

The Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP) offers these comments regarding 700 MHz public safety communications issues.

We support band plan proposals 3 and 4.

WSP supports the establishment of a public safety National Licensee. We suggest that the National Licensee be made up of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and representatives of the RPCs.

WSP believes that wideband operation should be permitted in a portion block of the broadband spectrum until such time as the spectrum is required by the National Licensee for the national broadband buildout. The key benefit of wideband is the ability for immediate deployment. A level of interoperability between local wideband systems and the national broadband system might be achieved through the network.

Public safety agencies should have the option to construct local and regional broadband systems in concert with the National Operator (auction licensee) and the National Licensee. These systems would be a part of the national system and could allow for faster deployment of the national system.

Regional planning committees (RPCs) can coordinate the assignment of wideband channels. RPCs could also be given the authority to coordinate the aggregation of narrowband channels for wideband operation. RPCs should work with the National Licensee to manage the 1 MHz "guard band" between the broadband and narrowband allocations.