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January 7, 2005

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 the State of Washington, State Interoperability Executive Committee (<http://siec.wa.gov>) as provided by the announcement by the Federal Communications Commission.

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.

SIEC response on behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Corrections: *The Washington State Department of Transportation has and continues to experience significant harmful interference. Over 80 reports have been documented into the APCO database.*

Although the Washington State Department of Corrections has not reported harmful interference to APCO, it should not be interpreted as not having issues with that concern. The Washington State Department of Corrections does not have the manpower or equipment to document harmful interference extensively.

The chart below indicates contact information for state systems:

System Owner/Operator	Point of Contact	Phone	Email address	Area of Operation	Bands
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
Representing all state agencies: State Interoperability Executive Committee	Dennis Hausman	360-902.3463	DennisH@dis.wa.gov	Statewide	All

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?

SIEC response on behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Corrections:

The largest statewide system is the Washington State Department of Transportation with almost 5,000 subscriber radios utilizing approximately 20 lower 800 MHz frequencies pairs and approximately 30 NPSPAC frequencies pairs, 130 radio sites, over 7,049 road miles that serve the over 6 million statewide population and carrying \$90 billion road commerce per year. Although all of these radios operate within Region 43, they also operate within the three Regional Sharing Zones (4, 5, and 7) as outlined in the Consensus Plan. As a result, this would require that the Washington State Department of Transportation retune their entire radio infrastructure up to eight times to accommodate the proposed plan. In addition to having a statewide radio system, the Washington State Department of Transportation also operates outside of Region 43, with operations with the border states of Oregon (Region 35) and Idaho (Region 12).

The Washington State Department of Corrections utilizes a second system has almost 4,000 subscriber units located in and around multiple institutions within the state. Similar to the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Washington State Department of Corrections facilities are all located within Region 43, however are located in each of the three Regional Sharing Zones for the purposes of the Consensus Plan.

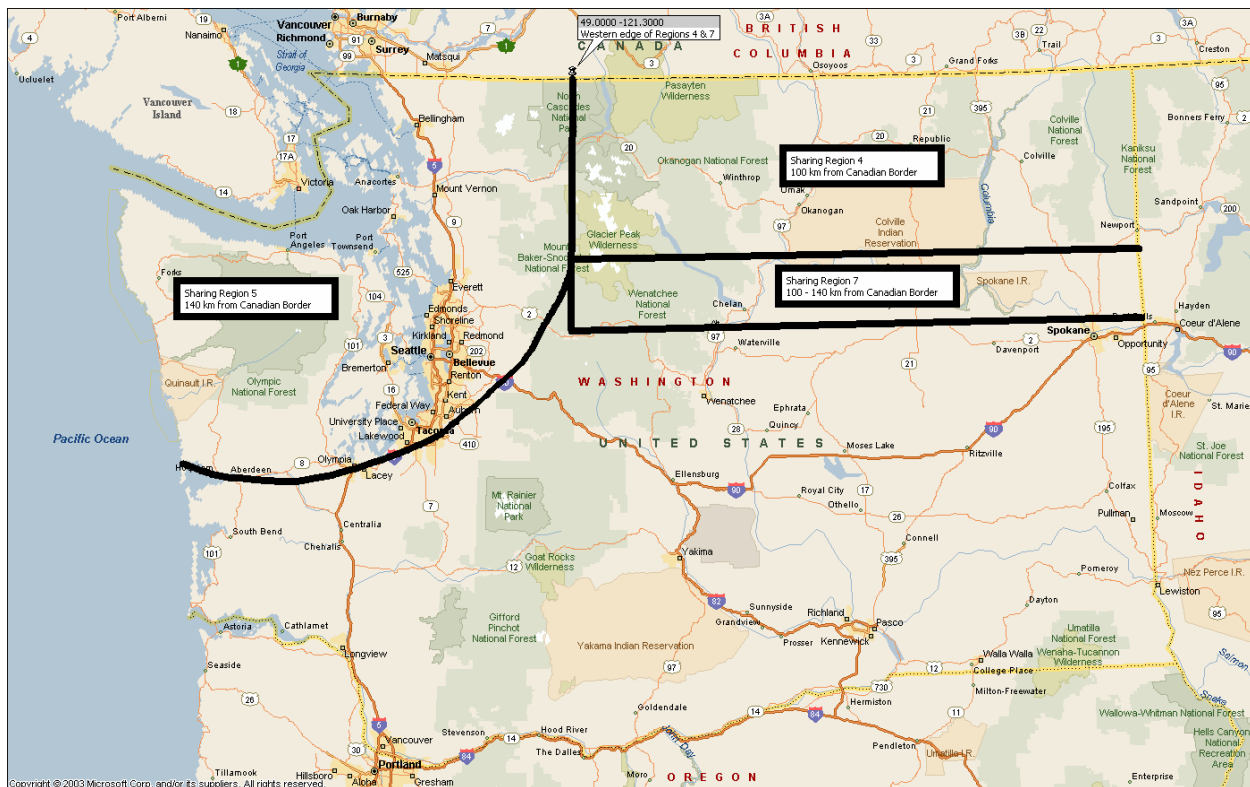
3. Is your NPSPAC regional plan closely coordinated with plans in any adjoining regions? In your opinion, should the reconfiguration of your region be done at the same time as an adjoining region, and if so which one(s)?

