan listed in § 74.502(b) would become effective upon a future Order from the Commission to be issued when the licensing system was capable of accommodating this channel plan. With the implementation of ULS for licensing, we are implementing that rule section with this *Report and Order*.

Universal Licensing System and BAS

36. The *Universal Licensing System* (ULS) is an automated licensing system and integrated database designed to provide greater efficiency in the licensing process by using a consolidated set of application forms, automating many license review processes, and facilitating electronic application filing and data retrieval. The *ULS Report and Order*, 63 FR 68904, December 14, 1998, consolidated the application and processing rules for all wireless services into Subpart F of Part 1, now the only rule section that wireless applicants and licensees, including BAS applicants and licensees, must consult regarding application procedures, such as those for amendments, modifications, and STAs. The Commission's WTB, which is responsible for licensing BAS, began using ULS for Aural and TV BAS licensing in August, 1999 and for Remote Pickup BAS in September, 2000. As a result, several BAS service rules require updating to reflect new ULS application processing procedures.

Many of these changes, such as updating application form numbers, are ministerial in nature.

Applications Procedures and Construction Periods

37. We have adopted the proposals from the *NPRM* regarding applications and STA filing procedures. We are amending §§ 1.901 and 1.902 to reference part 74 and are adding a new § 74.6 to reference BAS applicants and licensees to the application and processing rules in part 1, subpart F. These changes will simplify our rules and result in processing efficiencies for BAS licensing. We observe that specific changes to the ULS system, including forms, affect multiple services. Thus, we lack adequate notice to all potentially affected services and we therefore decline to adopt changes to Form 601. We note that no commenter opposed the proposal with respect to STAs. Therefore, we are also adopting the proposals amending part 74 to require that BAS STA requests follow the procedures outlined in § 1.931. We clarify that electronic filing is not required for STAs; they may be filed either electronically or manually.

38. We have also adopted the proposed rule amendments to remove the construction requirements for BAS stations from part 73 and place them in a new § 74.34. This approach will promote timely construction of facilities, ensure consistent construction requirements among the services, and prevent warehousing of spectrum. We note that the rules already require licensees to file a notification of completion of construction. Failure to file such a notification results in the termination of the license by the Commission.

Classification of Filings as Major or Minor

39. The Commission proposed to amend the part 74 rules to adhere to the procedures adopted in the ULS proceeding for major and minor amendments and modifications; *i.e.*, amendments to aural and TV BAS applications and modifications to aural and TV BAS licenses would be evaluated based on the rules defining a major change in §§ 1.929(a) and 1.929(d), and Remote Pickup BAS applications would follow the rules set forth in §§ 1.929(a) and 1.929(c)(4). In many cases, the rules adopted in the *ULS Report and Order*, 63 FR 68904, December 14, 1998, provide more flexibility than is afforded BAS licensees under part 74. For example, §§ 74.551 and 74.651 require aural and TV BAS licensees to file an application