

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council)	WT Docket No. 02-55
)	
Licensee of Private Land Mobile Radio Stations, Call Signs WQVD879, WQDV880)	

ORDER

By the Deputy Chief, Policy and Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Under consideration is the May 7, 2014 Request for Waiver to Provide Additional Time for Completing Planning and Submitting a Cost Estimate to Sprint Nextel and the 800 MHz Transition Administrator (Request) filed by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (Council) seeking an extension of time until June 30, 2014 to submit a cost estimate for the reconfiguration of the Council's 800 MHz communications system. For the reasons set out below, we grant the Council's request.

II. DISCUSSION

2. The Council represents that it has been unable timely to submit a cost estimate for the rebanding of its 800 MHz system because of several factors involved in the planning process. Among those factors is the fact that subscriber units in the system are owned by 46 jurisdictions, such that inventorying the units and coordinating their rebanding has proven to be a "complex undertaking."¹ Also, the Council states that, to eliminate downtime on the system, it will be necessary to install a system of back-to-back repeaters, a process that will be complicated by the fact that the system already includes "back-to-back linkers" that connect the system to VHF systems.² Additionally, the Council claims, its infrastructure is composed of multiple vendors' equipment, configured in a "unique and undocumented" fashion.³ It also contends that there are space constraints at its sites and that some of the sites are leased from commercial owners with which the Council must negotiate for the installation of additional equipment for the back-to-back system.⁴

¹ Request at 2.

² *Id.* at 4.

³ *Id.* at 3.

⁴ *Id.*

3. Section 1.46(a) of the Commission's rules⁵ states that [i]t is the policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted. The "import of that rule is especially relevant to 800 MHz rebanding where delay in rebanding by one licensee can cause a 'domino effect' delay in the rebanding efforts of other licensees that have met the Commission's 800 MHz band reconfiguration deadlines with a consequent delay of the overall program. We therefore afford a high degree of scrutiny to the reasons licensees advance for extensions of time."⁶

III. DECISION

4. We have applied the requisite high degree of scrutiny to the Council's Request and find that the County has exercised diligence in the preparation of a cost estimate. In particular, we credit the Council for initiating contact, in advance, with Sprint Corporation to discuss the necessary methodology for reconfiguration on the Council's system. We also find that the length of the requested extension is no more than necessary for the Council to prepare and submit its cost estimate.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSE

5. Accordingly IT IS ORDERED that that Request for Extension of Time filed May 7, 2014 by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council IS GRANTED.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council shall file its cost estimate with Sprint Corporation and the 800 MHz Transition Administrator on or before June 30, 2014.

7. This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to Sections 0.191 and 0.392 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.191, 0.392.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Michael J. Wilhelm
Deputy Chief, Policy and Licensing Division
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

⁶ Regents of the University of California, *Order*, 28 FCC Rcd 15920, 15921 (PSHSB 2013).