SIEC response on behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Corrections:

We believe that Region 43 is aligned with adjacent jurisdictions.

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?

SIEC response on behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Corrections: *The Washington State Department of Transportation operates in border regions and non-border regions within Region 43. The Washington State Department of Corrections operates a statewide system that is also in Regions 4, 5, and 7 of the Regional Sharing Zones with Canada. Please see map below.*



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

SIEC response on behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Corrections: *Due to the nature and age of the equipment owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation, as well as*

the recent creation of the SIEC, there is a likelihood that upgrades to the statewide 800 MHz System will be required for statewide expansion. We will have more information in May 2005 when our planning is complete. Currently, the Washington State Department of Transportation is maintaining an 800 MHz enhancement program to mitigate harmful interference and poor signal coverage as funding becomes available and subject to the approval of the SIEC.

The Washington State Department of Corrections has recently acquired land and rights to another facility with plans on incorporating it into a state corrections facility within the next six months. Additional frequencies, licenses, and equipment will be sought for specific facilities and transportation programs as soon as final details are completed.

The Washington State Department of Corrections utilizes several special teams for incident response at their facilities. Team members are equipped with interoperable communications and may be tasked to respond statewide, when needed by the Washington State Department of Corrections or as approved by appropriate authority, to local or regional incidents for management and/or recovery efforts in the interests of public safety.

6. Additional salient information concerning the proposed retuning of equipment. (Additional information from the State of Washington.)

SIEC response on behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Corrections: *It is certainly understandable that an orderly transition needs to occur to migrate from the frequencies that are specifically named in the Consensus Plan. The State of Washington however finds itself in a paradoxical situation, agreeing that a migration must take place yet understanding the tremendous implications of such a migration.*

- (a) Because the state has two statewide radio systems and is part of Region 43 as well as Regions 4, 5, and 7 of the Sharing Regions, it may require up to eight complete system retunes to accommodate the migration to the new 800 MHz frequencies.*
- (b) There may be additional remedies that one or both state agencies may consider viable, assuming the Transition Administrator and Nextel find feasible alternatives. Alternatives would mitigate the need for system wide retuning and lessen the probability of outages within the system coverage of the state.*
- (c) Because the State of Washington is undergoing a statewide planning process for all state public safety communications systems, waiting until the later stages of the transition period will disrupt state public safety radio assets in the State of Washington. The SIEC therefore respectfully requests that the State of Washington be permitted to move forward with our required re-banding of 800 MHz as soon as practical*
- (d) State of Washington is funded on a biennial cycle, with the funding process beginning in January 2005. The delay in creating a migration strategy for the two largest radio systems in the state will impact other state agencies that are dependent upon the Washington State Department of Transportation and Washington State Department of Corrections systems for long-term interoperable communications. The anticipated delay in having border states re-banded after the center of the United States will create a delay of two years or more in Washington States planning efforts. Should Washington State proceed pending the realignment of frequencies, the entire statewide public safety radio network will require retuning.*

The State of Washington is looking forward to the opportunity of working with the Transition Administrator (TA), Nextel, and others to resolve the issues related to interference in the 800 MHz

band. The State of Washington has a series of complex interdependencies with other all state agencies, local and tribal public safety agencies, the border states of Oregon and Idaho, and the Canadian border and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) targets as identified by the Department of Homeland Security (Seattle, King County, Pierce County, Snohomish County and Clark County). To add to the already complex issues, all of the statewide systems reside in Region 43 and Regions 4, 5, and 7 of the United States/Canada Shared Zones. Additionally, the Washington State Department of Transportation has equipment that is so old it is not able to accommodate the complexities of retuning to comply with the Consensus Plan's obligations. There are other alternatives, and we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these issues with the TA at your earliest convenience. Certainly issues that require interaction with Region 43 should be discussed with that Region, jointly with regions adjacent, both south and east. The Washington State SIEC supports a joint meeting with a TA representative and Region 35 as suggested by the Region 43 chairman.

Should you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hausman

Dennis Hausman
State Interoperability Executive Committee Staff
Washington Department of Information Services