

Regarding item II. A. 2. Paging on Public Safety VHF Frequencies, on page 4 of the NPR, my comment would be that in our area, the ability to send voice and alpha numeric page messages over our VHF frequencies is critical. We use a series of six VHF frequencies to page 30 volunteer fire departments and EMS agencies that cover over 3,500 square miles of western South Dakota. We use three of the six VHF frequencies as dedicated paging frequencies. No voice traffic is allowed on those frequencies. We use the other three VHF frequencies for the voice traffic related to dispatching those volunteer departments. This system works well for us. Prior to going to this method, we did mix paging and voice traffic on three of the VHF frequencies. We seldom had problems with page tones interfering with voice traffic. We would urge the FCC to NOT ban page tones from VHF frequencies. Thank you.