



**MUTUALLY  
EXCLUSIVE  
APPLICATIONS**

---

## DEFINITION OF MUTALLY EXCLUSIVE APPLICATIONS

- Applications will be considered mutually exclusive if there is any geographic or spectral overlap between them, however minimal

---

## NOT MUTALLY EXCLUSIVE

- Applications seeking different channel groups on the same land are not mutually exclusive
- Applications seeking adjacent areas are not mutually exclusive, even though they may be required to coordinate operations under our technical rules

---

## WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID MUTUAL EXCLUSIVITY

- The FCC is statutorily required to resolve mutual exclusivity through competitive bidding for that spectrum
- The FCC does not have the authority to waive or ignore that requirement

---

## HOW TO SEE IF A MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE APPLICATION HAS BEEN FILED

- Use Application Search in ULS to see if applications have been filed
- Advanced Application Search will allow you to narrow your search to a given geographic area
- E-mail [RuralTribalWindow@fcc.gov](mailto:RuralTribalWindow@fcc.gov) if you need assistance

---

## **AVOIDING MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE APPLICATIONS**

- Mutually exclusive applications should be avoided, if possible, by advance planning
- Before the window closes, applications may be amended or withdrawn to avoid mutual exclusivity
- Once the window closes, it becomes more difficult to resolve mutual exclusivity

---

## SETTLEMENT WINDOW

- Once the Commission identifies and lists mutually exclusive applications, there will be a 90-day window for applicants to reach a settlement
- This will be the last chance to avoid competitive bidding
- Once the settlement window closes and competitive bidding is triggered, the FCC's prohibited communications rule prevents the parties from further communicating