

**MINUTES**  
**NPSPAC Region 43 Regional Review Committee**  
**April 30, 2003**  
**City of Yakima Probation Services Office (207 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)**

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

**The meeting was called to order at 1005 with the following individuals present:**

Kevin Kearns, King County  
Dave Brush, City of Yakima  
Pat Buller, City of Tacoma & APCO AFC  
Spencer Bahner, SERS  
Allan Josue, WA EMD  
Jon (Wiz) Wiswell, City of Seattle  
Bob Wentworth, City of Spokane  
Steve Taylor, City of Tacoma  
Travis Boettcher, Motorola  
Kit Eldredge, M/A-Com

**2. Approval of Minutes of October 30, 2002**

The Minutes of October 30<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. It was noted that the information related to WSDOT's ICALL commitment needed to reflect that the discussion in the meeting clarified that "as spelled out in the Plan" meant in proportion to their channel count. It was also noted that in the information related to SERS, they were to provide concurrence letters from both NWRC and CENCOM. With these changes, the Minutes were unanimously approved.

**3. Applications for Review or Action**

**• Clackamas County and Washington County, Oregon**

The Chair reviewed the discussion memo that was circulated on these requests.

#1. Using Channel 667 to replace 646 in the Washington County "West County Simulcast" system - This seems fine from a Region 43 perspective. Channel 667 is not assigned to any counties in southwest Washington and the adjacent channels are assigned in King and Pierce counties so there is no problem there. Motion by Pat Buller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Wentworth, APPROVED.

#2 - Part 1. Move the Clackamas County Myers Butte site (which had a single channel #755) to Sandy High School - Even though the applicant says this site has a lower elevation, the delivered signal into Washington seems to be slightly higher in some areas.

However, it does not appear to be any more problematic than what we approved for the Myers Butte site. Motion by Bob Wentworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Buller, APPROVED.

#2 - Part 2. Request to add Channel 810 to the Sandy High School site. Since this channel has been assigned in the Region 35 Plan for use in Clackamas, and there are no co-channel or adjacent-channel issues with the Region 43 Plan, we have no objection to this placement. Motion by Bob Wentworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Buller, APPROVED.

#3. Request the use of Channels 602, 613, 782, 786 and 827 for mobile and portable simplex talkaround within Washington, Clackamas, Marion and Polk counties. The following observations were made on this request:

- 602 - This is a Regionwide channel in the Region 43 Plan that is assigned to WSDOT and used throughout the state. It was also approved by Region 35 for placement at the Round Top site in Washington County in December 2001. It would seem as though simplex use of this channel in the Washington County area would be problematic to WCCCA agencies, but perhaps tolerable to WSDOT users. It would be interesting to know if any tests to determine the usability of the channel within the intended area have been done.
- 613 - Channels 612 and 614 are both assigned to and used by Clark County, with 612 assigned at Yacolt Mountain and 614 assigned at Marble Creek.
- 782 - Neither this channel nor its adjacent channels are assigned in the southwest Washington area and I see no problem with its simplex use in the area you describe. I will recommend approval to the Committee.
- 786 - Neither this channel nor its adjacent channels are assigned in the southwest Washington area and I see no problem with its simplex use in the area you describe. I will recommend approval to the Committee.
- 827 - Neither this channel nor its adjacent channels are assigned in the southwest Washington area and I see no problem with its simplex use in the area you describe. I will recommend approval to the Committee.

After reviewing this information, the Committee also discussed the idea of just allowing Region 35 to use Region 43 STATEOPS channels for simplex use instead of having to deal with difficult channel spacing requests like this. The reciprocal use of Region 35 designated simplex channels would also likely be of benefit in some Region 43 situation. On a Motion by Steve Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Buller, the Committee REJECTED the requests characterized above as "#3" and instead approved the following policy:

- Region 35 will be allowed to use our Stateops Channels for simplex and temporary low-power repeaters as long as the use is consistent with our rules.
- Region 43 requests the reciprocal consideration in the use of Region 35 interoperability channels.
- If Region 43 channels are to be used by Region 35 in border areas, the local jurisdictions in the area will be required to coordinate programming and use to prevent interference. The Regional Planning Committees will provide assistance in this effort, but the preference is that the bordering agencies coordinate directly to maximize the opportunity for effective coordination.
- The Chair was authorized to coordinate further with Region 35 on this strategy.

- **EPSCA Filler Sites**

The Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency has made an informal request for the Committee to identify spectrum they could utilize at their Education Hill site. This site has a relatively small footprint and there is hope that close-spacing techniques recently used for some SERS and King County sites might also prove successful for this site. EPSCA was not able to get a complete application package together in time for this filing window but is asking for Committee consideration and assistance between now and the fall filing window.

Pat Buller noted that we might want to consider going to more frequent filing windows and approval processes. He felt this would be more consistent with the normal work flow of the frequency coordinators and easy to support in our world of electronic communications. He complimented the Chair on producing good briefing documents on filed applications and that with these and application packages in electronic formats, the Committee could easily perform many of their approval processes through teleconference meetings.

Pat Buller made a MOTION, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Taylor, to incorporate a quarterly meeting and quarterly filing window process in the Plan Revision. The quarterly meetings would be either teleconference or physical depending on the complexity of the issues or applications being addressed. The filing windows would end 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting dates to allow the Chair to circulate the applications and his briefing document in advance of the meeting. At least one physical meeting would be held each year for purposes of election of officers and other procedural matters. The Motion PASSED.

#### **4. Plan for Implementation of Interoperability Repeaters – Steve Taylor and Spencer Bahner**

Spencer Bahner handed out a summary of currently known ICALL and ITAC stations and other material to assist the Committee in thinking about strategies for maximizing the effectiveness of these in areas where there are coverage overlaps. He and Steve are still collecting data from some of the entities to confirm technical characteristics of the sites so that generic coverage maps can be produced. The most challenging area is Zone 2 due to the large number of agencies with obligations and interest in implementing Interop repeaters. Spencer Bahner will continue to collect information and coordinate meetings of Zone 2 agencies to develop more detailed strategies for future Committee consideration.

#### **5. Plan, By-Laws and Review Procedure Revisions – Kevin Kearns**

We have not made any further progress on developing a re-written Plan, but our actions of the past few meetings have established a framework that now needs to be pulled together for formal consideration. Kevin Kearns will be working on this

over the next month or two and anyone who is willing to assist in this should contact him.

## **6. Other Items/Good of the Order**

- Kevin Kearns advised that the FCC has just released the rules for the public safety 4.9 GHz band (FCC 03-99 on WT Docket No. 00-32). The actual document isn't out yet but it is understood that it will include a regional planning component. Copies of the previous rulings were available for meeting attendees and electronic versions will be posted to the Region 43 website.
- Pat Buller advised that the FCC has recently released a Notice of Inquiry (FCC 03-100 on ET Docket No. 03-104) on Broadband over Power Line Systems. This is a technology that allows commercial power lines to homes and businesses to also serve as broadband connections. There are potential issues of interference that will need to be reconciled as this goes forward and the NOI attempts to collect information on this before rulemaking processes go any further.

## **7. Adjourn at 1215**