

Before The  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC

In the matter of: )  
 )  
Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Shield ) RM-10330  
Electronics Equipment Against Acts of War Or )  
Terrorism Involving Hostile Use of )  
Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) )  
 )

**COMMENTS OF REC NETWORKS**

REC Networks is a provider of entertainment and information services since 1984. We have been very involved in the establishment of the Low Power FM (LPFM) service and continue to support it by providing free services to potential applicants. Rich Eyre of REC Networks is also a licensed Advanced Class amateur radio operator, K7REC.

REC feels that the above captioned petition ("petition") is well intended, especially in this time of escalated awareness of possible threats from foreign and domestic enemies.

REC feels however, that the shielding and protections to non-essential equipment requested in this petition should be driven by industry initiative and not through additional federal regulation. This includes the "upgrading" of existing electronic equipment. The requirements requested in this petition would require private industry to borne the cost of adding the required shielding to their radio, power and computer systems which results in the costs being passed to consumers.

REC feels that some additional considerations should be made new equipment that is type accepted into various radio services that are involved in the National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) infrastructure used by public utilities and other portions of the public and private sector. We feel that these industries can determine the actual threat of the "E-Bomb" and make the necessary adjustments to their networks with minimal need for federal regulation.

In the appendix of this petition, it is suggested that the Amateur Radio Service be subject to these rules as a "non-luxury" service. Even though we also consider the Amateur Service as a "non-luxury" service, we feel that any additional shielding to equipment should be voluntary and should not be mandated. Part 97 does not require stations operating in Repeater or Auxiliary mode to be equipped with lightning arrestors but many repeater stations are equipped with them.

Although not mentioned in the main text of the petition, the appendix calls for military equipment to also be subject to these shielding regulations. From our understanding, the Commission does not have any jurisdiction over equipment used exclusively in the military (as well as any U.S. Government radio service). REC is concerned about the vulnerability of the Government's infrastructure in the event of an EMP attack. We feel however, that the jurisdiction of such a proceeding should be at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Defense (DoD).

A threat of bio terrorism is just as likely as an EMP attack, no one is trying to pass laws to force all Americans to wear respirators at all times.

### **In conclusion**

The petition does address a legitimate threat, however it is one of many threats that can happen. We feel that it is up to the private sector to determine the need to protect their networks and data. We feel that vital U.S. Government systems should be protected in the event of an EMP attack but we feel that any changes to Government process should be done through the NTIA, NIST, DoD, GSA and other agencies. We do feel that private industry that interfaces to the federal government's NSEP networks should also be protected as the government systems are. Any FCC regulations that would need to be placed on private industry participating in NSEP should be initiated by the government agencies involved. Consumers and small businesses should not be impacted by this proposed regulation.

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