



## **Guidance for Regional Planning Committees and Licensees on 800 MHz Regional Plans, including Canadian Border Regions**

The TA has received inquiries regarding the Regional Planning Committees (RPCs), the 800 MHz Regional Plans, and the 800 MHz Reconfiguration, particularly in regards to the U.S.-Canada border area. This document provides some answers to commonly asked questions on this topic.

- 1. Most RPCs use a “filing window” to accept new applications for frequencies in the NPSPAC band. Will the RPCs open a “filing window” to accept and approve new applications related to new frequency assignments required by the 800 MHz reconfiguration?**

No. Any frequency assignment the TA provides to a licensee with a Frequency Proposal Report (FPR) and that is included in a Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement (FRA) approved by the TA does not require RPC approval.

- 2. Is RPC approval necessary for license modifications related to the 800 MHz reconfiguration?**

No. License modification involving only frequency changes by licensees with FPRs and an FRA approved by the TA does not require RPC approval.

- 3. In the U.S.-Canada border area certain licensees currently licensed and operating on frequencies between 851 MHz and 854 MHz, on what will become the new NPSPAC band, will remain in the new NPSPAC band post-reconfiguration. Is RPC approval necessary for these licensees?**

No. However, former non-NPSPAC public safety licensees remaining in, or moving into, the new NPSPAC band (851-854 MHz) must conform their systems to NPSPAC operating requirements, which require a tighter emission mask, or seek a waiver from the FCC to continue to operate on their current basis post-reconfiguration, provided they obtain the approval of the applicable RPC. The FCC has granted such waivers for mobile data equipment that cannot meet NPSPAC emissions masks and maintain adequate data speeds. As an alternative to requesting a waiver from the FCC, licensees with data systems that have this issue may request non-NPSPAC channels from the TA.

Licensees converting to NPSPAC operations may be required to make minor technical changes to system parameters to maintain comparable coverage. Technical changes to maintain current coverage and meet NPSPAC operating requirements do not require RPC approval. These licensees should negotiate an FRA with Sprint Nextel to provide for reimbursement of their reasonable and prudent expenses incurred in the conversion of their systems.

- 4. Some regional plans have specific coverage limitations, mutual aid channel implementation and monitoring requirements or other requirements not required by the FCC. Are non-NPSPAC public safety licensees that will convert to NPSPAC when they reconfigure required to meet these kinds of RPC requirements as part of the reconfiguration?**

Licensees are entitled to comparable facilities as part of the 800 MHz reconfiguration. However, the FCC does not require licensees converting to NPSPAC to conform to RPC rules for implementing any additional facilities or operations as part of the reconfiguration (*e.g.*, operating mutual aid repeaters as a condition of operating a trunked NPSPAC system). Once licensees have completed reconfiguration, however, they will be subject to the RPC's rules going forward for changes such as adding channels or expanding coverage.

**5. The TA has provided to U.S.-Canada border area Regional Chairs information on the proposed NPSPAC frequency assignments. What action is required by the RPCs?**

The material provided to the RPCs was for review and comment only. No formal approval is requested. If the RPCs find any problems or potential mistakes they should inform the TA.

**6. The FCC is requiring RPCs to modify their plans to reflect the new NPSPAC frequency allotments. For most non-border regions this simply requires modifying the existing allotments by subtracting 15 MHz. The border regions are more complex. What help will the TA provide to the RPCs?**

In addition to the information already being provided, the TA will provide the border area RPCs with details on replacement frequencies after all licensees in the region have entered into Frequency Reconfiguration Agreements with Sprint Nextel, and the frequency environment is stable. Once band reconfiguration is complete in a region, the TA will provide the RPC with an updated list of all replacement frequencies for licensees who completed band reconfiguration. The time frame for the border area regions to modify their plans will be determined by the FCC at a later date.

**7. What are the TA's criteria for scheduling an Implementation Planning Session (IPS)?**

The TA schedules an IPS in a given region based upon the following criteria:

- a. Number of licensees in the region that have a signed FRA or submitted detailed cost estimates for the negotiation of an FRA
- b. Interoperability and dependencies in the region
- c. Size and complexity of systems in the region (not all regions will require an IPS)
- d. Impact of a regional schedule on another, neighboring or adjacent region

Additional information regarding the 800 MHz band reconfiguration process, as well as information for licensees reconfiguring as part of the U.S.-Canada border area, can be found on the TA's website, [www.800TA.org](http://www.800TA.org). For questions specific to Canada Border Region reconfiguration, licensees may contact the TA at [CanadaQuestions@800TA.org](mailto:CanadaQuestions@800TA.org).