

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REGIONAL PRIORITIZATION PLAN OF THE 800 MHZ TRANSITION ADMINISTRATOR**

In accordance with our responsibilities, the TA delivered on January 31, 2005 its Regional Prioritization Plan by which the reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band in the United States may be accomplished. In establishing our Plan, we solicited and received suggestions and comments from all 800 MHz band stakeholders, including the public safety community, critical infrastructure providers, business and industrial land transportation users, and commercial system operators. We are grateful to the parties who responded to our requests for comment.

We considered many factors and many different approaches in crafting our Regional Prioritization Plan. The criteria identified foremost by the Commission – population and interference – informed our analysis, as did the need to deliver a plan that enables the stakeholders to meet the critical timeline established by the Commission. We also considered the need to balance workload with available resources, both temporally and geographically. And, we identified through our outreach efforts clusters of interdependent NPSPAC regions that should be reconfigured together. Where possible, we have provided flexibility within our Plan. We propose to sequence Channels 1-120 and NPSPAC channel reconfiguration to avoid gaps between the negotiation periods and physical reconfiguration.

The major constraining factor in the development of our Plan was the inability to reconfigure most of the Canadian and Mexican border areas at the present time. To this end, we assessed each NPSPAC region on the Canadian or Mexican border and made a determination whether reconfiguration in that region outside the border area may be scheduled. This issue resulted in the separation of border NPSPAC regions in New York, Pennsylvania, and California, among others, from non-border NPSPAC regions in those States.

The Plan we presented on January 31, 2005 reflects, in our judgment, the best balancing of all of these considerations. We have defined three “waves” of NPSPAC regions to be reconfigured, with the first wave starting the formal negotiation period by the end of June 2005. The two succeeding waves will be staged three months apart, with Wave 3 beginning formal negotiations by January 3, 2006. Large systems that span more than one reconfiguration wave are expected to commence negotiations with their first wave, and to proceed with clearing of their Channels 1- 120 in an order consistent with our Regional Prioritization Plan. While we have scheduled a number of border regions to proceed with reconfiguration, a number of significant regions – and 25% of the population – must await further international agreements; these regions comprise our “Wave 4.”

We have planned for five months between delivery of our Plan and the formal commencement of the negotiation period for the first reconfiguration wave. During this time, the TA will be pursuing three related tracks: (1) **frequency planning** – efficient frequency planning is critical to stakeholder acceptance of reconfiguration. The TA has had, and will continue, stakeholder discussions to identify the critical path in frequency

planning and expects to rely upon existing resources to ensure stakeholder acceptance of reconfiguration frequency planning. The TA also expects shortly to announce its guidance on the various non-ESMR frequency elections called for in the *800 MHz Order*; (2) **process and policy development** – after selection of the trustee contemplated by the *800 MHz Order*, the TA will be refining and finalizing its policies and processes regarding the payment of reconfiguration expenses and related matters; and (3) **stakeholder outreach and education** – the TA will be continuing its outreach to affected stakeholders through stakeholder meetings, participation in upcoming conferences, and otherwise. We will also be developing and disseminating materials providing stakeholders with information and assistance in understanding and planning for reconfiguration to ensure an orderly commencement of the program. Pending the formal commencement of Wave 1 reconfiguration, the TA will also establish early implementation policies to encourage, where practicable, stakeholders to begin reconfiguration planning prior to their commencement dates.

While it was not possible to accommodate every comment or suggestion we received and there is no perfect plan, we have attempted to ensure that all stakeholders will be accommodated as quickly and as efficiently as possible. We believe our Plan is achievable within the timeframe set forth by the Commission. That is not to say that it will be easy; indeed, it will not. We are hopeful that this Plan will be received by stakeholders in this spirit and with the recognition that the accomplishment of a national priority depends upon them.