

Joint meeting of the Region 43 (Washington) & Region 35 (Oregon)  
700 MHz and 4.9 GHz Regional Planning Committees

August 31, 2005 - 1000 to 1200  
Portland Emergency Communications Center  
3732 S.E. 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon

**Meeting Summary:**

The Region 43 (Washington) and Region 35 (Oregon) Regional Planning Committees met to discuss issues of mutual interest. These included 700 MHz & 4.9 GHz regional planning issues and the status of the Region 43 and Region 35 Plan documents, SIEC and APCO National Conference updates, and NPSTC and NARPC.

**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:

Region 43:

Kevin Kearns – King County, RPC Chair, using an 800 MHz trunked system with 14,000 subscribers, interested in 700 MHz for system expansion and 700/4.9 for data.

Cammie Enslow – KCSO, same.

Ken Rhodes – KCSO, same.

Dave Brush – City of Yakima, using an 800 MHz trunked system, interested in 700 MHz for data.

Tom Howell - SNOPAC 911, using 800 MHz (fully by the end of the year).

Looking at wireless for a 650 unit county-wide 900 MHz mobile data system.

Ron Solemsaas – SERS, same as above.

Harlan Ohlson – WSDOT, using an 800 MHz trunked system with five thousand subscribers, interested in 700 MHz for system traffic relief, cooperating with the SIEC to fulfill interoperability goals.

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

Valerie Eveland – Benton County Emergency Services, using an 800 MHz trunked system, interested in future potential of 700 MHz for voice.

Jim Cole – CRESA, looking at 700 MHz for future use.

Jeremy Millman – CRESA

David Mendel – King County Radio Services

Region 35:

David Brooks – Region 35 Chair, using a 24 channel, 5 site simulcast system, 14 site RDLAP, looking at 700 MHz for expansion.

Michael Soots - Tillamook County, looking at 700 MHz for voice and data.

Vendors and Consultants Supporting both Regions:

Bob Bushey – Dataradio	Joe Farias - Motorola
Gary Amundson – Motorola	Kevin Carlson – NetVersant
Angela Quinn – Proxim Wireless	Stan Bryan – Day Wireless Systems
Rhein Etscheid – Motorola	Jim Switzer - Motorola
Duane Forman – Motorola	Warren Johnson - Netversant
Steve Davey - EZ Wireless	Joel Harrington – Adcomm Engineering
Tom Blanchard – American Communications	

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 700 MHz Committee Listserver on the website, [www.region43.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> by Valerie Eveland, and the minutes were approved.

## 3. Information Updates

### • Washington SIEC Activities – Kevin Kearns

The SIEC website has recently been redesigned and can be accessed at:

<http://isb.wa.gov/committees/siec/index.aspx>

The SIEC is continuing its work on developing a plan for the implantation of a statewide interoperability system. The System Architecture Report has been approved by the SIEC. It is a 120 page document defining the basic architecture for a statewide interoperability plan. It has taken a “system of systems” approach, networking different systems, including legacy systems, to honor the substantial investments agencies have in this equipment. It should be noted that the Legislature has accorded the SIEC responsibility for statewide spectrum management. The State will be hiring several FTE positions to coordinate spectrum management and licensing. The RPC is encouraged to review the documents available on the referenced website. These are best read through in chronological order. The SIEC is expected to complete their Technical Implementation Plan in September. They will be moving forward with the Legislature on funding implementation.

Questions/comments regarding SIEC activities:

- Harlan Ohlson – noted that the SIEC is the point of contact for state agencies.
- David Brooks – asked if the state of Washington is using their 700 MHz spectrum.
- Kevin Kearns – replied that the plans currently identify using that spectrum for expansion of the WSDOT 800 MHz system and/or data uses

Note: SIEC Statewide Interoperable Radio System Planning Deliverables are listed in detail on page 4 of the meeting slides.

### • NPSTC & NARPC – Kevin Kearns

The Region 43 Chair reviewed the situation with respect to the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) ([www.npstc.org](http://www.npstc.org)) efforts to give appropriate voice to RPC issues in their process. A standing committee has now

been established to focus on RPC issues (<http://www.npstc.org/committeeRP.jsp>) and to the best of his knowledge funding will still be available for regional RPC representatives to participate in meetings of NPSTC. The National Association of Regional Planning Committees (NARPC) has gotten more organized and has begun filing comments on issues with the FCC separate from NPSTC filings. Some in the public safety community view this as weakening the unified voice that has been built by NPSTC over the years (NPSTC embodies 13 member organizations <http://www.npstc.org/memberorgs.jsp>).

In past discussion of this situation, the Region 43 and Region 35 RPC expressed that they did not want to join NARPC if it continues on a path to establishment of an identity separate from the established NPSTC voice. Today's discussion is intended to confirm if this is still the case:

- Valerie Eveland – asked, do you have confidence that the RPC committee can express our views?
- Kevin Kearns – replied that he feels that NPSTC already gives support to RPC views, and he prefers not to have another voice.
- Valerie Eveland – replied that as long as the RPCs have input she would agree with the view of the Chair.
- Kevin Kearns – added that NPSTC reached out to the RPCs and selected representatives, which annoyed some, who saw this as preferential treatment. NPSTC responded that they didn't care who selected the attendees but were willing to fund their participation.
- David Brooks - asked if NARPC answers to NPSTC.
- Kevin Kearns – replied that NARPC is an independent body and is Chaired by Steve Devine out of Missouri. As background he added that the NCC was established by the FCC as a federal advisory committee to provide input during the 700 MHz rulemaking process. Three working groups were formed to address technology, interoperability and spectrum management issues. As the NCC work came to a sunset, it was clear that further work still needed to be done as RPCs got underway in developing their Plans and the FCC issued further rules in the band, so NPSTC took up the challenge to be the sustaining body of the NCC work. They organized the same three committees as the NCC, to continue to handle the same issues.

