

Feds propose shifting airwaves to broadband

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(AP) -- Federal officials looking for more airwaves to deliver wireless broadband services are recommending that the government reallocate a sizeable chunk of radio spectrum currently used for weather satellites and naval radar systems.

The proposal is intended to keep up with ballooning demand for iPhones, laptops and other [mobile devices](#) that connect to the Internet. The recommendation is outlined in a report released Monday by the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

In June, Obama administration committed the federal government to making available an additional 500 [megahertz](#) of airwaves for wireless [broadband](#) over the next 10 years. The new proposal would free up 115 megahertz of spectrum over the next five years. Lawrence Strickling, head of the NTIA, calls it a "significant down payment towards realizing that goal."

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