

The Commission is asking for comments on its proposal to provide ADDITIONAL spectrum for use by new medical devices that are in use or soon will be. Implanted or body-worn devices in the future could enable paralyzed individuals to control artificial limbs by thought through wireless interfaces between brain, nerve and muscle. The vision-impaired might have some degree of visual ability restored with the help of a microchip placed in the back of the eye. Even today, implanted vagus nerve stimulators that send electric pulses to the brain are being used to treat severe chronic depression. Tremors related to Parkinson's disease are being treated with deep brain stimulation implants. With other new types of implants, such as insulin pumps, physicians could wirelessly retrieve data and then make operating parameter adjustments with greater ease and accuracy than with the more traditional wired connection technologies, and in some cases, changes can be effected immediately by computer control. For health care providers and patients, such wireless implant monitoring technologies have the potential to lower medical costs by extending the time between hospital visits and surgical procedures.

The spectrum and operational rules being proposed are intended to ensure that these devices are able to operate effectively.

Comments are due by October 31 and can be filed on ECFS express at <http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload>