

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of
Public Safety and Homeland Security
Bureau Seeks Comment on Request for
Waiver by Los Angeles Regional
Interoperable Communications System
Joint Powers Authority to Apply for
700 MHz “Narrowband Reserve
Channels”

RM-11433

Comments of the National Regional Planning Committee

The National Regional Planning Committee (NRPC) hereby submits the following comments in response to the Commission’s *Public Notice*, DA 13-39 (January 11, 2013) regarding a Request for Waiver petition filed by the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Joint Powers Authority (LA RICS) to apply for public safety 700 MHz “Narrowband Reserve Channels” and to integrate those frequencies into the LA RICS radio system. The NRPC concurs with this LA RICS Waiver Request

The National Regional Planning Council

The National Regional planning Council (NRPC) is an advocacy body formed in 2007 that supports public safety communications spectrum management by Regional Planning Committees

(RPC) in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz NPSPAC public safety spectrum as required by the Federal Communications Commission for use by public safety agencies. We liaison with FCC certified frequency coordinators, licensees, applicants, vendors, adjacent regions as well as the Commission on a regular basis to ensure our planning responsibilities and the goals of those first responder agencies we serve are met. These Regional Planning Committees are made up of public safety volunteer members that dedicate their own time, independent of their regular public safety duties, to coordinate 700 and 800 MHz regional planning spectrum efficiently and effectively for the purpose of making it available to public safety agency applicants in their region. The work these people do every day reflects their dedication to public safety communications and to ensuring local public safety agencies and user needs are heard and met within their regions and beyond.

As a body that advocates the *voice* of regional planning committees and one that does not attempt to consolidate and centralize that voice into a single message, the NRPC encourages each region planning committee to voice their opinions and positions on pertinent topics and speak to the Commission in filings and comments as best they can with the intimate, specific knowledge they have as to regional public safety communication initiatives in place and how they are impacted within each region. Subsequently, the NRPC does not in these comments speak on behalf of each individual FCC recognized regional planning committee but promotes each region's ability to speak on behalf of the needs of their users.

While many RPC members were involved in the development of the current rules and policies associated with the use of 700 MHz spectrum under Docket 96-86 and supported the designation of 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve Channels, we support the use of these channels as deemed appropriate in each Regional Planning Committee and a reclassification of these channels to 700 MHz General Use spectrum. In conclusion, the NRPC is hopeful that each regional planning committee will respond to the Commission with their perspective on this important issue and bring their own viewpoints into consideration. We encourage each regional planning committee to do so.

COMMENTS

In these comments, the NRPC provides its perspective of some the issues brought forth for comments by the Commission regarding the use of the LA RICS Request for Waiver. Those issues include:

1. The need for LA RICS to alter their original UHF T-Band system design and change to a *hybrid* UHF-700 MHz band system due to the creation of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Public Safety Spectrum Act) that removes public safety access to T Band spectrum between 470-512 MHz at some point in the future.
2. The determination by the LA RICS Joint Powers Authority that the number of current 700 MHz General Use Narrowband Channels assigned for use in Los Angeles County is insufficient for LA RICS implementation.
3. That NRPC concurs that the 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve spectrum could be used to contribute to the LA RICS *hybrid* UHF/700 MHz radio system.
4. The NRPC feels that the implementation of these twenty four (24) 700 MHz Reserve Channels 12.5 KHz channels in the LA RICS Radio System should be coordinated for use on a site by site basis by the Region 5 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee utilizing the same coordination heuristics and co-channel/adjacent channel guidelines contained within the Commission approved Region 5 700 MHz plan for coordinating 700 MHz General Use Spectrum. 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve channels are adjacent to General Use 700 MHz Narrowband Channels (coordinated by Regional Planning Committees in their respective region), 700 MHz State License Geographic Narrowband channels (utilized and implemented by each State Licensee) and 700 MHz Narrowband Interoperability Spectrum (coordinated by each State's Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee or its equivalent body) so the successful coordination of the 700 MHz Reserve Channels must take all adjacent use into consideration.

5. Furthermore, just as the NRPC agrees that the 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve channels should be made available to the LA RICS radio system via the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee within Region 5 due to insufficient General Use 700 MHz narrowband spectrum being available, county-like areas and jurisdictions in other regions where insufficient 700 MHz Narrowband General Use spectrum exists should also be permitted to utilize 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve spectrum in a similar manner. The Reserve spectrum in these instances should be coordinated by each region's respective 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee utilizing coordination requirements in their existing Commission approved plans. In instances where an applicant requests 700 MHz Reserve channels for implementation due to insufficient availability of General Use channels, each Regional Planning Committee can request information from the applicant that documents the users spectrum needs, determine how existing General Use channels available to them in their current channel allotment in their respective 700 MHz Regional Plan are not sufficient to meet their spectrum needs and any other loading information that the region may need to properly coordinate an application for 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve Channels, if necessary.
6. 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve Spectrum should be reclassified as General Use public safety 700 MHz narrowband spectrum and coordinated, where necessary, within each 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee. With 700 MHz Geographic State License spectrum build-out dates scheduled for June 13, 2014 (1/3 State Geography or population) and June 13, 2019 (2/3 State Geography or population) and the Commission's current rules outlining a process in which unused 700 MHz Geographic State License spectrum is returned to each region and reclassified as General Use spectrum, the assignment and proper coordination of current Reserve spectrum is in public safety's best interest.
7. In light of the NPSTC Petition proposing to utilize 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve Channels in a deployable manner in mission critical situations where a stand-alone trunked system can provide support to users in the immediate area of an incident, perhaps LA RICS, Region 5 and the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee should propose similar deployable "fly in kits" utilizing other 700 MHz Narrowband channels common to the region and State. These channels could be put in place to

support the same assets in areas where LA RICS utilizes the national Narrowband Reserve 700 MHz channels to ensure the deployable capabilities are still met.

Respectfully

William Carter, Chairperson
National Regional Planning Council

February 11, 2013