

Mariners' Advisory Committee

for the Bay & River Delaware

Captain Stephen Roberts, Chairman

Captain H. Hickman Rowland Jr., Secretary

Organized 1964

Captain Rick Iuliucci, Treasurer

Captain Joseph F. Bradley, Honorary Chairman



Federal Communications Commission
RE: LightSquared Approval

Proceeding Number 11-109

February 26, 2012

The Mariners Advisory Committee for the Bay & River Delaware (MAC) is comprised of master mariners, pilots and other maritime professionals and concerns itself with safety of navigation, with particular regard to large ocean going vessels. This committee works closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, commercial operators, and port industry personnel to recommend and promote safe navigation practices on the Delaware Bay and River, as well as the approaches to this very important waterway and as such, the MAC serves as the Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) for the port area.

GPS is the primary means of navigation used on commercial vessels of all sizes and is necessary for the safe operation of ships and tows in the long, narrow channel of the Delaware River. With the demise of LORAN-C there are no other backup electronic navigation systems available to mariners. While we all appreciate the need for LightSquared's wide area broadband system, in fact I would be a potential subscriber; such a system should not come at the cost of safe navigation on our waterways.

The MAC encourages the FCC to withdraw LightSquared's approval until such a time as LightSquared can present a product that does not interfere with GPS signals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Stephen A. Roberts
Chairman

240 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 925 1524
Administrative Assistant Scott Anderson administrator@macdelriv.org
or visit our website www.macdelriv.org