

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission’s Rules)	WP Docket No. 07-100
)	
Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band)	PS Docket No. 06-229
)	
Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777- 792 MHz Bands)	WT Docket No. 06-150
)	

COMMENTS OF THE REGION 49 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Region 49 Regional Planning Committee is comprised of volunteer representatives from a 30 county area in central Texas. The Region includes the state capitol city of Austin and the metropolitan areas of Bryan/College Station, Temple/Killeen/Fort Hood, and Waco in a 25,717 square mile area. The Committee offers these comments in response to the *Fifth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Fifth FNPRM)* in the above-captioned proceeding.

Committee members held an on-line meeting to discuss the questions and issues raised in the Fifth FNPRM. Some members have also participated in meetings and discussions with other regions, the National Regional Planning Council (NRPC), and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC).

We believe that the current 4.9 GHz licensing scheme is not working well. We have anecdotal causes to believe that there are many improperly-licensed or unlicensed point-to-point links and other operations of which no one is aware, except their owners. This has produced an uncontrolled and unpredictable spectral environment in which a licensee can only “plug and pray” that their new path or system will not receive or cause harmful interference. Existing, properly-licensed systems have no assurance of interference protection. Indeed, some entities have declined to develop systems in the band because of these uncertainties.

We also believe that the 4.9 GHz band can be significantly useful to the National Public Safety Broadband Network as backhaul to and between outlying sites, particularly in rural settings like some portions of Region 49 where high-capacity fiber and other connectivity are nonexistent. Such additional critical use in the band would clearly require a controlled and predictable spectral environment to succeed.

We believe that transitioning from the current informal and uncoordinated licensing structure to a new, formal, coordinated structure is essential, and that this new structure must include a comprehensive, accurate, and timely database. However, Region 49 firmly believes that without standardized technical parameters, a standardized database program, standardized software for evaluation and mapping of systems, trained (and, probably, paid) personnel, financial support, and the authority or support to enforce decisions, the Committee cannot manage such a task. We doubt that many of the other regional committees could, either.

For these reasons, Region 49 supports the recommendations we expect will be forthcoming from the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ronald G. Mayworm

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