

Nextel Communications, Inc.  
2001 Edmund Halley Drive, Reston, VA 20191



October 7, 2003

Via Electronic Mail Delivery

Gary Oshinsky  
Commercial Wireless Division  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Interference Status Report, WT Docket No. 02-100

Dear Mr. Oshinsky:

On July 7, 2003, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (the "Bureau") issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order ("*MO&O*") in the above-captioned proceeding. In paragraph 26, the Bureau directed Anne Arundel County, Maryland (the "County"), Cingular Wireless ("Cingular") and Nextel to report to the Bureau on the "progress of [interference] mitigation efforts in the County" within thirty and ninety days. Pursuant to the Bureau's directive, Nextel provides its ninety-day update to the Bureau.

Over the past several years, Nextel has demonstrated its commitment to work with the County to avoid, where possible, and manage ongoing interference to the County's public safety communications system that may be related to Nextel's operations. To do so, Nextel has devoted significant resources and personnel, as well as significantly degraded the ongoing operations of its network, in an effort to work with the County to address a large number of interference issues. In addition, Nextel has worked extensively with other commercial cellular carriers in the County (Cingular and Verizon) that have been documented contributors to the interference problems plaguing the County. The Bureau's *MO&O* will not change Nextel's commitment – Nextel will continue to work with the County and other carriers to address public safety interference in the County.

In Nextel's thirty-day report in response to the Bureau's *MO&O*, dated August 7, 2003, Nextel described its efforts in joint testing with the County at two "intractable" interference locations (the Edgewater site and the Odenton site) in a continuing attempt to find potential interference mitigation measures that might prove useful. Nextel reported that the modified Motorola XTS5000 radio continued to experience operational difficulties at the Odenton site and that further frequency changes at these sites on a site-by-site basis will be neither possible nor successful given the spectrum environment in

the 800 MHz band, which authorizes incompatible and disparate technologies on interleaved and adjacent spectrum.

Since the filing of Nextel's August 7, 2003 report, Nextel continued joint testing with the County at the Priest Bridge Site. After two years of attempts at technical modifications at the site, Nextel's efforts, including new antennas, wholesale frequency changes, and the installation of new filtering equipment have been able to *temporarily* mitigate interference to the County's radios attempting to operate near the site. This result came after over *two years* of engineering activity at the site, and at a cost of significant time and resources for both Nextel and the County – all while the County's personnel were at risk of a life-threatening interference-generated incident near the Priest Bridge site. Until the current 800 MHz spectrum environment is realigned, Nextel cannot guarantee interference-free operations for the County's public safety system.

Also since Nextel's August report, progress has also occurred on a proposed frequency exchange between the County and Nextel. The proposed Nextel-County swap of 800 MHz spectrum will allow the County to build, over the coming years, a more robust public safety communications system, which will expand the County's coverage and improve its spectrum position. The spectrum exchange, however, "cannot eliminate intermodulation hits on Anne Arundel County channels or limit cellular OOB sufficiently to eliminate all interference. The frequency swap is intended only as one step in a broader interference resolution effort. . . . While this is a positive step, a permanent interference solution requires de-interleaving the channels used for noise-limited public safety systems from those allocated for high-capacity, low-site cellular systems."<sup>1</sup>

On or about September 23, 2003, the County received Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to utilize the fourteen Nextel channels that are the subject of the proposed exchange, while the County's applications for permanent assignment remain pending with the Commission. Nextel expects its applications to take assignment of the County's frequencies to be filed in the coming weeks.

I trust that this is responsive to the Bureau's request. Should there be any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (703) 433-4212.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

James B. Goldstein  
Senior Attorney – Government Affairs

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<sup>1</sup> See letter from Linda Schuett, County Attorney for the County, in WT Docket 02-55 and 02-100, dated July 29, 2003, at page 3.