

CHAPTER 4. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

4-1. GENERAL. The Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC 305a) conferred upon the President the functions relating to radio frequency spectrum management within the United States. Under the Department of Commerce, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) was established to fulfill these functions. Specifically, these function are:

- a. Spectrum plans and policies
- b. Spectrum analysis
- c. Spectrum management
- d. Frequency assignment and utilization

Frequency allocations are made by NTIA only after they are sanctioned by the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC). IRAC, a committee made up of all government executive agencies who are major users of radio communications, recommends action on Federal Government agency frequency applications.

4-2. POLICY ON NEW RADIO SYSTEMS.

a. The NTIA requires that, prior to the selection of a new radio system, the requirements be submitted to IRAC. Since the radio frequency spectrum is congested, approvals for new systems will be limited. The spectrum planning subcommittee (SPS) of IRAC will review and determine:

- (1) If radio communications are absolutely necessary to meet the requirements.
- (2) If sharing frequencies is practicable.
- (3) What the minimum transmitter power should be for effective operation.
- (4) What the minimum gain and elevations of the antennas should be to cover the intended area of operation.
- (5) If shielding is feasible.

(4-2) b. HUD policy concerning acquisitions of any type of communications system using radio frequencies is that no funds shall be obligated for either the development or procurement of a communications system requiring the use of radio frequencies until:

- (1) The system is approved by the Office of Administrative and Management Services, Communications Management Branch.

(2) The system is approved by IRAC.

(3) Assignment of radio frequencies has been assured.

4-3. REQUEST PROCEDURE. The Office of Administrative and Management Services, Communications Management Branch, represents the Department in dealing with IRAC and is solely responsible for submitting requests for radio system approval and radio frequency assignments. Requests for radio transmitting equipment or for authority to use radio frequencies for official purposes shall be forwarded to the Director, Office of Administrative and Management Services. The following data must be provided prior to submitting an formal application for a frequency assignment:

- a. Station class
- b. Emission
- c. Power
- d. Antenna location
- e. Antenna dimensions
- f. Antenna polarization
- g. Antenna orientation

4-4. ASSISTANCE. The Communications and Space Management Division should be consulted as soon as a requirement for radio communications is considered. The Communications Management Branch will provide radio electronics consulting assistance.