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This letter is to introduce ourselves as the Transition Administrator (TA) for reconfiguring the 800 MHz band radio spectrum across the United States, and also to give you the opportunity to provide us with your views regarding the order in which the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) regions will be reconfigured over a three-year period. This letter is being sent to the APCO Local Frequency Advisors and NPSPAC Regional Planning Committee Chairs to take advantage of their understanding of the regions they serve.

As many of you are aware, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been working on rule changes for the 800 MHz band since March 2002. Change is necessary because commercial wireless networks operating in close proximity to public safety radio systems are causing increasing instances of interference and even “dead zones” for some Public Safety radio networks. This dangerous situation prompted the FCC to order that a nationwide reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band take place over a three-year period. In August 2004, the FCC issued a Report and Order (R&O) outlining the process through which commercial, public safety and private radios will be reconfigured. A full copy of the R&O can be found on the FCC’s Web site. A link to the R&O is provided at the bottom of this letter, as well as a link to a short description of the band reconfiguration process.

The FCC’s R&O also called for the appointment of an independent Transition Administrator to oversee the reconfiguration process. Briefly stated, the purpose of the TA is to ensure a smooth transition to the new 800 MHz band plan by having the relocation process managed by an independent party. The TA will oversee the administration and financial aspects of the band reconfiguration process, and ensure that the reconfiguration is completed in a fair, fast and efficient manner that causes minimal disruption to licensees, particularly public safety entities. The TA will also establish a relocation schedule to implement reconfiguration, specify replacement channels, initiate disbursement of funds for relocation expenses, and facilitate resolution of any disputes that may arise in the course of the relocation process.

Send Your Input

One of the TA’s first assignments is to provide the FCC with a schedule detailing prioritization of band reconfiguration for each of the 55 NPSPAC Public Safety Planning Regions (PSRs). This prioritization schedule will be submitted to the FCC on January 31, 2005. The FCC’s Order asks the TA to prioritize the reconfiguration of NPSPAC

regions by considering variables such as the number of instances of interference and population.

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO) regularly compiles reports of radio interference on public safety networks. Nextel has collected radio interference reports as well. The TA is using APCO and Nextel interference data as important sources that will help determine the order in which the NPSPAC regions will be rebanded. However, the TA knows that there are other variables that may influence this schedule. We want to know what other issues you think may affect the prioritization plan and why they are important. Our intent is to compile a reconfiguration schedule that best balances the needs and concerns of all stakeholders involved in this process.

Specifically, the TA would like any information you can provide regarding the questions below. Please do not feel obligated to do extra polling or inventory activity to answer these questions; simply provide any information that is currently available:

1. What 800 MHz systems – NPSPAC or other – are you aware of in your region that are experiencing interference from Nextel or cellular carriers, other than those that have already been reported to APCO? For those systems experiencing interference please provide the agency name, and if possible contact name(s) and phone number(s). If this data has already been reported then please let us know to what group the data was reported.
2. What are the largest 800 MHz systems in your NPSPAC region, PSR or state? Are any of these systems statewide? Does your organization have systems that operate in more than one region?
3. Is your NPSPAC regional plan closely coordinated with plans in any adjoining regions? In your opinion, should the reconfiguration of your region be done at the same time as an adjoining region, and if so which one(s)?
4. Are there any 800 MHz systems in your region that operate in border regions *and* non-border regions? “Border regions” are defined as being within 87 miles of the U.S. border with Canada, or within 69 miles of the U.S. border with Mexico. If your state or PSR includes a border region, are there large systems and/or mutual aid channel plans that prevent your entire state or PSR from being reconfigured prior to the finalization of agreements with Canada and Mexico?
5. Are there any major system upgrades ongoing or planned in your region that should either accelerate or delay reconfiguration?

If you have comments relating to the prioritization plan, please send them to us at your earliest convenience. We will appreciate it if you can **send comments by January 7, 2005**, but we will continue to compile comments after that date. You may send comments to the TA via letter, e-mail, telephone, or fax. Letters may be sent to me (“Attn: Brett Haan”) using the office address at the top of this letter, send e-mails to

comments@800TA.org, leave voicemail messages for the TA at 1-888-800-8220, or use the same toll-free telephone number for fax messages.

Please understand that in the course of fulfilling our responsibilities, the TA may need to provide a copy of your response to the FCC.

In coming weeks, the TA will contact various members of the 800 MHz community, at conferences, through letters and e-mails, through our Web site, and through Public Notices from the FCC. There will be ample opportunity to discuss and resolve all remaining issues regarding the rebanding process as we move forward.

We look forward to working with your organization in the coming months and are confident that with everyone working together, observing a high standard of good faith, the rebanding process will proceed with as little disruption as possible to your normal operations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett S. Haan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brett S. Haan
Office of the Transition Administrator

Background information on reconfiguring the 800 MHz band:

A full copy of the FCC's Report and Order is available on this Web site:
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/publicsafety/800MHz/bandreconfiguration/downloads/FCC-04-168A1.pdf>

This FCC Web site provides a brief description of 800 MHz band reconfiguration:
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/publicsafety/800MHz/bandreconfiguration/about.html>

FCC Web page describing the office of Transition Administrator:
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/publicsafety/800MHz/bandreconfiguration/ta.html>

FCC's Public Notice announcing appointment of the Transition Administrator:
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/publicsafety/800MHz/bandreconfiguration/downloads/DA-04-3492A1.pdf>