

Summary of May 5, 2007 Region 43 Rebanding SubComittee Conference Call with Doug Spalt from State Department

Region 43 Committee Participants on call: David Mendel, Harlan Ohlson, Mark Nelson, Michael Marusich, Ron Solemsaas, Spencer Bahner, Tom Eckels, Jon Wiswell, Steve Taylor.

Doug Spalt reported that State and FCC are scheduled to meet with Industry Canada May 23-24 to continue discussions regarding "Arrangement F" with Canada (NPSPAC frequencies) related to rebanding border issues.

He confirmed that Industry Canada has stated no drivers exist for Canada to harmonize with United States rebanding, so Canada will stick to the existing arrangement, including mutual aid channels.

Following the May 23-24 meeting, State and FCC expect to be "just about done" with staff level details by early to mid June. Should this timeline be met, another 2-3 months could elapse for language and legal review by State and FCC. He said it may (emphasizing MAY) be possible that by late summer the FCC could (emphasizing COULD) make a decision to proceed with Wave 4 rebanding on a "provisional application" basis instead of waiting for formal approvals by both nations, which could easily take over a year.

The current Arrangement F has been operational since 1982 but only formalized by both Canada and US since 1994. That means there is precedent to proceed with Wave 4 rebanding on a provisional basis -- after agreeing on details -- rather than waiting for the formal approval process of both nations to be completed.

Doug said a joint FCC/State letter to Region 43 in response to our March 21, 2007 letter is waiting for Ambassador Gross and Chairman Martin's signatures and could be mailed to my attention next week. I'll put it out on the list server as soon as I receive it.

He also said the May 23-24 agenda includes discussing recent 700 MHz developments related to the April 27 NPRM regarding 700 MHz broadband.

Many thanks to Marilyn Ward, Executive Director of NPSTC, for arranging this discussion with Doug, participating in the call and providing the conference line.