

**REGION 43 NPSPAC REGIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MAY 6, 1997**

The meeting was held at the Palace Restaurant in Ellensburg, and was called to order at 1007 with the following members and guests in attendance:

Kevin Kearns	Zone 2
Jon Wiswell	Zone 2
Jay Morrison	Zone 2
Dean Heistand	Zone 2 Alternate
Mark Buchholz	Zone 3
Bob Wentworth	Zone 6
Alan Hull	Washington State Agencies
Alan Josue	Washington State Agencies Alternate
Pat Buller	Westside Frequency Advisor
Wayne Wantland	Eastside Frequency Advisor
David Orr	Clark County
Terry Miller	WSDOT
Al Upton	Everett Fire Department
Ed Klein	SNOCOM
Tom Howell	SNOPAC
Dennis Peterson	City of Marysville
Arvid Bayer	Motorola
Randy Nichols	Snohomish County Sheriff's Office
Bob Stiles	Everett Police
Ray Stephanson	City of Everett
Don Ankney	Community Transit

#### HANDOUTS

The Chair distributed the latest versions of the Committee mailing and phone lists, the most recent Channel Assignment tables, and a copy of the Turnback Channel table.

#### MINUTES

Jon Wiswell made a MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES of the November 22, 1996 meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Hull. The Motion PASSED.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. There had been several applications filed by WSDOT around the time of the last filing window. Based on the information provided, there were still some questions about their selection and use of a couple of channels, and the contour maps they provided were not in conformance with the Plan. The Chair will work with WSDOT to modify these applications to be in conformance with the Plan provisions and to make sure that the use of channels is consistent with previous assignments.
2. During the last filing window Kitsap County CENCOM and Kitsap Transit had collectively applied for all the channels in the Kitsap County allocation. There had been several concerns raised on these applications. The applicants have resolved these issues and submitted revised information for their application. This information was reviewed by the Committee and found to be consistent with the concerns raised and the Plan. Based on this review and the actions at the November 1996 meeting, these applications were APPROVED. The Chair will forward these to APCO for processing.
3. There was a general discussion on the implementation of ICALL and ITAC repeaters in the Puget Sound area. Since there is such a concentration of NPSPAC licensees in this region, careful coordination of this will be needed. The Committee asked that the agencies licensed in the King , Snohomish, Kitsap, and Pierce county areas form a coordinated plan for ICALL and ITAC implementation and submit this to the Committee during the November filing window. The Chair will convey this request to the appropriate licensees.

## APPLICATION REVIEWS

The City of Everett has filed an application for all of the channels in the Snohomish County allocation for the purpose of building a wide-area trunked system to be shared with other public safety agencies in Snohomish County. Snohomish County Enhanced 911 has submitted a letter of intent to apply for all of the channels in the Snohomish County allocation for the purpose of building a county-wide system. Community Transit has filed an application for two channels from the Snohomish County allocation to expand the capacity of their current system and add a data channel. Representatives from all these agencies, and other interested parties from Snohomish County were present to discuss these applications.

### Snohomish County Enhanced 911

While not an official application, we discussed this letter of intent first. Randy Nichols, Undersheriff and Chair of their Emergency Communications Work Group clarified that Snohomish County has been working in cooperation with the City of Everett and other governments in Snohomish County to develop a plan for the construction of a wide-area 800 MHz trunked radio system to meet their public safety communications needs. He expressed that the application from the City of Everett is consistent with these efforts, and that if this Committee took action to approve the application from the City of Everett, there would not be additional applications forthcoming from Snohomish County.

## Community Transit

Don Ankney spoke on behalf of Community Transit (CT). He outlined how CT has faced continued growth in service demand, and therefore experienced continued pressure on their existing radio system capacity. He also noted that they do not currently have a mechanism for communicating data information to the transit coaches, and this is becoming an increasing need. As growth continues in the future, and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) begins to implement their expanded services, CT will experience even greater pressure on their radio system. This proposal will allow them to combine the two channels being requested with the three channels of their current system to implement a so-called transit data system, which provide a quasi-trunked environment to meet both their voice and data needs.

There were a number of questions and issues discussed by the Committee. CT noted that trunking was examined but that it is not a viable option for them for a number of reasons. Very little (virtually none) of their communications are between field units, it is virtually all with the dispatch center. Further, they will be using the data channel both for radio channel assignment control and the movement of data to and from the coaches. Current trunking configurations do not meet their needs.

There was also discussion on the possibility for CT and the City of Everett to find an approach to building a shared system. Both CT and Everett expressed a willingness to discuss this further. CT pointed out that with the present level of information, it did not seem to them that the system design being proposed by Everett would meet all of their operational and operating cost parameters, but they were willing to discuss it further.

