

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

96-86

From: Ron Mayworm <ron@ktsignals.com>
To: <jkowalsk@fcc.gov>, <bweintra@fcc.gov>
Date: 5/16/01 11:38AM
Subject: NCC recommendations

Dear Jeanne and Bert,

Thank you for inquiring about the basis for the City of College Station's recent communication with Senator Phil Gramm regarding the NCC's recommendations. I hope that our discussions last week during the NCC meetings in St. Louis were enlightening.

Here are the sixteen NCC recommendations (as I counted them) with the Commission's disposition noted:

- 1. Trunking should not be mandated on the interoperability channels - ACCEPTED
- 2. "Secondary" trunking should be permitted on some interoperability channels - ACCEPTED
- 3. A nationwide access priority scheme should be adopted for the interoperability channels - REJECTED
- 4. Guard channels should be established adjacent to the interoperability channels - REJECTED
- 5. State Interoperability Executive Committees should be formed - ACCEPTED
- 6. The Commission should license equipment operating on the interoperability channels - REJECTED
- 7. Regional Planning Committees should oversee interoperability infrastructure - REJECTED
- 8. A standard template for Memoranda of Understanding should be adopted - REJECTED
- 9. The Commission should designate primary functional use and establish standardized nomenclature for the interoperability channels - REJECTED
- 10. Two interoperability channels should be established as calling channels - ACCEPTED
- 11. A single encryption standard should be established for the interoperability channels - ACCEPTED
- 12. The Commission should require all subscriber radios to display specific channels labels when operating on the interoperability channels - REJECTED
- 13. Project 25 Phase I technology should be adopted as the voice interoperability standard - ACCEPTED

RECEIVED

MAY 25 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List A B C D E

14. Project 25 Phase I technology should be adopted as the low-speed data interoperability standard - ACCEPTED

15. Federal users should be given equal access to the 700 MHz band - ACCEPTED

16. Use of the NLECTC pre-coordination database for licensing should be mandated - REJECTED

I agree with both of you that some of these recommendations were more important than others. However, this doesn't mean that the rejected recommendations were unimportant. Indeed, the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN, an NCC member that represents a broad range of radio users at all levels of government), determined that half of the rejected recommendations were important enough to justify their filing of a Petition for Reconsideration of these issues. Certainly the time, energy, and resources of everyone involved can be used better than on a reconsideration process.

Finally, as I explained to you last week, I am deeply concerned that this opportunity to make interoperability happen, rather than just allowing for it to happen, on the 700 MHz band is being missed.

Coming from a significantly less-populated area than most of the NCC members, I am acutely aware of the limitations placed on public safety radio purchases. I work with several volunteer fire departments that have had to choose between radios and proper protective clothing for their firefighters. For many small agencies interoperability is a "feature" in a radio system that gets eliminated when final cost cuts are made. I am firmly convinced that the Commission's goal of seamless nationwide interoperability can only be reached if its inclusion is mandated in the Commission's rules.

Furthermore, my experience has taught me that most radio users need the simplest process possible (like a certain channel choice and a common channel name) to achieve successful interoperability during the stress and confusion of a major incident.

This is the opportunity for the Commission to provide the basic tools of interoperability to every public safety radio user in the 700 MHz band. These basic tools are immediate access to interoperability channels and an initial uniform plan for their effective use. Nobody but the Commission has the power to make this happen nationally. Let's not blow it.

Thanks again for listening.

Ron Mayworm

CC: <David_James@Gramm.Senate.gov>, <cshear@ci.college-station.tx.us>, <lpwonka@ci.college-station.tx.us>, <ccryan@ci.college-station.tx.us>