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To: narrowbanding
Cc: Stirler, Roger [DOC]; Hier, Brad [DOC]
Subject: Iowa Dept. of Corrections

The Iowa Department of Corrections with central offices located in Des Moines, Iowa is seeking a request for waiver to delay or push back the January 1, 2013 deadline for narrow banding.

Currently the Iowa Dept. of Corrections has 9 facilities located throughout the state. All 9 facilities utilize at least 1 VHF channel at 154.995MHz which is used for fire brigade operations, paging and medical staff usage. In 7 of the 9 facilities, 2 to 3 UHF repeaters operating between the frequencies of 453.000MHz and 466.000MHz are utilized in conjunction with approximately 1800 handheld units and 70 mobile units. The last 2 facilities are operating on a leased 800MHz EDACS system.

In 7 of the 9 cases, the equipment being used is not narrowband capable or compliant. In the last 2 facilities operating on the 800MHz leased system, the equipment is not P25 capable. Total replacement will be required state wide.

A standard for the Iowa Dept. of Corrections has been developed. This standard would move the Iowa Dept. of Corrections to an 800MHz digital trunked system. The department, state wide, would be relinquishing all licensed frequencies on VHF and UHF and would require coordination for 800MHz frequencies in all 9 facilities. Although there will be a need to maintain some VHF and UHF equipment for interoperable communications between local agencies still operating on those bands. This move will allow for interoperable communications between all 9 facilities and make information and resource sharing easier to accomplish.

At this time, negative impacts for not narrow banding the 9 correctional facilities cannot be predicted as it is not known what future licensing may be implemented for other entities operating in those frequency ranges.

Currently, funding at a state level has not been available although discussion of this planned system will be addressed in future legislative sessions. In addition, time will be required to deal with frequency coordination, state level vendor selection processes, mapping out of new system for selected vendor(s), any vendor pre-deployment testing and final equipment deployment.

Due to these extended processes and delays, the timetable for total equipment deployment would not be until January 1, 2014 or after.