

MINUTES
Region 43 800 MHz
Regional Review Committee
October 27, 2004 - 1300 to 1500
Yakima Police Department
200 South 3rd Street
Yakima

2. Sign-in and Introductions

The following individuals participated in the meeting:

Kevin Kearns
Spencer Bahner
Jon (Wiz) Wiswell
Keith Cook
Damon Vetsch
Valerie Eveland
Brad Barber
Kit Eldredge
Steve Taylor
David Brush
Dean Heinen
Cammie Enslow
Steve Taylor
Tom Howell – phone

2. Approval of Minutes of April 28th 2004

Spencer Bahner made a motion to approve the minutes. Jon (Wiz) Wiswell seconded the Minutes were approved.

3. Recent FCC or Industry documents of interest

Key documents related to the re-banding order

- The meeting slides contain links to key documents of the 2,424 documents filed in this proceeding. Anyone interested in this issue can read the 256 page Re-banding Order, FCC 04-168, plus the Erratum to the order that clarifies some issues. Also included are Nextel's responses, the Transition Administrator Search Committee Recommendation and the FCC Public Notice requesting comment, etc.
- Additional sites include the FCC Web Site, the APCO 800 ALERT Web Site, the Syracuse Research site and various web sites supported by law firms (such as the Shulman Rogers web site), and various trade associations. Additionally, the IWCE is sponsoring Road Shows, in locations all around the country to disseminate info on this issue. APCO representatives attend each meeting as well as representative from the FCC, Nextel, Motorola, M/A-Com and others (see slides for link).

When the Consensus Plan was developed, a number of systems around the country were examined to estimate the cost of re-banding the system. A sample of the survey information used in that work was distributed at the meeting and is posted on the Region 43 web site. This is the data that was used to develop the original \$850 million dollar estimate for re-banding costs. The issue of biggest debate was (and continues to be) the number of subscriber units that have to be replaced instead of reprogrammed. The Consensus plan came up with an estimate, but other groups objected and contended the cost for subscriber replacements would be much higher. Now that the FCC mandated financial obligation is substantially higher than the \$850 million figure, there should be no problem having adequate resources to accomplish successful, nationwide re-banding.

4. Re-banding impacts in Region 43:

While NPSPAC channel treatment is clear-cut in non-border areas, the situation becomes more complex in border regions (see page 23 of slides for details). Re-banding will be accomplished in border regions when border band plans can be worked out to the mutual satisfaction of the US and Canada. Border sharing regions in the northwest area of the state differs from the east coast due to different channel allocations, and cross border interference. We also have heavy use of Canadian primary channels on a secondary basis in Western Washington and this will need to continue to meet capacity needs. Therefore, unless Canada follows the same re-banding approach, we will end up with channels in the "806" area and in the "821" area to continue to meet our capacity needs.

5. Discussion of possible re-packing of Region 43 at time of re-banding

Several RPCs around the country are considering whether to try and re-pack their regional plans when the re-banding is done. Lots of issues come up if this is considered. While it may allow more efficient spectrum utilization, it would also require substantial work that may go beyond the pure re-banding effort and therefore not be eligible for cost-recovery. It would also present issues in areas bordering other Regions if they didn't re-pack.

If re-packing is even to be considered, Regions will have to work quickly to accomplish the engineering work so the new channel assignment plan is ready before the re-banding effort gets under way for their Region. This may be to our advantage in Region 43 since border Regions may be tackled later rather than earlier.

There was general discussion and the consensus view seemed to be that we probably don't want to undergo the pain of both re-packing and re-banding. We don't need to make the decision right away, but soon. We also can see if Oregon or Idaho express any interest in re-packing. Finally, we already need to do a plan re-write for 2005, so we could get to more dense packing in the Puget Sound region (that's where the most need for spectrum exists) through good engineering of short-spaced sites, and not need to do a full re-pack.

6. 800 MHz Applications

WSDOC McNeil Island (see page 19 of the slides for details)

A second ITAC repeater was previously approved at McNeil Island to serve an area lacking coverage from their main system and needing only infrequent communications. They now have an increased communications need, and plan on adding licensed channels and/or redesigning their systems to meet those needs, but would like to use the ITAC channel more frequently until those changes can be made. This would still be a secondary use, and if the channel is needed for an interoperability incident, they could discontinue use of the channel until the incident was concluded. The Zone Representatives agreed to allow WSDOC to use the channel for secondary operations. The Chair asked for a Motion to formalize the agreement. Spencer Bahner moved, Jon (Wiz) Wiswell seconded and the Motion passed.

7. Other Items/Good of the Order

- Vendor Presentations

Up to two vendors will be allowed to make 45-minute presentations following the monthly meetings with the first session beginning at 1500 hours and the second at 1545 hours. If the RPC meetings conclude earlier than planned, the presentations will begin early.

- Other Items?

The RPC had previously attempted to develop an engineered solution for the deployment of ICALL and ITAC channels within the Region, particularly in the Puget Sound area. This effort hasn't gone far since there hasn't been enough people interested in dedicating the time and energy to work out all the details. A new resource is potentially available, the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP). This program is available to support any agency receiving DHS grant funds for interoperable communications projects. Since just such a project exists in the King/Pierce/Snohomish county area, it might be possible for that project to request ICTAP assistance in at least a high-level design and coverage analysis. Kevin Kearns and Spencer Bahner will be exploring this further and report back in future meetings.

8. Future Meeting Dates

- **November 17th meeting will be at Snohomish County Public Utility**
- **The Conference Call Phone Number will be Announced**
- **The Agenda and meeting material will be posted to the web site, www.region43.org, and sent to the email list server prior to the meeting.**

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1500.