July 21, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Presentation, WP Docket No. 07-100; GN Docket No. 12-354; and IBFS File No.: SES-LIC-20150616-00357, Call Sign: E150095.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Utilities Technology Council (“UTC”) is providing the following ex parte notification in the above-referenced proceeding in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s Rules. On July 19, 2017, Matt Schnell and Matt Holthe from Nebraska Public Power District, Melvin Charuvilayil from Kansas City Power & Light, Paul Lambert from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Kevin Huff from Salt River Power and Liana Hite from Ameren and the undersigned met with Julius Knapp, Jamison Prime, Ira Keltz, and Ronald Repasi from the Office of Engineering and Technology to discuss matters related to the above-referenced proceedings.

During the meeting, UTC and the representatives from the utilities discussed their current use of spectrum, including wireless networks in the 3.5 GHz band (3550-3700 MHz) and the 6 GHz band (5925-6425 MHz) – and the need to protect their existing wireless networks from interference. They also explained that utilities need access to additional spectrum to meet increasing capacity and coverage requirements, and how they are interested in sharing spectrum, including the 4.9 GHz band (4940-4990 MHz).

UTC and the representatives from the utilities expressed their concerns about the potential for interference to incumbent utility systems in the 6 GHz band from mobile operations by Higher Ground, LLC, which has been authorized to operate up to 50,000 mobile earth terminals in the 6 GHz band. Utilities use the 6 GHz band for fixed microwave networks to support mission critical communications and these networks must maintain high standards for reliability, which could be compromised due to interference from Higher Ground’s mobile operations. UTC and the representatives from the utilities also expressed their concern that further expanded use of the 6 GHz band for mobile broadband poses an additional threat of interference to utility microwave networks in the band.

In addition, UTC and the representatives from the utilities urged the FCC to issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking in its 4.9 GHz proceeding, which would help to provide utilities with access to spectrum that would provide additional capacity and coverage to support grid modernization and security applications. UTC explained that sharing the 4.9 GHz band with public safety would be consistent with the recommendations in the Commission’s National Broadband Plan, which recognized that utilities and public safety have similar communications needs and that sharing spectrum could create synergies. UTC also discussed the 3.5 GHz band as both an opportunity for utilities to access additional spectrum as well as another example of where incumbent utility operations are threatened by interference.
The substance of the discussions during the meeting was consistent with the positions of UTC on the record in the above-referenced proceedings. Thank you for your help in this matter. If there are any questions concerning this matter, please let me know.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Brett Kilbourne

Cc: FCC Participants