

3 FCC Red 1478

Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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**FCC INTERIM PROCEDURE FOR THE  
SPECIFICATION OF GEOGRAPHIC  
COORDINATES**

Latitude and longitude coordinates (coordinates) are being changed slightly for all points in the United States. This is a result of the 1927 North American Datum (NAD27), on which North American coordinates are based, being replaced with the more accurate 1983 North American Datum (NAD83). This activity is authorized by the Office of Management and Budget and is being overseen by the Federal Geodetic Control Committee. Actual calculations are being performed by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS).

The Commission will eventually convert to use of NAD83 to maintain accuracy in our records and to maintain consistency with other government agencies and foreign administrations. The conversion to NAD83 will affect coordinates used to describe communication sites on authorizations, notifications, forms, rules, data bases, etc.

Current topographic maps such as the 7.5-minute quadrangle maps published by the Geological Survey which are often used by applicants to determine the coordinates of their site, specify NAD27 in the lower left corner. At some point in the near future, Geological Survey will begin to issue maps based on NAD83. Initially, dual-sided (NAD27/NAD83) maps will be issued. Eventually, only NAD83 maps will be available. The satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS) is already programmed with NAD83. Site coordinates determined by use of GPS receivers thereof already reflect NAD83.

In order to prevent intermixing of data using two different datums the following procedures will be in effect until further notice:

Applicants are instructed to furnish coordinates based on NAD27 datum on all submissions. Failure to do so could delay the processing of an application.

Applicants who have filed applications with coordinates based on the NAD83 datum must provide NAD27 coordinates to the appropriate Commission licensing bureau.

Until further notice, the Commission will continue to specify NAD27 coordinates in its data bases, authorizations, notifications, forms, rules, etc.

The Commission will issue further guidance on the conversion to NAD83 as more information becomes available. For further information, contact Don R. Precure at (202) 653-8152.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION