

## **Committee on Radio Frequency Requirements for Scientific Research, 1961-1974**

The Committee on Radio Frequency Requirements for Scientific Research (CORF) was established in spring 1961 as the US counterpart to the Inter-Union Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF). CORF, the original name of which was the Committee on Radio Frequency Allocations for Scientific Research (changed 17 October 1962), was charged with two main responsibilities: 1) To consider and determine the needs of US science for radio frequency allocations and assignments and to work actively with the US government in securing them; and 2) To work with IUCAF. A permanent Subcommittee on Radio Astronomy was established under CORF in November 1961.

The way had been prepared for an NAS-NRC committee concerned with frequency allocation as early as 1959. In that year, the US President's Science Advisory Committee asked the Academy to convene a meeting of US radio astronomers in order to ascertain and concert their views regarding the need for establishing protected frequencies in the electromagnetic spectrum. Accordingly, the first of a series of meetings was held at the Academy in October 1959; these meetings were considered successful in beginning a dialogue between the radio astronomers and the US government.

Membership in CORF included representatives of the US National Committees for the International Astronomical Union and the International Scientific Radio Union, as well as the NAS Space Science Board, under whose administrative responsibilities CORF originally was placed (CORF became an independent committee under the NRC Division of Physical Sciences in November 1962), and federal government agencies concerned with radio frequency allocation and assignment.

During its early years, CORF was active in a number of areas, including consulting on questions referred to it by the US Committee for CCIR (International Radio Consultative Committee) Study Group IV (Space Systems), working with the NAS Committee on Oceanography regarding frequency allocation needs for the telemetry of oceanographic data, and advising the FCC on reserving UHF channel 37 for radio astronomy.

The CORF records contained in this collection represent the committee's earliest years of 1959-1974; it is still active as the Committee on Radio Frequencies. Provenance: The records of the Committee on Radio Frequency Requirements for Scientific Research were found among an unorganized set of records of the NRC Division of Physical Sciences and measures 1.8 linear feet.

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