

## What about those FCC License-Related Letters?

Sometimes we hear from a customer who has received a letter ([sample](#)) indicating that there may be something wrong with their FCC license. Usually, although the sender has an official-sounding name, the letter states that the sender is not affiliated with the FCC. But they certainly look official.

The letter lists a number of events that require a modification of the radio license – address or licensee name changes, antenna modifications, additional transmit/receive locations, etc. – and stresses that improper radio operations are subject to fines – big fines. The sender offers to resolve any necessary modifications to the user’s license – for a fee.

While there is nothing improper or illegal about this practice, we would like to point out that DFS handles all such modifications for our customers at no cost. DFS provides our system users with all radio path propagation studies, frequency searches, licensing services and license maintenance.

If you have any concerns about the status of your FCC license, contact our Radio Frequency Manager, Josh McCoy at 321-259-5009.

## Upcoming Events

## Florida Senate Considers Increasing Environmental Fines

*“Every three hours of every day of the week, seven days a week, 365 days a year, there is a spill somewhere in Florida.” – Senator Joe Gruters, R-Sarasota.*

Earlier this year, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee unanimously supported a proposal that would make various changes in the amounts and extent of penalties for violations of Florida’s environmental laws. Most of the changes, which have not yet been enacted, would boost fines by 50 percent.

Governor Ron DeSantis, who called for the increased penalties, called existing fines for sewage spills a “slap on the wrist.” He said that for some municipalities, it’s cheaper to pay the fines than to fix the problem. “They’d rather do that than invest in the infrastructure they need to make sure the waterways surrounding them are safe and clean,” DeSantis said.

Some of the measures under consideration include: a set dollar fine for every gallon of spilled sewage; removing the daily penalty cap for spills and; treating every day that a spill continues as a separate offense.

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## Wastewater and the Coronavirus

Wastewater may be a catalyst for the spread of the Coronavirus but, at the same time, it can be analyzed to help contain the virus.

Dr. Aileen Marty, an infectious disease expert from Florida International University, is worried about the potential for the virus to spread in untreated sewage. Speaking of Miami-Dade County sewage, Dr. Marty noted that, “Our wastewater is chock-full of the virus.” She is especially concerned about the potential for the disease to spread as the result of broken sewer lines or overflows. While the EPA says that standard treatment and disinfecting processes at wastewater treatment plants should be effective in killing the virus, there is concern that improperly treated sewage or spills containing dangerous levels of Covid-19 may be discharged into bodies of water, such as Tampa Bay, Biscayne Bay or the Intracoastal Waterway, that are magnets for recreational activities. The EPA warns that the virus adapts and survives quite well in salt water.

On the positive side, a team of researchers at Yale

**Alabama Rural Water  
Conference**

Mobile Convention Center  
July 5 - 8, 2020

**Georgia Association of  
Water Professionals**

Savannah Convention Ctr.  
July 12 -15, 2020

University found that an analysis of wastewater from four municipalities near New Haven, Connecticut was able to give health care experts and researchers a head start in preparing for a surge of Coronavirus patients. After determining that SARS-CoV-2 RNA is present in human waste of Covid-19 patients, analysis of the RNA concentrations in wastewater provided a seven day leading indicator ahead of standard testing data and a three day head start on local hospital admissions.



Ask about DFS's lifetime warranty on products and systems.