



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

News media information 202/254-7674.

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FCC 84-341
July 13, 1984

USE OF COMPUTER-GENERATED TERRAIN DATA FOR DETERMINING ANTENNA HEIGHT ABOVE AVERAGE TERRAIN

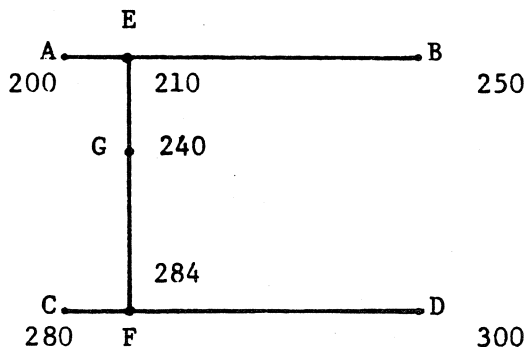
Interim Procedure Per General Docket 84-705

Until the Commission decides the issues pertaining to the use of computer-generated topographic data, the following will be in effect for Sections 22.115(c)(2), 73.313, 73.684, 81.805, and 90.309(a)(4).

Computer-generated Terrain Data. Applicants will be allowed to use any data file with equal or greater accuracy as the 30-second, point file of the National Geophysical Data Center (formally the National Geophysical and Solar-Terrestrial Data Center). When submitting their applications, applicants should indicate the file used. Topographic maps, however, will be the standard in cases of questioned accuracy.

Linear Interpolation. Where the data must be processed for intermediate points along each radial, the applicant will use linear interpolation techniques. In the Commission's program for calculating the average terrain, the linear interpolation is performed as follows:

Select the four 30-second elevation data points (A,B,C,D) around the intermediate data point (G). Interpolate linearly on lines AB and CD to determine the elevation at points E and F, respectively. Then interpolate linearly on line EF to determine the elevation at the intermediate point G. This interpolation would be conducted for each intermediate point on the radial to determine the average elevation for that radial.



Action by the Commission July 12, 1984. Commissioners Fowler (Chairman), Quello, Dawson and Patrick.



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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1975).

Report No. 18049

ACTION IN DOCKET CASE

July 13, 1984

STANDARDIZING USE OF DIGITIZED TERRAIN DATA FOR DETERMINING ANTENNA HEIGHTS
PROPOSED; INTERIM PROCEDURES SPECIFIED
(GEN DOCKET 84-705)

The Commission has proposed a method of unifying its acceptance of computer-generated antenna heights above average terrain (HAAT).

The Commission also issued a public notice, released today, specifying interim procedures to be followed until new rules are adopted.

The Commission proposed specifying not one source of data but use of a particular format only.

The Commission said it believed the "30 second" file, which typically contains 16 discrete elevation points in an 8 mile segment, was adequate for antenna height calculations when interpolations to produce 50 points are made.

It noted the 30 second point format appeared to be the most available and convenient. Due to variations among sources, however, the FCC proposed allowing use of digitized data in generating HAAT as an option only. The manual method using topographic maps would continue to be the standard in cases of dispute.

The Commission requested comments on how well computer-generated HAATs "track" the standard method. It said it expected the minor decrease in accuracy when elevations are averaged to be greatly offset by the convenience in processing. It did not propose, however, to allow the use of digitized data for individual elevations such as antenna height above sea level.

It also asked for comments on whether any one source of digitized terrain data was clearly the best in terms of accuracy, availability, cost, etc. and, if so, should this be a recommended source.

The Commission also asked for comments on whether the accuracy of the overall HAAT calculation might be greatly improved if 50 points on more radials were used.

Action by the Commission July 12, 1984, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 84-334). Commissioners Fowler (Chairman), Quello, Dawson and Patrick.

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