



Federal Communications Commission Discussion Panel

**National Regional Planning Council (NRPC)
Technical Seminar Program
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Contact Info



Federal Communications Commission

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Topics for FCC Update



- I. Licensing Issues**
- II. 800 MHz RPC Docket Consolidation**
- III. 700 MHz State Licenses – Substantial Service**
- IV. Border Issues**
- V. 4.9 GHz Rulemaking**



Licensing Issues (By the Numbers)



Our Gettysburg team routinely processes a staggering amount of public safety applications:

- Over 49,000 public safety applications in 2022
- Over 50,000 in 2023
- Over 25,000 so far this year.

The team processes 99% of the applications within 45 days of receipt.

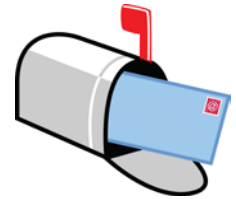




Licensing Issues (Invalid E-Mail Addresses)



In 2020, the Commission eliminated the mailing of paper courtesy reminder notices and other Universal Licensing System (ULS) correspondence to licensees.



Instead, it adopted rules mandating electronic delivery for all ULS compulsory and courtesy correspondence.



A licensee with an invalid e-mail addresses will not receive any courtesy reminder correspondence potentially leading to missed deadlines such as construction notifications or license renewal.





Licensing Issues (Invalid E-Mail Addresses)



We request licensees update email addresses and list an agency or title email instead of a personal email, as personnel and job duties change which could lead to information being misdirected or stale.



In 2022, the Commission issued a Public Notice to remind Public Safety licensees to update license contact information with an email address. The public notice can be accessed at

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-65A1.pdf>.



On July 25, 2024, the Bureau issued a notice advising that it would contact licensees associated with multiple licenses to update their contact information for each of their licenses. The public notice can be accessed at

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-722A1.pdf>.



Licensing Issues (Invalid E-Mail Addresses)



On July 30, 2024, the Bureau began sending e-mails to entities with FCC licenses either closely linked to or associated with Stations with missing or invalid e-mails

The emails will come from: no-reply@fcc.gov



Licensing Issues (Invalid E-Mail Addresses)



Dear Licensee

The FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) is reaching out to you because we believe you have an FCC license that is closely linked to or associated with the Station(s) listed below. It is vitally important that each FCC license include up-to-date contact information for purposes of receiving FCC notifications, electronic reminders, and other correspondence. Accordingly, PSHSB requests that you either (1) update the license contact information for the call signs listed below to comply with FCC rules, or (2) contact the person who can make these changes.

Please review your license information and add or update an email address by filing an administrative update in the Universal Licensing System (ULS) in order to receive electronic reminders of licensing deadlines and other correspondence going forward. Additionally, we encourage you to list an agency or title email address instead of a personal email address, as personnel and job duties change, which could lead to information being misdirected or stale.

On January 20, 2022, the Commission issued a public notice reminding Public Safety licensees to update license contact information with an email address. The public notice contains instructions on how to perform administrative updates and how to file license renewal applications. The public notice can be accessed at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-22-65A1.pdf>. On July 25, 2024, PSHSB issued a notice advising that it would contact licensees associated with multiple licenses to update their contact information for each of their licenses. The public notice can be accessed at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-24-722A1.pdf>. Alternatively, licensees may contact an FCC public safety coordinator that will be able to update your administrative information or renew a license for a fee. You can find a list of these frequency coordinators at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/public-safety-frequency-coordinators>.

For further assistance updating your email information or filing your application(s) electronically, please submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp> or call the FCC Licensing Support Center at (877) 480-3201, the hours of operation are 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM ET, Monday to Friday.

Station(s) needing update:

[Call sign] [expiration date] for FRN [number] – Attention: [licensee responsible person name]

Thank you.



Licensing Issues (Invalid E-Mail Addresses)



- The Public Notices contain instructions on how to perform administrative updates and how to file license renewals applications.
- Alternatively, licensees may also contact an FCC public safety coordinator that will be able to update your administrative information or renew a license for a fee. You can find a list of these frequency coordinators at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/public-safety-frequency-coordinators>.
- For further assistance updating your email information or filing your application(s) electronically, please submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp> or call the FCC Licensing Support Center at (877) 480-3201, the hours of operation are 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM ET, Monday to Friday.



800 MHz RPC Docket Consolidation



- In 2023, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau established PS Docket No. 23-237, captioned “800 MHz Regional Plans of the 55 Regional Planning Committees” for the exclusive use of filings related to the Bureau’s review and approval of 800 MHz regional plans or plan amendments.
- It established docket 23-237 as an administrative convenience to replace the previous 55 individual dockets established on a region-by region basis.
- On July 29, 2024, the Bureau closed those individual dockets that remained open.

