

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

July 27, 2005 - 1000 to 1200
Benton County Emergency Services
651 Truman Avenue, Richland

Meeting Summary:

The RPC met to discuss 700 MHz & 4.9 GHz regional planning issues and the status of the 700 MHz and 4.9 GHz Plan documents, SIEC updates, actions in other RPCs, NPSTC, and impacts of US/Canadian sharing agreements on our channel assignments.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

During introductions participants were asked to identify themselves and their agencies and provide information (in general terms) on any known or expected interest by their agency or agencies around them in either the 700 MHz and/or the 4.9 GHz band in 2005 and 2006. Since this has been done at past meetings (see previous minutes for details) only new information is noted herein.

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns – RPC Chair

Cammie Enslow – KCSO

Dean Heinen – Yakima County, no current plans for 700 MHz, currently testing 4.9 GHz, looking to build out a system in the future.

Ron Solemsaas – SERS, planning in infancy stage.

Jon “Wiz” Wiswell - City of Seattle, is trying to acquire an experimental 700 MHz license to perform demos.

Valerie Eveland – Benton County Emergency Services, looking at both frequencies for future use.

Mark Hamilton – Cisco Systems, have developed 802.11 and 4.9 GHz products.

Bob Bushey – Dataradio, have developed 700 MHz products.

Travis Boetcher – Motorola, will support 700 MHz and 4.9 GHz.

Dave Brush - City of Yakima, looking at different options.

John Melvin - Grant County Sheriff's Office, has established a need, have a fiber backbone, hoping to build something in the near future.

Gary Baker - Grant County

Steve Taylor – City of Tacoma

Jose Zuniga – WSDOC, no immediate plans for these frequencies.

Phone:

Bob Wentworth – City of Spokane, no change, looking at 700 MHz for data and 4.9 GHz possibilities.

Hai Phung – King County Metro Transit, interested in 700 MHz narrow band data.

Doug Kerr – interested in future of 4.9 GHz.

Jim Cole – CRESA, nothing in 700 MHz, have obtained a 4.9 GHz license.

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 Listserv on the website, www.region43.org.

2. Approval of 700 MHz/4.9 GHz Minutes of June 29, 2005

There was a motion by Jon "Wiz" Wiswell and a 2nd by Dean Heinen, and the minutes were approved.

3. Information Updates

• SIEC updates – Kevin Kearns

The Chair remarked that the SIEC's planning for a statewide interoperability system is at an important juncture, as the Alternatives Report was published in May.

Alternatives considered and the full report can be viewed at the SIEC website:

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

The alternative chosen is referred to as the Multiple Subsystems Alternative. It was selected as the preferred model in terms of meeting long term needs of state agencies with an opportunity for local agency participation. Work is ongoing on the System Architecture Report. It is currently out for final review and will go to the SIEC Advisory Working group in August. It contains lots of good information about how local agencies could interact with State agencies to create Interoperability solutions, leveraging current investment whenever possible (since agencies are currently operating in multiple bands and may find it difficult to communicate with each other in large scale emergency situations).

• Actions in other RPCs & NPSTC – Kevin Kearns

Other RPCs:

Oregon - Region 35: Nothing new to report. Our next meeting is a joint meeting with Region 35. It should be noted that David Brooks from Portland is now the Chair for the 700 and 800 MHz Oregon Regional Planning Committees.

Idaho – Region 12: Nothing new to report. Their plan completion is not yet out for public comment.

Missouri - Region 24: their plan has been approved by the FCC.

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

http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/comsrch_v2.cgi (search on Proceeding 02-378)

NPSTC:

Spectrum Newsletters are 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>.

Note: Presentations from the June 13 - 15 meetings are not yet posted. The Chair plans to attend the November meeting.

• Canadian 700 MHz Band Allocation

Agreement with Canada:

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

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. Industry Canada decided follow the U.S. band plan and the treaty essentially splits the available spectrum on a 50/50 basis in the Sharing Zones. Access to Canadian primary channels in sharing Zones would be dependent of meeting power limits as defined in applicable Tables.

