

Project	IEEE 802.16 Broadband Wireless Access Working Group < http://ieee802.org/16 >	
Title	Splitting the 802.16a/802.16b Document	
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Re:	IEEE 802.16ab-01/01r2	
Abstract	The IEEE 802.16 Working Group is developing, under separate PARs, two amendments to IEEE P802.16. However, the Working Group is currently developing both parts in one document (IEEE 802.16-01/01r2). In order to proceed with timely development, action is required to resolve this disparity.	
Purpose	To inform the Working Group on issues forcing an imminent decision on the restructuring the 802.16a and 802.16b work.	
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Splitting the 802.16a/802.16b Document

Roger B. Marks

1. Introduction

The IEEE 802.16 Working Group is developing two amendments to the IEEE P802.16 air interface. The two projects are being developed under separate PARs:

IEEE PAR 802.16a (Document IEEE 802.16-01/16)

http://ieee802.org/16/docs/01/80216-01_16.pdf

IEEE PAR 802.16b (Document IEEE 802.16-01/17)

http://ieee802.org/16/docs/01/80216-01_17.pdf

The IEEE-SA is expecting one published document in accordance with each PAR. However, the Working Group is currently developing both parts in one document (IEEE 802.16ab-01/01r2).

2. Alternatives

The Working Group is faced with two alternatives to resolve this disparity:

- (1) Keep the document together, but split it when it is more mature.
- (2) Publish everything as one document.

Both of these alternatives has practical ramifications. This analysis is based on the development schedule in IEEE 802.16ab-01/10 <http://ieee802.org/16/tg3_4/docs/80216ab-01_10.pdf>.

3. Ramifications

(1) When we bring P802.16a and P802.16b to RevCom for approval, we need to provide evidence of having balloted each separately (in the IEEE Sponsor Ballot). That means that, on March 15, we need to ask the 802 SEC to approve either one Sponsor Ballot or two. The SEC 802 will probably not care whether we approved both parts in the same Working Group Letter Ballot, as long as the SEC motion specifies which parts will go where.

However, before we ask IEEE (on April 8) to start Sponsor Ballot, we need to have either one or two Sponsor Ballot Groups in place. The process of forming the Ballot Groups starts about six

weeks before the ballot opens. This means that Session #18 in March is too late to reconsider the current default plan of publishing two separate amendments. If we haven't decided by Session #17 in January to abandon Plan (1), then we are stuck with it.

Note that, when splitting the work, it would be possible to incorporate in P802.16a material suitable for unlicensed use, as long as we did not specify it for unlicensed use.

(2) If we decide at Session #17 to publish a single amendment, then we will need to create a ballot group for that single amendment. We may have trouble convincing the IEEE Balloting Center to create such a Ballot Group when we have no PAR to develop the specific document we want to ballot. However, they might go along if we had already submitted an appropriate PAR revision to NesCom (the PAR approval committee). If we made this merger decision at Session #17, we would need to ask the 802 SEC to vote on it electronically. We would probably have time to meet the NesCom deadline of February 8 (for March 21 PAR approval). If we asked the Balloting Center, on February 8, to form the Sponsor Ballot Group, we would be a week behind the schedule, but that is not a critical week.

If we do not make a Working Group decision on this issue at Session #16, then we need to pre-authorize the group at Session #17 to take action on this specific issue, regardless of whether we a quorum is present there.

Note the, according to the 802 Rules, "At the discretion of the LMSC Chair, PARs for ordinary items (like Maintenance PARs) and PAR changes essential to the orderly conduct of business (like division of existing work items or name changes to harmonize with equivalent ISO JTC-1 work items) may be placed on the Executive Committee agenda if delivered to Executive Committee members 48 hours in advance." The Executive Committee's closing meeting begins at 3 pm Friday.

4. Recommendation

I recommend that the Working Group choose a course of action on this issue at Session #16.