

NPSPAC Region 43 Regional Review Committee

c/o Kevin Kearns, Chairperson
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Brett S. Haan
Office of the Transition Administrator
Bearing Point
1676 International Drive
McLean, VA 22102-4828

Dear Mr. Haan,

The following material is provided by Region 43 in response to your letter of inquiry received on December 21, 2004.

1. What 800 MHz systems - NPSPAC or other - are you aware of in your region that are experiencing interference from Nextel or cellular carriers, other than those that have already been reported to APCO? For those systems experiencing interference please provide the agency name, and if possible contact name(s) and phone number(s). If this data has already been reported then please let us know to what group the data was reported.

Region 43 Response: *To the best of our knowledge, all 800 MHz systems operating within the Region have experienced some degree of interference from Nextel and/or cellular carriers. Not all public safety system operators have reported this to APCO or the FCC since they knew that the issue was reported by multiple other jurisdictions. Most agencies within the region felt that the nation-wide effort to define and ultimately resolve the problem was meeting their long-term interests. The APCO database contains reports from the several systems in the Region, including King County, the Port of Seattle, Clark County and Washington State Department of Transportation. See the table below for known systems and contact information.*

System Owner/Operator	Point of Contact	Phone	Email address	Area of Operation	Bands
King County	Kevin Kearns	206-296-0660	Kevin.Kearns@metrokc.gov	King County	Mixed
Snohomish County	Ron Solemsaas	425-407-3949	rsolemsaas@sers800.org	Snohomish County	Mixed
Port of Seattle	Richard Ottele	206-431-4491	ottele.r@portseattle.org	SeaTac Airport and Seattle waterfront	Lower
City of Tacoma	Steve Taylor	253-404-3790	STAYLOR2@ci.tacoma.wa.us	City of Tacoma and	NPSPAC

				northwestern Pierce County	
City of Bellingham	Ken Gustafson	360-676-6831	kgustafson@cob.org	City of Bellingham and western Whatcom County	Lower
Clark County	Keith Flewelling	360-737-1911	Keith.Flewelling@clark.wa.gov	Clark County	Mixed
Benton County	Valerie Eveland	509-628-8482	v.eveland@bces.wa.gov	Benton County	Lower
Washington State Department of Transportation	Alan Hull	360-705-7013	hulla@wsdot.wa.gov	Statewide	Mixed
Washington State Department of Corrections	Jose Zuniga	253-680-2718	jrzuniga@doc1.wa.gov	Statewide	NPSPAC
Washington State Department of General Administration	Andy Drotos	360-902-7184	ADrotos@ga.wa.gov	State capitol campus area	Lower
Community Transit (Snohomish County)	Zohreh Zandi	425-348-2328	zzandi@commtrans.org	Snohomish County	Mixed
Metro Transit (King County)	Dan Overgaard	206-684-1415	Dan.Overgaard@metrokc.gov	King County	Lower
Kitsap Transit	John Clauson	360-478-6223	johnc@kitsaptransit.com	Kitsap County	NPSPAC
Kitsap County Public Works				Kitsap County	NPSPAC
Skagit County Public Works				Skagit County	NPSPAC
City of Yakima	Dave Brush	509-575-6110	dbrush@ci.yakima.wa.us	Yakima and surrounding communities	Lower

2. What are the largest 800 MHz systems in your NPSPAC region, PSR or state? Are any of these systems statewide? Does your organization have systems that operate in more than one region?

Region 43 Response: *There are several large systems operating within Region 43. The largest in terms of subscriber count is the system operated by King County. This system serves the Seattle metropolitan area (the largest population concentration in the state) with about 14,000 subscriber radios. Adjacent systems operated by the Port of Seattle, Snohomish County and the City of Tacoma together provide service to approximately 21,500 subscriber radios used by a wide range of public safety and general government agencies that collectively serve about 50% of the state population.*

The largest system from a geographic standpoint is the State Department of Transportation system, which has statewide coverage for state highways and approximately 5,000 subscriber radios. The State Department of Corrections also

operates systems and multiple facilities throughout the state. There are also several other systems that serve county or multi-county areas. See more details in the table above. To the best of our knowledge, none of these systems operates outside the Region, but the Clark County system does have intentional signal coverage into the Portland, Oregon area for mutual aid communications purposes, and the Portland-area system similarly has coverage into Clark County for the same reason..

3. Is your NPSPAC regional plan closely coordinated with plans in any adjoining regions? In your opinion, should the reconfiguration of your region be done at the same time as an adjoining region, and if so which one(s)?

Region 43 Response: *The original Region 43, Region 35 (Oregon) and Region 12 (Idaho) channel assignments were based on the original nationwide NPSPAC frequency packing, so they were inherently coordinated along the border areas from the outset. Since then, some site-specific frequency placements have been approved by the Region 43 and Region 35 RPCs to allow jurisdictions in the border areas of both Regions to carefully place additional channels into their systems to meet coverage and capacity needs. This is most notable in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area where simultaneous band reconfiguration in both Region 35 and Region 43 will likely be needed to assure continuity of operation and well-coordinated transition planning.*