- **Impacts on our Pre-Packed Channel Assignments**

Jon "Wiz" Wiswell put together a table to show the impacts on Appendix G of the primary and secondary status. The table indicates which channel blocks are secondary and allows us to do a county-by-county review of the impacts.

Chelan County: 6 of their 10 blocks are secondary, but it was noted that due to terrain there shouldn't be a problem using them.

Clallam County: 7 of their 14 blocks are secondary. The Chair noted that given low demand for 800 MHz spectrum in this area, there would also likely be low demand for 700 MHz spectrum. Jon "Wiz" Wiswell thinks that they have enough channels that are not secondary to serve their current needs. The consensus of the group was that Clallam County will be OK.

Douglas County: 5 of their 10 blocks are secondary. The Chair pointed out that from a terrain standpoint they could use secondary channels without creating a problem. Jon "Wiz" Wiswell feels there is not much that is affected. There was group consensus that Douglas County will be OK.

Ferry County: 6 of their 12 blocks are secondary. The Chair noted that given low demand for 800 MHz spectrum in this area, there would also likely be low demand for 700 MHz spectrum. The consensus of the group was that Ferry County seems OK.

Grays Harbor County: 6 of their 13 blocks are secondary. Because of the Olympic Mountains there should not be a problem. There was group consensus that there should not be a problem.

Island County: 6 of their 10 blocks are secondary. Since Whidbey Island extends from Everett to Anacortes there could be some challenges using secondary channels. Jon "Wiz" Wiswell noted that Whidbey is high in the middle and low on the ends and half of its channels are primary. Therefore, they could locate their secondary channels sites on the on the east side of the island (away from Canada). The Chair noted that there hasn't been huge demand for 800 MHz spectrum so demand for 700 spectrum may be low as well, and they do have 4 blocks that are

US primary. There was group consensus that there is not a crisis in the block allocation to Island County.

Jefferson County: 5 of their 8 blocks are secondary. There has been minimal use of the 800 MHz band and since the county straddles the Olympic Peninsula they should be able to distribute the channels successfully. There was group consensus that there should not be a problem.

King County: 7 of their 23 blocks are secondary. It is expected that it should be OK, as careful site design could use terrain to advantage. The Chair noted that since the urbanized counties are all in the sharing zones, it would be ideal for all the spectrum to be US primary, but repacking would create ripple problems elsewhere. Instead, we need to live with it and use creative system design. There was group consensus that there is not a crisis in King County.

Kitsap County: 6 of their 8 blocks are secondary. Kitsap County extends far to the south and it is reasonable to use secondary channels successfully. Jon "Wiz" Wiswell suggested that they can employ directional antennas with good front to back ratios, and leverage favorable system design to avoid problems. He also noted that if indeed there was demand for 700 MHz spectrum in Kitsap county, we may have to swap some frequencies with neighboring counties on a case by case basis. Others agreed with this observation. There was group consensus that there is not a crisis in Kitsap County.

Mason County: 6 of their 7 blocks are secondary, but due to terrain blocking, low population, and low demand for 800 MHz spectrum, there shouldn't be a problem. There was group consensus that there is not a crisis for Mason County

Okanogan County: 3 of their 11 blocks are secondary. There was group consensus that there should not be a problem.

Pend Oreille County: All of their 6 blocks are secondary. It was noted that there has been low demand for 800 MHz channels. John Melvin commented that the population is in the southern portion of the county. Jon "Wiz" Wiswell noted that we may need to deal with this on a case-by-case basis and reassign channels from neighboring counties. Bob Wentworth remarked that from what he's heard from the locals is that it should be OK. There was group consensus that there is not a crisis in the pre-pack for Pend Oreille County.

Pierce County: 7 of their 21 blocks are secondary. There are lots of opportunities for secondary channel use. There was group consensus that there should not be a problem.

San Juan County: 7 of their 16 blocks are secondary. Even though immediately adjacent to Canada, given the low population and lots of primary channels, there should not be a problem. The consensus of the group was that there is no problem.

Skagit County: 6 of their 13 blocks are secondary. The unique thing about Skagit County is that it extends all the way to Anacortes. Many transmitter sites are located on Mt. Erie. However, US primary channels could be used and directional antennas could be implemented for use of secondary channels. The consensus of the group was that there should not be a problem.

