

## NPSPAC Region 43 Regional Planning Committee

c/o Steve Taylor, Chairperson  
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March 27, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Region 43 800 MHz NPSPAC Plan – PR Docket 91-270

Dear Ms. Dortch,

When the Region 43 800 MHz Plan was originally adopted the State was divided into six (6) Zones and one representative from each Zone (with the exception of Zone 2 which had three representatives due to its high population) was elected by the eligible licensees in the Zone to sit on what was referred to as the Regional Review Committee. In addition to these Zone representatives, the Committee also included the APCO Frequency Advisors and a single representative from State government agencies. This process worked well in the early years of the Plan, but as the utilization of 800 MHz spectrum continued to concentrate around the urban areas, participation from the rural areas fell off. This made it difficult at times for the Committee to form a Quorum and to act on matters at hand.

The present text of the Region 43 800 MHz Plan is as follows:

### **A. REGIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

#### **1. Membership**

For the purpose of this Plan, and to establish a basis for membership in the Region 43 Regional Review Committee, Washington State has been divided into six zones: three zones west of the Cascade Mountains and three zones east of the Cascade Mountains.

The zones are composed of Counties which are divided as follows:

- Zone 1. Whatcom, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties
- Zone 2. Snohomish, King, Kitsap, Thurston, and Pierce Counties
- Zone 3. Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, Grays Harbor, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Clark, and Skamania Counties.
- Zone 4. Kittitas, Grant, Douglas, Chelan, and Okanogan Counties.
- Zone 5. Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin Counties.
- Zone 6. Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, Adams, and Whitman Counties.

The voting membership of the Regional Review Committee shall total eleven (11) and be distributed as follows:

- One member each from Zones 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- Three members from Zone 2 (which encompasses the largest population in the region).
- The two designated local APCO Public Safety Frequency Advisors (one from eastern Washington and one from western Washington).
- One member to represent Washington State agencies (who provide services statewide and therefore are in all zones).

When the Region 43 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee was formed, the Zone concept was considered but rejected due to the experiences of the 800 MHz Committee. Instead, the 700 MHz Plan allows any eligible licensee in the band to name a voting member to the Committee. This concept has been working well for the 700 MHz Committee, and is therefore also adopted for this 800 MHz Plan.

At the June 29, 2005 meeting of the Committee this issue was discussed and a Motion was passed unanimously to file a Plan amendment to end the Zone concept and adopt the membership model used in the 700 MHz Plan. The language from Section A-1 of the Plan would be modified to read as follows:

Voting members shall consist of one official from any non-federal single agency engaged in public safety eligible to hold a license under 47 CFR 90.20. Voting members shall be designated in writing to the chair by an official from the eligible agency who is at least one-level senior in the reporting structure of the agency to the designated voting member.

Except that a single agency shall be allowed no more than one vote for each distinct eligibility category (e.g. police, fire, EMS, highway) within the agency's organization of political jurisdiction. In voting on any issue the individual must identify himself/herself and the agency and eligibility category which he or she represents.

Non-Voting members are all others interested in furthering the goals of public safety communications, including vendor representatives.

At the July 27, 2005 meeting of the Committee this language was reviewed again and approved for transmittal as a Plan Amendment by a unanimous vote. Subsequent to this action, concurrence letters were requested from our two border regions, Region 12 (Idaho) and Region 35 (Oregon). Copies of those concurrence letters are attached for your reference.

Please advise me of any further information you need to allow the FCC to expeditiously process and approve this Plan Amendment for Region 43.

Sincerely,

Steve Taylor  
Region 43 800 MHz Chair