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(54) **DATA COMMUNICATION NETWORK TO PROVIDE HOP COUNT DATA FOR USER EQUIPMENT SELECTION OF A WIRELESS RELAY**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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H04W 88/04; H04B 7/15507; H04L
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See application file for complete search history.

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ABSTRACT

A data communication network to provide hop count data for User Equipment (UE) selection of a wireless relay. The data communication network comprises a macro base station and a plurality of wireless relays that serve UEs. The wireless relays receive a hop count, and in response, increment their individual hop count and wirelessly broadcast individual relay Long Term Evolution (LTE) System Information Blocks (SIBs) indicating their individual hop counts. The wireless relays receive wireless UE attachments responsive to the relay LTE SIB broadcasts of their individual hop counts.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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