Snohomish County: 7 of their 20 blocks are secondary. Given experience in using 800 MHz secondary channels successfully, there should be similar success in 700 MHz. The consensus of the group was that there should not be a problem.

Stevens County: 5 of their 15 blocks are secondary. Given low population and low interest in 700/800 spectrum, this is expected to be OK. The consensus of the group was that there should not be a problem.

Thurston County: 5 of their 18 blocks are secondary. Given opportunities to use terrain to enable use of secondary channels and the high number of primary channels, there shouldn't be a problem. The consensus of the group was that there was that there should not be a problem.

Whatcom County: 6 of their 18 blocks are secondary. On the Canadian border but has a lot of primary channels so it is not expected to be problematic. The consensus of the group was that there should not be a problem.

The Chair wanted to confirm with the group whether anyone feels we need to take any action towards repacking. He asked for a motion to agree to insert this new table as Appendix G so the Plan document has a clear indication of the primary and secondary status of channel blocks at the time the plan was adopted. Dean Heinen moved to modify Appendix G, Val Eveland seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

700 MHz Plan Status Update

The final draft of the Plan is ready for transmission to the FCC as soon as the changes to the Interoperability section have been approved by the SIEC. These changes will bring our language into conformance with the final recommendations of the National Coordination Committee (NCC). This material has been sent to Dennis Hausman and will be presented at a SIEC Advisory Working (SAW) group and SIEC meeting (see page 12 of the meeting slides or the Region 43 listserver for the text of the section). Kevin Kearns, the RPC Chair or Terry Miller, the RPC Vice-Chair will be attend to present this issue to the Committee. The SIEC has been very busy. The Chair hopes the issue will be addressed in the next meeting or the following meeting. Once SIEC approval of Interoperability section is received the Plan will be ready for transmission. At that time it will be posted to the RPC listserver.

4.9 GHz Regional Planning

Final edits of the Region 43 4.9 GHz Plan have been completed and it is ready for submission to the FCC. It will be posted to the listserver after submission.

Motorola has circulated a 4.9 GHz white paper, detailing licensing application procedures. Some of it is not applicable, as we have no Naval training area, but we do have a radio silence area. The document is posted on the following website: http://www.region43.org/docs/4_9Ghz/20050613Motorola4.9GHzWhitePaper.pdf Questions have been raised about fixed use of 4.9 GHz. The Rules say they are not allowed, but also state that if they are installed they are secondary. The Chair sent out a copy of the Region 8 (New York) 4.9 GHz Plan. The only way to make planning for use of 4.9 GHz work is a highly structured approach and this is what they have provided in their 58 page document.

Industry Canada now has a proceeding underway for public safety use of this band comparable to the U.S. allocation/channelization scheme:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08413e.html>

Given the localized use of the spectrum the Chair feels we needn't file comments on their proceeding. He requested discussion from the group:

- Jon "Wiz" Wiswell – responded that the signal is localized and should not cross the border.
- Dean Heinen – commented that there may be a problem with point-to-point operation near the border going south, but this can be addressed individually.
- Doug Kerr – remarked that he vaguely remembers that there is something buried in the Rules that if you are within a certain distance of the border, the FCC has to do frequency coordination (the Chair was unable to locate this in the Rules).
- The consensus of the group was that we don't need to file comments. Further discussion followed:
- John Melvin – asked for clarification on the restriction w.r.t. the radio astronomy facility at Brewster, WA.
- Dean Heinen – responded that there is not a distance limitation, but operations that may interfere with it must be coordinated with the Brewster licensee.
- John Melvin – replied that he thought there was distance limitation and it cut through the northern portion of Grant County.
- Kevin Kearns – added that Section 2.106 of the Rules states that licensees must make every practical effort to protect radio astronomy operations.
- Doug Kerr – replied that in the 4.9 GHz presentations held in California directional antennas were used for helicopter operations and there was no interference.
- Dean Heinen – noted that he plans to bring Mike Doble to Yakima to do a replay of the event and will put it a notification of the event on the listserver.

4. Other Items for the Good of the order?

None

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 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.

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

7. Adjourn

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