“800 MHz Transition”
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Purpose

Today’s webinar will cover the current state of 800 MHz transition.
Over the past several years, public safety radio systems have increasingly been experiencing equipment interference problems and communication “dead zones” as a result of technically incompatible “low-site” commercial wireless systems operating in the same or adjacent spectrum bands.

The 800 MHz Reconfiguration Program is part of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) plan to promote safety and protect the lives of first responders and other emergency personnel by addressing the harmful interference to public safety communication systems operating in the 800 MHz band.

To oversee the administrative & financial aspects of the reconfiguration program, the FCC appointed the . . .
Sprint Nextel Funded

• Sprint Nextel funds Rebanding
  – In a 2004 order, the FCC said Nextel needed to pay the total costs of rebanding or $2.8 billion--whichever was higher.
  – Sprint has spent $1.8 billion to date.
  – Sprint Nextel plans on spending between $3.2 billion and $3.6 billion in total costs.

• What Sprint Nextel Got
  – Contiguous and additional spectrum at 800 MHz.
  – 10 MHz of 1.9 GHz spectrum for clearing 30 MHz spectrum in the Broadcast Auxiliary Service BAS band by moving the band at Sprints expense.
Background:
800 MHz Reconfiguration (continued)
Background: 800 MHz Reconfiguration (continued)

THE IMPLEMENTATION SOLUTION:
Regional Prioritization Plan (RPP)
The 800 MHz Transition Administrator, LLC (TA) was established by the Federal Communications Commission to facilitate a smooth transition to the new 800 MHz band plan.


Among its duties, the TA...

- Establishes reconfiguration guidelines & relocation schedules
- Specifies replacement spectrum for relocating licensees
- Reviews & approves Planning Funding Agreements
- Reviews & approves Frequency Reconfiguration Agreements
- Oversees administrative & financial aspects of reconfiguration
- Monitors & facilitates issue resolution related to the relocation process
- Reports reconfiguration process to the FCC
- Communicates & educates licensees & stakeholders on reconfiguration processes

The TA acts as a neutral party between license holders and Sprint Nextel. It is solely responsible to the FCC to facilitate 800 MHz band reconfiguration in an expeditious, cost-effective manner with minimal disruption to stakeholders.
The activities required for Planning and Negotiation include:

• Submit Request for Planning Funding, If Necessary
• Negotiate Planning Funding Agreement with Sprint Nextel, If Necessary
• Document Subscriber Equipment and Infrastructure Inventories
• Define Interoperability Environment
• Evaluate Proposed New Frequencies
• Prepare Cost Estimate
• Negotiate Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement with Sprint Nextel
• Participate in Mediation to Resolve Disputes, If Necessary
The Reconfiguration Implementation Phase generally consists of the following activities:

- Implementation Planning Sessions
- Schedule management across interdependent licensees within and across regions
- File FCC Applications for License Modifications
- FCC Grants License Modifications
- Replace or Retune/Reprogram Subscriber Equipment
- Sprint Nextel Clears Frequencies
- Reconfigure Infrastructure
- System Cutover
- Complete Acceptance Testing (if required)

The Closing Phase includes the following activities:

- Complete FCC Surrender Applications and Other Filings
- Licensee and Sprint Nextel Complete True Up
- Licensee and Sprint Nextel Certify Completion
- Licensee signs Closing Documents and returns to SN and the TA
- TA Approves Final Closing Documents
Status of Reconfiguration Progress as of January 2010

Stage 1: Channels 1-120

Non-border FRAs with Physical Retuning Complete as of 12/31/2009

- Physical retuning is complete for 97% of non-border Channels 1-120 FRAs
- Channels 1-120 clearing is nearing completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stage 1</th>
<th>Stage 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Retune Complete</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expected</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>871</td>
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Status of Reconfiguration Progress as of January 2010

STAGE 2: NPSPAC

49% of non-border Stage 2 licensees have completed their physical retunes and transitioned to their new channels.

NPSPAC reconfiguration implementations often involve complex system designs and interoperability requirements among numerous licensees in a region and generally require more time and coordination than was needed for Stage 1.
Licensing of New NPSPAC Facilities

- Permanent licensing of new facilities on available channels in the new NPSPAC band (806-809/851-854 MHz) is permitted in non-border regions.

