

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Communications Requirements Through the Year 2010)	WT Docket No. 96-86
)	
Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands)	WT Docket No. 06-150
)	
Former Nextel Communications, Inc. Upper 700 MHz Guard Band Licenses and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules)	WT Docket No. 06-169
)	
Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band)	PS Docket No. 06-229
)	

**COMMENTS OF REGION 9 (FLORIDA)
700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Region 9 (Florida) 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee (Region 9) hereby submits these comments in response to the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the above captioned proceedings released on April 27, 2007. At the annual meeting held on May 21, 2007, in Doral Florida, Region 9 approved a resolution adopting the following positions in response to the above captioned FNPRM. The Region 9 Regional Planning Committee, by regulation, represents all eligible entities throughout the State of Florida, dedicated to promoting effective management and efficient use of the 700 MHz public safety spectrum allocations assigned by the Commission a decade ago.

The Florida Region 9 Committee has been active since 1989 initially in the 821 Mhz Regional Planning and later in 700 Mhz Regional Planning. To date 127 agencies Statewide have participated in the Regional 700 Mhz. planning process. This represents the largest percentage of eligible user representation of any Regional Planning Committee nationwide. The largest metropolitan areas in the State of Florida; the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area, Tampa, and Jacksonville areas are activity planning broadband data systems that will cover 75% of the States urban areas. The necessity of having control of the available spectrum as set forth in WT Docket 96-86 is critical.

Therefore;

Region 9 agrees with the numerous public safety entities that have gone on record supporting the concept of a nationwide, interoperable broadband network. At the same time, we also agree with the many same public safety entities that filed Comments and Reply Comments in the previous NPRMs of the above WT Docket 96-86 supporting the need for public safety agencies to have the flexibility to choose the solution best meetings their needs, whether that solution is broadband or wideband technology. Region 9 strongly disagrees with the tentative conclusion by the Commission, as published in the FNPRM, to prohibit wideband operations on a going forward basis and to permit commercial vendors to have access to the portion of the spectrum reserved for Public Safety broadband/wideband usage. Such a proposed mandate will eliminate the ability for local public safety agencies and Regional Planning Committees to opt for a cost effective high speed data solution that meets public safety requirements, especially for those agencies in lower population and/or large jurisdictional areas.

Region 9 also disagrees with the Commission's conclusion that providing such flexibility could hinder efforts to deploy a nationwide, interoperable broadband network.

Interoperability can be achieved without the Commission mandating a single broadband technology and limiting the spectrum to only a nationwide network. Today, public safety agencies throughout Florida are achieving mission critical voice communications interoperability across disparate technologies. Similarly, there are a number of ways to achieve interoperability among wideband and various broadband technologies, both at the network connectivity level and the radio-to-radio level. These include network gateways, mobile routers, multi-mode radios and inexpensive PCMCIA cards that can support the yet to be selected broadband network standard as well as other wideband and/or broadband technologies.

With the proposed nationwide broadband network roll out timetable of 8 to 10 years, public safety agencies will likely have to wait from 3 to 4 years from the yet to be determined start date in high population areas, while agencies in less populated areas may be required to wait a long time for the carrier to provide network coverage that meets their jurisdictional needs. And even then, there will be agencies in low population and rural areas that may never receive carrier broadband coverage. Under the Commission's tentative conclusion, once TV broadcasters are required to vacate all 700 MHz public safety spectrum by February 17, 2009, this spectrum will likely remain idle in many areas until such nationwide broadband network build out is completed. In the mean time, public safety needs access to high speed data solutions in their jurisdictional area today. It becomes obvious that public safety requires 700 MHz data solutions in addition to a nationwide broadband network throughout the scheduled build out period, and to provide coverage capability in the remaining land areas beyond these build out plans. Local and regional networks can provide much needed high-speed data services until such

time as a nationwide carrier network provides the jurisdictional coverage and applications needed by local agencies.

Region 9 therefore urges the Commission to allow public safety agencies and Regional Planning Committees to make local/regional decisions, on all of the 700 MHz public safety data spectrum, which give them the flexibility to deploy high speed data solutions that best meet their budget and operational requirements. Public safety must have a choice, whether that choice is to deploy a local or regional network using either broadband or wideband technology, or to wait for a nationwide broadband network to meets their high speed data requirements.

The foregoing statements are the response of the Florida Region 9 Committee and by unanimous vote, all Region 9 eligible members in attendance at the Region 9 Public Hearings, May 21, 2007, Doral, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Carlson

Region 9 RPC Chairman

May 23, 2007