## The City of Everett

Several representatives of Everett and the participating applicants provided background on this application. Even though a county-wide funding measure to build a county-wide system failed at the polls, these applicants have put together a design approach and funding package that will allow them to implement a system that meets the needs a large portion of the more populated areas of the county. A Memorandum of Understanding has been executed by the parties to proceed in this direction, and discussions on further governing and funding mechanisms are underway.

There were several question posed to them on elements of the application package.

They were asked how they intended to meet diverse user needs in remote areas with only a single channel at these locations. They responded that it would be implemented as a shared channel, that any user (police, fire, EMS) would switch to as needed and be monitored at the Com Center. If traffic volume demanded, they may look to expand the capacity at these sites in the future, or implement small trunked sites to fill these areas.

They were asked why they did not offer Turnback channels. They observed that during the transition period, they would need to keep their existing systems operational, and that several of these were used for fire dispatch paging and the like. The Committee expressed a high degree of need for Turnback channels, and the applicant will revisit this issue and provide additional information to the Committee.

They were asked if there had been discussion about sharing coverage and capacity with Island County. To this date there has not, but the applicants will explore this to see what options exist.

They were asked to provide more information about how they will implement and monitor the ICALL channel, and the ITAC channels. It was observed that this really needs to be part of the four-county Puget Sound area ICALL/ITAC design effort. It was agreed that with the number of channels being requested, the applicant would be obligated to implement a total of four (4) ICALL or ITAC repeaters.

There was general discussion on how the Committee should deal with these applications. One approach would be to defer action on the applications and allow the applicants to meet and confer on possible solutions to the competing applications. Another approach would be to work with both applicants to see if Unassigned channels could be identified to meet either of their needs so that the competitive aspect of these applications was eliminated. Another approach would be to just proceed and use the scoring criteria outlined in the Plan to decide the issue.

It was mutually agreed with both CT and the City of Everett that the applicants needed a brief period of time to meet and confer about possible mechanisms for shared system use. Representatives of Zone 2 will make themselves available to meet with them as needed. Both applicants will report back to the Committee on the outcome of these discussions, and the Committee will then decide on what action to take. Wayne Wantland made a MOTION to follow this approach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon Wiswell, and the Motion PASSED.

### Island Transit

Island Transit has filed an application for a single channel from the 3 channel Island County allocation. There were no technical problems with the application. Alan Hull made a MOTION TO APPROVE the application, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Wentworth, and the Motion PASSED.

### Skagit County Public Works

Skagit County Public Works has filed an application for 2 channels from the 3 channel Skagit County allocation. The coverage predictions provided by the applicant indicate that there is a potential for adjacent channel interference into existing stations in King, Pierce and Kitsap counties. This is probably due to the prediction being run with an omni-directional antenna, the prediction software not having any combiner, line or foliage loss factors, and the predictive reliability value being set at 50%, but this will need to be confirmed with the applicant.

Wayne Wantland made a MOTION, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon Wiswell, to return this application to the applicant so that further engineering work can be done to correct the adjacent channel interference issue. Then, when the problems are resolved, the Chair could approve the application and forward it on. The Motion PASSED.

### Skagit Transit

Skagit Transit has filed an application for a single channel from the 3 channel Skagit County allocation. While the application is to license this channel at Lyman Mountain, the package contained coverage predictions for Lyman and Devils Mountain. There is also an indication of potential for adjacent channel interference into Thurston County, but this may be due to the same issues raised in the Skagit Public Works application. Jon Wiswell made a MOTION, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Morrison, to allow the Chair to work with the applicant to resolve these issues and then forward the application on. The Motion PASSED.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Kevin Kearns reported on a Public Safety Wireless Forum held at the FCC on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A new process, the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NSPTC) is being initiated to move forward on the recommendations in the Final Report of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC). One of the biggest issues will be potential for the reassignment of 746 to 806 MHz, otherwise known as TV channels 60-69. Kevin noted that one of the issues the FCC is looking at is how to go about assigning and coordinating these channels, and a local planning process similar to NPSPAC is being considered. He encouraged all members to watch this issue closely. Information can be found on the NPSTC web page at <http://rmlectc.dri.du.edu.npstc/>
2. Now that several years have elapsed since the first NPSPAC applications were approved, several applicants who offered channels for Turnback need to be queried as to their Turnback status. The Chair was asked to send a letter to any agency who offered Turnback channels to confirm their status.
3. Mark Buchholz introduced David Orr with Clark County Emergency Services who will be serving as the Zone 3 Alternate.

Being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1527.