- Applications require frequency coordination from a public safety frequency coordinator and a letter of concurrence from the 800 MHz Regional Planning Committee.

- Per the FCC's February 10, 2009 Public Notice, until rebanding is complete in a NPSPAC region, applications for new NPSPAC facilities must be submitted to the TA to verify that the requested channels are not required for rebanding purposes. Send draft applications for review to AppReview@800TA.org.

- Licensees should also obtain a letter from Sprint Nextel indicating that Sprint Nextel is aware of the application and it will take appropriate steps to ensure no interference to the new NPSPAC authorization.

STAs for Pre-Reconfiguration Frequencies

- If a licensee is filing for an STA to authorize the use of pre-reconfiguration NPSPAC frequencies (821-824 / 866-869 MHz), the STA application is filed directly with the FCC:
  - Regional Planning Committee concurrence should be included with STA applications for old NPSPAC channels.
  - The TA does not need to review these STA applications prior to filing; the FCC will contact the TA if necessary.

For additional information, see the TA's Application Review Guidance, which is available at http://www.800ta.org/content/resources/Application_Review_Guidance.pdf.
Frequencies Vacated by Sprint Nextel in the Interleaved Band

- The FCC released spectrum vacated by Sprint Nextel in the 854 to 854.5 MHz band in non-border areas for licensing by public safety as of January 28, 2009.

- The vacated channels are exclusively available:
  - To public safety entities for the first 3 years.
  - To public safety and critical infrastructure industry entities for the following 2 years.

- The FCC’s December 29, 2008 Public Notice (DA 08-2810) describes the application and licensing procedures for these channels.

- Sprint Nextel will make additional interleaved frequencies available for licensing and use in each non-border region in stages, based upon when specific thresholds of clearing of channels in the old NPSPAC band are reached in each NPSPAC region.

- The TA is not involved in licensing these vacated channels. Eligible applicants can consult a qualified frequency coordinator or their attorney regarding how to apply for these vacated channels.
Areas of Focus & Challenges

The 800 MHz reconfiguration program *is unprecedented in scale and complexity*. The TA’s areas of focus are reflective of the challenges we still face and the strides we are making to complete the program as quickly and effectively as possible.
In the Public Safety arena:

- Completion of planning activities and submission of cost estimates
- Delays associated with contract negotiations between licensees and Sprint Nextel
- Lengthy contract and contract amendment approval processes for many state and local government agencies
- Size and complexity of retuning large simulcast and statewide systems
- Coordination of complex regional interoperability requirements
- Change notice volume and cycle
- Resource issues resulting from local budget constraints (layoffs, furloughs)

Closing (post implementation) activities
Areas of Focus & Challenges

Ongoing TA Areas of Focus

- Proactive coordination with all stakeholders to move the program to completion
  - Concluding remaining contracts
  - Completing Implementation Planning Sessions for remaining non border and CBR regions where necessary
  - Assessing the needs of Border Region Licensees and guiding them through the process
  - Managing the implementation schedule and subscriber activities
  - Addressing Change Notice Impacts on the implementation timeframes
  - Conducting Actual Cost Reconciliation, Closing, and Payment Monitoring
Licensees should:

- Know their rights and obligations.
- Understand the timeline for their system.
- Understand the impact of their reconfiguration on their neighbors/dependent licensees.
- Understand **THEIR** organization’s processes.
- Understand the processes required to complete reconfiguration.
- Contact the TA – comments@800TA.org – with any questions or concerns.
- Utilize Available Resources:
  - Webinars;
  - TA Web site (www.800ta.org);
  - Distributed printed materials; and
  - TA Contact Center.

**BE INVOLVED! MAINTAIN ACCOUNTABILITY!**
Sprint Nextel Contact:
Fax: 1-866-221-6990
Email: 800MHz@Sprint.com

TA Contact:
Phone: 1-888-800-8220
Website: www.800TA.org
Email: comments@800TA.org
Questions?
For Additional Information

Visit our Websites:

http://www.commtechcoe.org
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/technology/communication
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