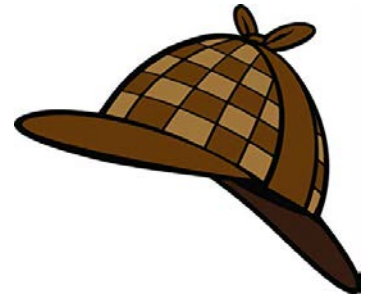




800 MHz RPC Docket Consolidation



- A full listing of the previous docket numbers can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/public-safety-licensing> [click on “Regional Planning Committees (RPC)”].
- These dockets, even after closure, will still be searchable via the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings>.





700 MHz State Licenses – Substantial Service



- ★ The Commission designated ninety-six channel pairs (12.5 kHz bandwidth) in the 700 MHz narrowband spectrum for public safety use by states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.
- ★ Each state licensee receives a geographic area license for those channels, covering the geopolitical boundaries of its jurisdiction.





700 MHz State Licenses – Substantial Service



- ➔ The Commission established a five-year interim benchmark and a ten-year final benchmark for state licensees to establish specified levels of “*substantial service*” within their statewide license areas.

└→ “*Substantial service*” is defined as the construction and operation of facilities on state channels which is “sound, favorable, and substantially above a level of mediocre service.”

- ➔ The due date for the ten-year final benchmark showing was June 13, 2019.

⚠ By this date, state licensees needed to certify that they were providing or prepared to provide “*substantial service*” to two-thirds of their population or territory. ⚠



700 MHz State Licenses – Substantial Service



Overall Substantial Service Numbers for State Licensees

Number of State Licenses originally issued.	53
Number of State Licensees who satisfied <i>interim</i> substantial service showing (5 years).	40*
Number of State Licensees who filed a <i>final</i> substantial service showing (10 years).	39
Number of State Licensees who requested an extension of the deadline.	1
Number of State Licensees who have had their final substantial service showings accepted.	17
Number of State Licensee showings still under review by the Bureau.	22

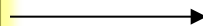


700 MHz State Licenses – Substantial Service



Staff is reviewing showings from all State Licensees who deployed some but not all of the 96 State License channels by the final benchmark deadline.

We have asked each State Licensees in this category to provide the following information.



- Confirm which channels were deployed prior to final benchmark deadline.
- List any channels deployed after the final benchmark deadline.
- Indicate whether licensee intends to deploy remaining unused channels.
- Provide a timeline for deployment of unused channels.



700 MHz State Licenses – Substantial Service



Staff is currently consulting internally with management on next steps for State Licensees which deployed some but not all of the 96 channels prior to the final benchmark deadline.



Staff will be in touch once it has instructions from management.



Border Issues



Here are some of the topics we are discussing with our regulatory counterparts in Canada:



1. Finalizing an agreement under our new General Coordination Agreement (GCA) for FirstNet's operations along the border;
2. Adding air-ground provisions to agreements for 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands so public safety agencies can operate low-altitude aircraft like medivacs in these frequency bands along the border; and
3. Looking for opportunities to expand the availability of VHF interoperability channels along the Canada border.



Border Issues



Here are some of the topics we are discussing with our regulatory counterparts in Mexico:



An updated Protocol for the 700 MHz band which ensures our licensees' interference-free operations along the border despite incompatibility between the U.S. and Mexico band plans.



4.9 GHz Rulemaking



4.9 GHz Band (4940-4990 MHz)

- ➔ In 2002, the Commission allocated fifty megahertz of spectrum in the 4940-4990 MHz band (4.9 GHz band) for fixed and mobile services (except aeronautical mobile service) and designated this band for use in support of public safety.



4.9 GHz Rulemaking



The Commission released a Seventh Report and Order in January 2023 which established a new comprehensive nationwide management approach for the band. In particular, it....

➡ Established a nationwide Band Manager responsible for:

- facilitating new uses of the band, and
- protecting incumbent systems from interference.





4.9 GHz Rulemaking



The Seventh Report and Order also...



Adopted a proposal to collect more granular data on public safety deployments in the band:



Adopted technical changes to our Part 90 rules to allow licensees to deploy the latest commercially available technology, including 5G, in the band.





4.9 GHz Rulemaking



The Commission simultaneously released a Ninth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on implementing several decisions from the Seventh Report and Order.



The Ninth Further Notice seeks comment on:

- an interference standard for protecting public safety licensees in the band from harmful interference;
- a committee-based process for selecting the Band Manager; and
- matters relating to implementing the Band Manager model and Commission oversight of the Band Manager.





4.9 GHz Rulemaking



**The Seventh Report and Order became effective on
March 30, 2023.**

- ★ The docket is WP Docket No. 07-100.
- ★ While the comment cycle closed on May 15, 2023, interested parties may still make *ex parte* presentations.



Questions?

