

**FHH Telecom Law
June 2004**

New Channels in 18 GHz Band

Three years ago, the the FCC partitioned the 18 GHz band formerly shared between fixed microwave and satellite users. The parts of the band holding the narrower microwave channels ended up in the satellite allocation. That meant new and relocated narrowband licenses had to occupy wideband channels, a waste of valuable spectrum. The fixed microwave industry promptly pointed out the problem to the FCC and proposed a rechannelization plan to solve it. A year later, with the situation unchanged, the industry resubmitted its plan as part of a request for a blanket waiver. Two years later still, the FCC has now proposed to amend its rules to incorporate the rechannelization plan, and offers waivers to narrowband users while the rulemaking is underway.