



PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU EXTENDS 800 MHZ APPLICATION FREEZE FOR NPSPAC REGION 43 (WASHINGTON STATE)

WT Docket No. 02-55

By this Public Notice, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) extends the freeze on the filing of new non-rebanding related 800 MHz applications until April 18, 2016 in NPSPAC Region 43 (Washington State).

This extension of the freeze on non-rebanding applications is needed to preserve vacant channels for licensees re-tuning their systems according to the reconfigured band plan adopted by the Bureau for incumbents operating along the U.S.-Canada border.¹ The previous application freeze expired on October 18, 2015.²

As of this date, some border region licensees in Washington State have yet to complete their system re-tunes. Accordingly, to preserve currently vacant channels for use by these licensees and avoid potential licensing conflicts that could delay rebanding, we have determined that temporarily extending the freeze in NPSPAC Region 43 (Washington State) is in the public interest.

We therefore extend the freeze on acceptance of non-rebanding applications for 800 MHz licenses but only in NPSPAC Region 43. This freeze also applies to those stations located within seventy miles of the borders of NPSPAC Region 43.

The freeze applies only to applications for new facilities or modification applications that involve a change of frequency or expand a station's existing coverage area. Applications that have no effect on frequency or coverage (*e.g.*, administrative updates, assignments/transfers, and renewal-only applications) are exempt from the freeze.

Licensees on pre-rebanding channels proposing to expand coverage or add a new channel during the freeze may seek Special Temporary Authorization (STA) based upon an appropriate showing of public interest need as described in the Bureau's December 2006 *STA Guidance PN*.³ Furthermore,

¹ See Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band, New 800 MHz Band Plan for U.S. - Canada Border Regions, WT Docket 02-55, *Second Report and Order*, 23 FCC Rcd 7605 (PSHSB 2008). See also Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Reinstates 800 MHz Application Freeze for Wave 4 Border Area NPSPAC and Non-NPSPAC Licensees Along the U.S.-Canada Border, WT Docket 02-55, *Public Notice*, 25 FCC Rcd 11049, 11049-50 (PSHSB 2010).

² See Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Extends 800 MHz Application Freeze For NPSPAC Region 43 (Washington State), *Public Notice*, 30 FCC Rcd 3693 (PSHSB 2015).

³ See Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Provides Guidance for Public Safety Licensees With Regard to License Application and Special Temporary Authorization Procedures and Payment of Frequency Relocation Costs

licensees on post-rebanding channels proposing to expand coverage or add a new channel during the freeze may apply for permanent authorization provided they include a request for waiver of the freeze with their application.

In either case, licensees must include a concurrence letter from the TA with their STA or waiver request and application. Licensees may request a concurrence letter from the TA by emailing an electronic copy of their draft application to the TA at: AppReview@800TA.org.

For further information, contact: Brian Marengo, Policy Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at (202) 418-0838 or Brian.Marengo@fcc.gov.

Action by the Deputy Chief, Policy and Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

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