The consensus of the group was that we were still not interested in being a signatory to NARPC and that we would focus our attention to participating in and supporting the work of NPSTC.

In additional discussion of the NCC work, it was noted that the FCC declined to implement into the rules the standard naming conventions for interoperability channels recommended by the NCC because they felt it would not be possible to enforce and they have an aversion to creating Rules they cannot enforce. The manufacturing community said they could put the conventional names on their radios and they would then be adopted. The Chair added that he expects that this will never happen by FCC Rule. In lieu of this the regional plans are expected to push a standard naming convention. A significant majority of the 800 MHz Plans have specified use of the same naming convention, and if the same is done in the

700 plans we'll be in half-way decent shape (although this still doesn't address standard names for VHF and UHF interoperability channels)

- **Information from APCO National Conference – Kevin Kearns**

700 MHz Plan Approval: At the APCO Conference in Denver concern was expressed about how long it is taking to approve the 700 MHz Plans. As of this month the FCC has approved three Regional Plans. Their stated goal is a turnaround of 120 days. Potential Broadband Use of the Upper 700 MHz Band: There has been discussion on the prospects for broadband use once the TV band clearing takes place. The FCC says this is one of the possibilities they are looking at. They are accepting comments on this issue. The Spectrum coalition has been trying to get some of the upper 700 MHz set aside for broadband applications (instead of auctioning it). The FCC is unable to comment publicly on the issue as Congress must first move on it. They plan to report to Congress on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The first step is to get the TV band cleared. The push is on for a date certain. The current buzz is that this will occur by the end of 2008 (1/1/09). Other issues include subsidies for set top tuners, etc. Motorola and others have provided information on ensuring your views are known (letters to Congress, etc.) The Chair noted that Congressman Inslee was sponsoring a forum on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Seattle Center to discuss this and other issues related to DTV migration

700 MHz Guard Band Spectrum Availability: Another issue of interest to Public Safety is the 700 MHz guard band spectrum Nextel is reverting back to the FCC. There are some constraints in this band. There is not a national model for this as Nextel does not control the entire spectrum. Nonetheless, interest has been expressed in RPCs having some influence over this spectrum.

#### **4. Region 43 700 MHz Plan Status Update**

The proposed revisions to the Interoperability section of the Region 43 Plan were reviewed and approved by the SIEC Advisory Working Group agenda at their August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The SAW group recommended approval of the edits to the SIEC and they were reviewed and approved by the SIEC at their August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. What remains is to obtain the Concurrence Letter and Inter-Regional Dispute Resolution Agreement from Region 35. The Plan will then be submitted to the FCC. If the FCC sticks to their stated 120 day turnaround cycle we can expect the Plan to be approved by the end of the year. It should be noted that all comments filed have to be responded to prior to approval so comments may delay approval.

#### **5. Region 43 4.9 GHz Plan Status Update**

The Region 43 4.9 GHz Plan has been posted to the web site and will be submitted at the same time as the 700 MHz Plan. The M/A-COM presentation from the APCO conference in Denver may also be viewed on the web site:

<http://www.region43.org/docs/vp/MA-COM-APCO-Presentation4.9GHz.pdf>

#### **6. Region 35 700 MHz Plan Status Update**

Progress on the Region 35 Plan has been difficult due to lack of participation in the process. Until they get a plan written and approved, the State of Oregon has expressed a willingness to allow local jurisdictions to begin 700 MHz implementations on channels from the state license. Discussion followed:

- Kevin Kearns – noted that there is nothing comparable in Washington State as the State plans to use their frequencies.
- Valerie Eveland – asked, if it is the DIS or DOT that owns these.
- Kevin Kearns – replied that it is actually the SIEC that is responsible for state licenses. They are issued to the Governor’s office, addressed to WSP.

Discussion continued on the subject of outsourcing the writing of the Region 35 Plan:

- David Brooks – noted that finding people with the time to do drafting and editing is the biggest challenge. Since Portland has a need for the spectrum, they may also be willing to pay for an outside resource to develop the initial draft that will then be vetted through the Committee process.
- Cammie Enslow – asked if it will be a problem if there is not active participation.
- David Brooks – responded that it will come back to their Committee for discussion, review and finalization. There are a few people that want to push forward with it, but there is not currently enough participation to approve it.
- Kevin Kearns – asked if the lack of involvement is because there is not a bandwidth deficit in Region 35 like there is in Region 43.
- David Brooks – replied that some entities are looking at 700 MHz for data use but there is just not enough general interest.
- Kevin Kearns – noted that in our urbanized areas there is congestion and 700 MHz is the only relief we have, resulting in more pressure for the band. He added that he thought it would be same in Region 35 because of their urbanized areas.
- David Brooks – responded that the high price for 700 MHz systems slows interest, especially since many entities recently updated their systems and are still paying for them.

- **Additional 700 MHz or 4.9 GHz Issues of Mutual Interest**

None.

## **7. 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. Vendor presentations will occur directly following the 800 MHz meeting, ending at 1630 or earlier.

- **September 28<sup>th</sup> – Yakima Probation Services, Yakima, WA**
- **October 26<sup>th</sup> – Joint issues in the Tacoma/Olympia area, location TBD**
- **November 30<sup>th</sup> – Eastside, location TBD**
- **December 28<sup>th</sup> – no meeting.**

## **8. Adjourn**

The 700 MHz/4.9 GHz portion of the meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours.