

MINUTES
NPSPAC Region 43 Regional Review Committee
March 27, 2002, 13:00 Hours
Port of Seattle, Pier 69, Conference Room 2D-East

1. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting began at 13:34 hours with the following Committee members and alternates participating:

Ken Gustafson – Zone 1
Tom Samuelson – Zone 1
Kevin Kearns – Zone 2 (Chair)
Jay Morrison - Zone 2 (Secretary)
Steve Taylor – Zone 2
Dean Heistand – Zone 2 (Alternate)
Rick Lazo – Zone 3
Bob Wentworth – Zone 6 (Vice-Chair)
Alan Hull – State Agencies
Allan Josue – State Agencies (Alternate)

The following additional individuals participated as well:

Spencer Bahner – SERS
Joe Bartlett – Tacoma
Emory Washington – Satcom Systes
Dave Bush – City of Yakima

2. Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2002

There were no minutes to approve. Jay managed to loose his notes and apologized dearly. Kevin Kearns (KK) would try to provide minutes from past notes he had kept.

3. Plan Re-Write Sub-Committee – Spencer Bahner
Loading Study Sub-Committee – Alan Hull

Spencer reported no modifications have been made to the R43 Plan Rewrite. The process is to develop a method and the language within the Plan to reassign unassigned channels.

Alan Hull reported that it was difficult to calculate loading. Too many factors can affect a meaningful outcome. The original APCO standard is no longer than 3 seconds access to a channel with 75 units per conventional channel. A bullet list follows of the criteria the Sub-Committee must consider.

- 3-second access to a channel
- Access depends on conventional or trunked channel / Simulcast / Talk Group Size
- Difficult for Alan to transpose his WADOT standards to King County or Seattle
- Best to fall back to 100 units per channel as the standard
- Priority trunking and fixed verse roaming units may have a factor

- Define the best method to re-use channels (i.e. re-pack)
- Provide a method of showing re-use of channels in the Plan
- Re-write current Plan since it is felt that no system could meet the 70% loading criteria, as it exists today. The bar is set too high and there needs to be a better metric to meet typical use.

The FCC will allow Regions to establish their own requirements to meet the local need. Bob Wentworth will check with Montana for their technical description. While proprietary, radio manufacturers do have their own developed method for channel loading. The loading requirement of the plan makes the applicant aware of the need to be efficient with channel use.

4. NEXTEL NPRM (White Paper)– Kevin Kerns

Kevin Kearns recommends that all interested party's read the document. The White Paper is available on the Region 43 website. APCO developed a *Best Practices Guide* document and began recording reported cases of *NEXTEL-type* interference once contacted by the FCC. A sub-committee of APCO Project 39 will explore the interference issue. Unfortunately there is no funding for a national interference committee.

NEXTEL's White Paper encourages the FCC to group (*re-banding*) all 806 and 821 MHz Public Safety licensees to a contiguous block at the lower end of the 800 MHz spectrum. The FCC is serious in its effort to resolve interference and will likely issue a second NPRM after receiving more feedback.

- The NPRM is complicated and will likely require lots of feedback
- Two proposals put Public Safety at the lower end of the 800 MHz spectrum
- Logistics to transition without interruption to emergency communications is questionable
- *Economics-of-How* will be a huge topic if re-banding becomes a solution. It is possible that Home-Land Defense may provide funding through spectrum auction sales.
- Re-banding to the lower 800 MHz may provide a ubiquitous Public Safety band when paired with the proposed 700 MHz spectrum
- Use of the 700 MHz spectrum is contingent on release of TV channels 60 through 69
- Will require boarder coordination between Canada and Mexico.

After some discussion it was felt that, at this time, Region 43 should only respond to the interoperability requirements of the NPRM.

5. Second Draft to By-laws and Plan Re-write – Kevin Kerns

Changes to the current spectrum assignments will likely effect Region 43's Plan re-write. With so much hanging on the NPRM, the consensus of the group was to continue with the Plan re-write as originally planned. Our current Plan has a service life until 2005. It may be 18 months before the NPRM becomes clear enough to forecast its outcome on public safety radio users. Some proposed changes to the *Application Review Procedures* should be incorporated into the Plan language since they mirror one another. One course to follow might be done with an administrative change to deal with administrative issues and not make

any in-roads into county allocations or reallocations to meet our needs for the next 1 to 1 ½ years to see what deck of cards we are dealt.

The *Second Draft* has not been posted to the website yet. The only difference is the additional language crafted to allow objections to a conference call if a member(s) felt a face-to-face meeting was better served.

APCO is no longer the sole coordination body in the NPSPAC public safety spectrum. Other entities now have equal footing. So, it may appear disingenuous to have APCO advisors seated on Regional Committees as stated in the Plan. This calls the question to allow other coordination bodies' active seats. It is recognized that local APCO frequency advisers do add value to the process, however, there is sensitivity to a non-competitive environment. The advisers are encouraged to participate with a non-voting staff.

6. Interoperability - Wiz was not available to talk about Interoperability. Steve Taylor is working with Wiz to formulate a plan.

7. Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 16:54 hours

Next meeting, May 22, 10:00 Hours – Yakima, Law and Justice Center.