

The Commission has stated its intention to consolidate the 20 private land mobile radio services, and has requested that the land mobile radio community develop a "consensus plan" for that consolidation. Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 95-255 (released June 23, 1995), 60 Fed. Reg. 37152 (July 19, 1995). The "consensus plan" is to be filed with the Commission on or before November 18, 1995. However, APCO and each of the other public safety frequency coordinators believe that any such plan would be premature before the work of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee is completed.^{1/}

The Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee will be devoting considerable time and energy to find solutions to the spectrum shortages and interoperability problems facing federal, state, and local public safety agencies. How public safety frequencies are allocated, coordinated, and managed will be a critical element of the Advisory Committee's work. Therefore, it would be premature and inappropriate for the Commission to require immediate consolidation of the existing Public Safety Radio Services. These issues need to be explored in great detail by the Advisory Committee, and should not be prejudged by the Commission's refarming proceeding, which pre-dated the formation of the Advisory Committee.

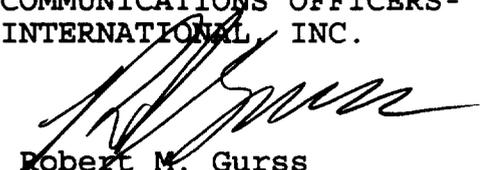
^{1/} See Request for Stay submitted by the International Municipal Signal Association and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (filed Sept. 22, 1995), and the recently submitted Comments of the Public Safety Communications Council.

Postponement of any public safety radio service consolidation will not have a significant impact on users, spectrum utilization or the Commission. The new Part 90 rules adopted in the Report and Order contemplate retention of the existing radio services and allot channels accordingly. See Report and Order at Appendix F. Current interservice sharing rules will also continue to facilitate efficient frequency assignments until new rules and procedures are adopted. Finally, the proposed stay will have no impact on the Commission's plan to consolidate other, non-public safety, radio services.

Therefore, for the reasons discussed above and in the separate submissions of the other public safety frequency coordinators, APCO urges the Commission to stay consolidation of the public safety radio services pending the outcome of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 5, 1995