

Region 43 (Washington)  
700 MHz/4.9 GHz Regional Planning Committee  
**MINUTES**

June 29, 2005 - 1000 to 1200  
Washington State DOT Vancouver Facility  
4100 Main Street, Vancouver, Washington

**Meeting Summary:**

The RPC met to discuss joint Washington/Oregon 700 MHz & 4.9 GHz regional planning issues, SIEC updates, actions in other RPCs, NPSTC, Canadian 700 MHz Band Allocation and DTV transition issues.

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

Kevin Kearns – RPC Chair	Harlan D. Ohlson – WSDOT
Cammie Enslow – KCSO	Terry Miller – WSDOT
Capt. Debbie Huntsinger – KCSO	Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle
Spencer Bahner – Sparling	Babu Parayail - Port of Seattle
Kit Eldredge – M/A-COM, Inc.	Kris McGowan – FCC
Ron Solemsaas – SERS	James White – Clackamas County, OR
Keith Flewelling – CRESA	Walt Pierce – Snohomish County PUD
Jim Cole – CRESA	John Minish - Snohomish County PUD
Jeremy Millman – CRESA	Jason Grant – Cisco Systems
Mike Cooney – Tropos Networks	Maria Adkisson – Cisco Systems
Mike Cooney – Tropos Networks	Dan Nowell – Cisco Systems
Jim DeFreeuw - Tropos Networks	Jeff Nightingale – Motorola
Phone:	
Hai Phung –King County Metro Transit	Jay Morrison - SERS
Dean Heinen – Yakima County	Fred Radovich – Motorola

Attendees are once again reminded to verify their contact information on the sign-in sheet and, if interested in staying abreast of Region 43 activities, to self-subscribe to the 800 MHz Committee Listserver on the website, [www.region43.org](http://www.region43.org).

**2. Approval of 700 MHz/4.9 GHz Minutes of April 27, 2005**

There was a motion by Jon “Wiz” Wiswell and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walt Pierce and the minutes were approved.

**3. Information Updates**

• **SIEC updates – Kevin Kearns**

Federal Engineering was engaged and partially funded by UASI grant money to assist with the process of completing the Interoperability study. Input has been garnered from multiple agencies and digested. This resulted in release of the Alternatives Report in May of this year. Three alternatives were considered and may be viewed, along with the full report at the SIEC website:

<http://isb.wa.gov/siec/AlternativesReport052005FINAL.pdf>

Goals and cost profiles were compared. Each of the three alternatives scored differently and came with a different price tag. Cost was not the primary consideration. The Multiple Subsystems Alternative was selected as the preferred model in terms of meeting long term need with the opportunity for local agency participation. The next document to be released will be the System Architecture Report. This document is worth reviewing as it is insightful of the future: multiple subsystems leveraging current investment whenever possible including VHF systems, linking together in multiple-subsystem architecture.

Discussion followed:

- Terry Miller – asked the Chair to identify to the group where they are going with this, especially since it does not affect non-state agencies.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that because it addresses legacy systems it opens up possibilities for interoperability links into this environment. What is important about the SIEC process, it that it includes non-State government agencies such as the Association of WA Cities, WA Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs, WA State Association of Fire Chiefs, National Association of Counties, etc.
- Fred Radovich – offered to supply specific information. He suggested that each site could have VHF/UHF interoperability channels and gateways to systems such as OPSCAN plus connections to other systems.

- **Actions in other RPCs & NPSTC – Kevin Kearns**

Other RPCs:

Oregon - Region 35: David Brooks from Portland is now the Chair for the 700 and 800 MHz RPCs. The Chair had a conversation with David and offered to share Region 43 website info with Region 35.

Idaho – Region 12: Nothing new to report

New England - Region 19: has now been filed and was out for public comment. Their Plan document is lengthy as they included all the documentation and the meeting minutes. The 30 day comment period ended recently.

Filed plans for the 700 MHz band are available on the ECFS search page at:

[http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch\\_v2.cgi](http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi)

Note: search on Proceeding 02-378

NPSTC:

The May 2005 Spectrum Newsletter is available on the NPSTC website at:

<http://www.npstc.org/newsletter/v4issue2.pdf>.

Presentations from the NPSTC Committee and Board meetings are available at:

<http://www.npstc.org/meetings.htm>.

At the June meeting a formal standing committee representing RPC interests was established, chaired by Richard Reynolds of the State of Delaware. The June meeting information has not yet been posted. The Chair plans to attend the November meeting.

- **Canadian 700 MHz Band Allocation**

On June 20th the FCC announced that an agreement had been reached with Canada for shared use of public safety channels in the 700 MHz band. For details see:

[http://www.fcc.gov/ib/sand/agree/files/can-nb/764\\_806.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/ib/sand/agree/files/can-nb/764_806.pdf)

Border sharing zones: border sharing zones were defined in this process, similar to what was accomplished in the 800 MHz Treaty agreement. Sharing Zone I is essentially a band going across the country, extending 100 kilometers north and south of the border. Region 43 has territory in both Sharing Zones I and II. Channel sites may be designated as primary or secondary. Power limits in the tables are derived to protect Canadian TVs within 100 km of the border. At WL 121° 30' the zone increases to 140 kilometers from the border. Sharing Zone II is defined by an arc sloping to accommodate the requisite 140 kilometers from the border. Sharing Zones are displayed on page 9 of the slides. Band plans and power restriction tables follow. The Chair noted that we are in the same position as in the 800 MHz process in that we will be identifying channels as primary or secondary and using them as such. In this process we will be able to ignore the eastern state issues and focus on this area.

