



Memorandum

December 29th, 2015

TO: IEEE 802.16s Working Group
FROM: Jeff Neuenfeldt, Telecommunication Systems
SUBJECT: Support of 802.16s Standards

Salt River Project (SRP) is a strong supporter of standards based communications and encourage the adoption of a public standard such as what is being proposed with a narrowband WiMAX standard also known as the 802.16s standard. We believe this will bring an economy of scale and a greater adoption and use of this spectrum. It is our intent to support the WirelessMAN working group in IEEE's adoption of this proposed standard.

SRP has purchased the 700 MHz upper A-Block of licensed spectrum in order to build a proprietary and largely non-standard network that is needed to support SRP's Strategic Grid Modernization Roadmap. Because of the proprietary nature of the hardware that operates in this spectrum today, it creates a sustainability risk for SRP and makes it difficult, and in many cases impossible, for geographically adjacent utilities to connect to edge assets because of competing wireless systems' inherent operational incompatibility and the resulting interference.

The proposed standard from the working group specifies WirelessMAN-OFDMA TDD operation in exclusively-licensed spectrum with channel bandwidths up to 1.25 MHz, including 100 kHz and 1 MHz explicitly. The standard amends Clause 12 of IEEE Std 802.16, adding a new system profile and amending other clauses as required to support the narrower channel widths proposed in IEEE 802.16s.

The 700 MHz upper A-Block which has been purchased by SRP and other utilities, but the 1 MHz channel width is not currently supported by any standard. As a result of these realities, a group of 23 people, from four utilities, five equipment vendors, and several other organizations have attended the working group to develop this standard.

SRP believes that the proposed IEEE 802.16s standard should be adopted as soon as possible. This standard will give both utilities and manufacturing partners the organized and sustainable platform needed for hardware development and cohesive long term network planning and deployment.

Sincerely,

Jeff Neuenfeldt
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Salt River Project