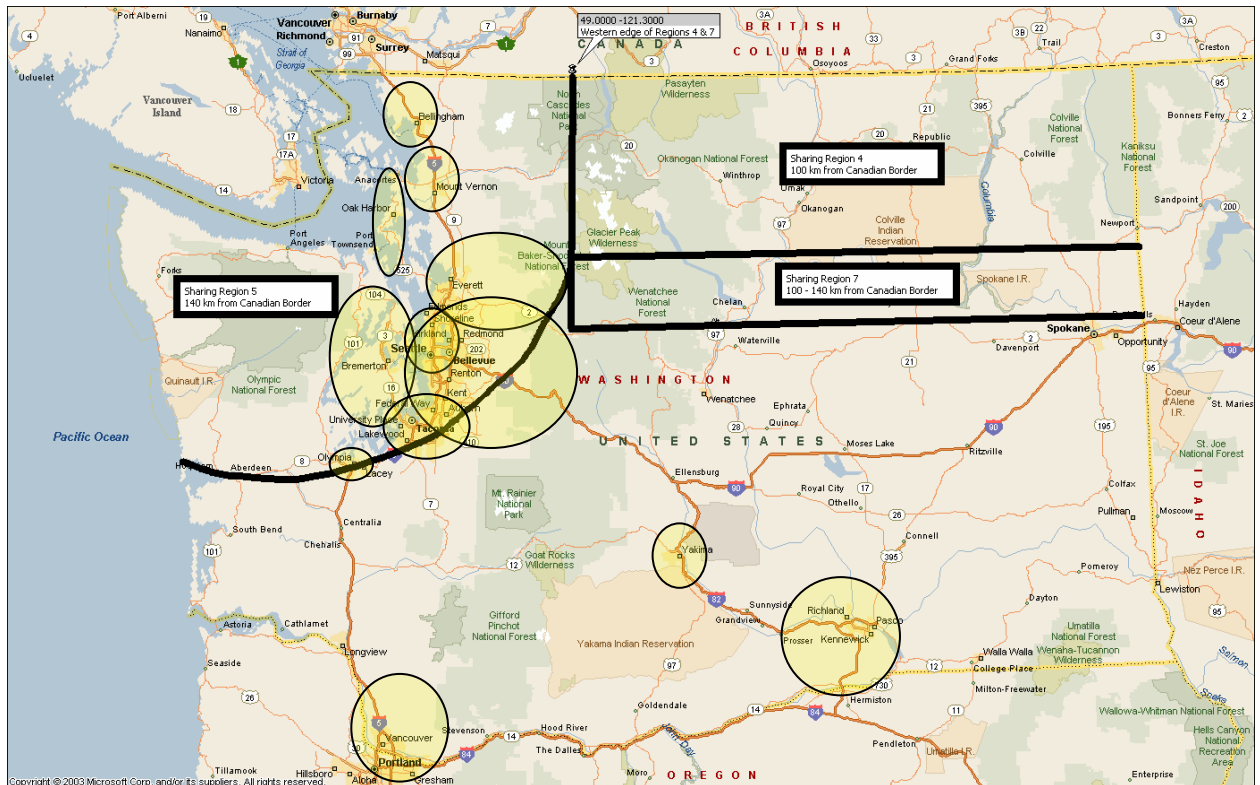
4. Are there any 800 MHz systems in your region that operate in border regions and non-border regions? "Border regions" are defined as being within 87 miles of the U.S. border with Canada, or within 69 miles of the U.S. border with Mexico. If your state or PSR includes a border region, are there large systems and/or mutual aid channel plans that prevent your entire state or PSR from being reconfigured prior to the finalization of agreements with Canada and Mexico?

Region 43 Response: *Region 43 is a complex mix of border sharing regions and non-sharing areas as indicated in the map below. This situation is even more challenging when you consider that approximately 65% of the state's population lives within Sharing Region 5 (the Puget Sound basin) and this is where a majority of the large 800 MHz systems are concentrated.*

The following map provides a representative example of the system operating areas of some of the systems identified in the table at the end of this document. As you can see, there are several systems that operate across border sharing regions. Not shown on the map are the statewide Department of Transportation and Department of Corrections systems, which operate in all three sharing regions (4, 5 & 7) as well as across the balance of the non-sharing area.

Given the current band plan for Sharing Region 5 (where 85 Public Safety channels are in the 806-809 portion of the band), the combined use of both these lower 800 MHz channels and upper "NPSPAC" channels in the systems operating in Sharing Region 5, and the fairly intense use of Canadian primary NPSPAC channels on a secondary non-interfering basis within Sharing Region 5 and the rest of the Region 43 channel allotment plan, it is hard to imagine a way to successfully tackle band reconfiguration in Region 43 until Canadian band reconfiguration issues and treaties have been resolved.

Canadian Border Sharing Regions for 800 MHz Spectrum and representative system operating areas



5. Are there any major system upgrades ongoing or planned in your region that should either accelerate or delay reconfiguration?

Region 43 Response: *The large systems operated by King County, Snohomish County, the Port of Seattle, the City of Tacoma and Clark County were recently built or upgraded, so there is some belief that these systems will remain relatively stable for the next couple of years. The City of Yakima system will be undergoing an upgrade during the next couple of years so coordination with band restructuring will be important for them. Other specific expansion or upgrade plans are not known at this time for other systems in the Sharing Region areas.*

The Region 43 Regional Planning Committee (RPC) is looking forward to working with the Transition Administrator (TA), Nextel, and the other cellular carriers to successfully resolve interference in the 800 MHz band. Given our complex border issues, we recognize that this will take a considerable amount of work among all parties to structure successful outcomes.

We hope that in the near future, one or more representatives of the TA will be willing to meet with us directly at one of our regular monthly RPC meetings to discuss these issues in further detail and build a successful working relationship for the challenging tasks ahead. It may be useful to hold this meeting as a joint meeting with the Region 35 RPC since there are issues in

our border area (particularly the Vancouver/Portland metropolitan area) that will need close coordination to structure an effective band reconfiguration.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you need further clarification on the issues addressed in this letter, or any other issues related to the band reconfiguration effort.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kearns
Region 43 Chair