

6 GHz Interference Reporting

April 19, 2024

Background

- In April 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a report and order that partially opened the 6 GHz band of radio spectrum to unlicensed users.
- Prior to the FCC ruling, the 6 GHz licensees had exclusive use of the assigned frequency, so communication interference was not much of a concern as it could easily be identified due to licensing requirements.
- These industries rely on the 6 GHz band to operate their equipment, and this band is the main source of primary communications for voice and data communications in many cases during emergencies and disasters.

Instructions

Submit an email to 6GHZ@nerc.net with the subject header of: Communication Interference and include the following information.

Information Requested

- Contact Information (Name, Title, Entity, Phone Number, NCR number, Region).
- Approximate Date/Time of Suspected Interference Event.
- Is the interference confirmed or suspected?
- Impact of interference: voice, SCADA, communication-assisted-relaying problem (includes protection systems, remedial action schemes, automatic load shedding programs), security, and/or other.
- Description of the event.

Interference Examples

- Difficulty with voice communication and/or security systems to an area that previously did not have a problem.
- Increase in SCADA control timeouts and/or stale data.
- Problems with communication-assisted relay applications.
- Increase in alarms or problems with the 6 GHz communication equipment.