Appendix G: discussion followed on Appendix G (channel block assignments by county).

- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – suggested that we add multiple channel columns to see where a channel falls.
- Kevin Kearns – responded that ideally they will find a way to do this in CAPRAD. He added that he has not been able to follow up with NLECTC yet to see how they plan to handle this in CAPRAD.
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – offered to take a stab at this.
- Kevin Kearns – remarked that what's interesting is whether the county is in a sharing zone and added that maybe viewing this by counties has no value. Actually it's just a frequency look, we just need to identify if a channel block is constrained in Sharing Zone I or Sharing Zone II. If, not, we can identify it as unconstrained state-wide. He added that it would be good to have it in the document. Kevin agreed to let Wiz give it a try. Terry will work with Wiz to pull a CAPRAD download into Access or Excel.

Power Restrictions in Sharing Zones I & II: these were reviewed and discussed (see pages 16 & 17 of the meeting slides).

- Spencer Bahner pointed out that if the assumed average terrain for our area is assumed to be 0, power will be based on height AMSL alone. He also noted that Subsection C specifies more accuracy than Longley Rice and requires use of 3 arc second data or better.
- Kevin Kearns – added that his understanding is that the same methodology for approving secondary uses as in the 800 band is being pursued for the 700 band....the secondary use will be allowed by rule and the FCC will be able to approve it as long as the protection contours are provided. This should avoid having all secondary uses have to go through the waiver process.
- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – commenting on TV protection said that for cochannel stations the protection requirement is that others must be 40 db down at 50% of locations no more than 10% of the time. He asked what are the implications of the treaty on these issues, does it limit our flexibility and if so, in what way for northern counties such as Clallam, Whatcom, etc.
- Kevin Kearns – asked for further questions/comments on issues related to the Canadian Treaty issues (keeping in mind that it just came out on 6/20).

#### Updates on TV Band Clearing Activity:

RCR Wireless News has several interesting articles on this issue. See: <http://www.rcrnews.com/performSearch.cms?keywords=DTV+clearing>

Republican Senator from Arizona, John McCain, recently introduced a bill intended to set a hard date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 for the completion of digital TV transition out of the 700 MHz band. This bill is similar to one he introduced last year but reduces subsidies for set-top converter boxes to \$463 million plus administrative costs (see page 20 of the meeting slides for details). The debate began in 1997 when Congress announced that broadcasters would be required to return the extra 6 megahertz of spectrum in the 700 MHz band given to TV broadcasters by 2007 to facilitate DTV transition. This was delayed as long as 15 percent or more of the viewing public was unable to receive digital TV signals. There has been an ongoing process supported by wireless interests of attempts to establish a hard date for DTV transition. Senator Maria Cantwell has talked to the Chair several times about these issues. The sense that he got from their conversations is that a bill will pass one way or another. The 2009 date is probably when it will happen. They are trying to set a date certain, with funding to help citizens buy set top converters, if needed.

For those of us in Washington State it is less critical as we don't have interfering incumbent full-power TV stations. There is a push from the Spectrum Coalition and other parties to get additional spectrum allocated in the 700 MHz band. Public Safety got channels 63 and 64 in the upper 700 MHz band. The Spectrum Coalition wanted wideband spectrum (> 150 kHz). They suggested instead of auctioning the B and C blocks, a nationwide network could be built where Public Safety could be primary in emergency situations. Flarion and others said that if we can get a 10 MHz channel a lot can be done with video.

#### **4. Other Items for the Good of the order?**

700 MHz Plan Document: the Chair noted that his workload has prevented him from finalizing the changes in Section 6 of the Plan document with the SIEC and SAW group, which has delayed transmittal to the FCC. Attempts will be made to get this completed in July.

4.9 GHz Plan Document: the Plan was not submitted by the deadline due to the need to complete final edits and get signatures. This will be accomplished within a week or so and it will be submitted at that time. The Chair has confirmed that the FCC will still accept the document.

4.9 GHz Product: Dean Heinen announced that he had been given 4.9/5.8 GHz radios from Airaya to test. He was excited by the AES encryption, but it didn't work without RADIUS servers at both ends. Further info on this product is available at: <http://www.airaya.com>

#### **5. Future Meeting Dates**

The 700 MHz/4.9 GHz meetings will be scheduled to occur from 1000 to 1200 hours, followed by the 800 MHz meeting from 1300 to 1500 hours. The 800 MHz Regional Review Committee will continue meeting on a monthly basis during 2005, concurrent with the 700 MHz meetings, to complete a plan re-write process and deal

with issues surrounding the re-banding process. Vendor presentations will occur directly following the 800 MHz meeting, ending at 1630 or earlier.

- **July 27<sup>th</sup> – Benton County Emergency Services, Richland, WA**
- **August 31<sup>st</sup> – Portland Emergency Communications**  
**Note: this will be a joint meeting with Region 35**
- **September 28<sup>th</sup> – Yakima Probation Services, Yakima, WA**
- **October 26<sup>th</sup> – Vancouver/Portland area, location TBD**
- **November 30<sup>th</sup> – Eastside, location TBD**
- **December 28<sup>th</sup> - ???**

## **7. Adjourn**

The 700 MHz/4.9 GHz portion of the meeting was adjourned for lunch at noon.