



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 16-140
February 10, 2016

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON REGION 1 (ALABAMA) 700 MHZ REGIONAL PLAN AMENDMENT

WT Docket No. 02-378

Comments Due: March 11, 2016

Introduction. On August 28, 2015, the Region 1 (Alabama)¹ 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee (RPC) submitted a proposed modification (Plan Amendment) to amend its 700 MHz Public Safety Plan² for General Use spectrum in the 769-775/799-805 MHz band.³ For the reasons discussed below, we seek comment on the Region 1 700 MHz Plan Amendment.

Background. In 1998, the Commission established a structure to allow regional planning RPCs optimal flexibility to meet state and local needs, encourage innovative use of the spectrum, and accommodate new and as yet unanticipated developments in technology and equipment.⁴ The Commission's rules require each of the fifty-five RPCs to submit its plan for the General Use spectrum.⁵ The Commission's role in relation to the RPCs is limited to (1) defining the regional boundaries; (2) requiring fair and open procedures, *i.e.*, requiring notice, opportunity for comment, and reasonable consideration; (3) specifying the elements that all regional plans must include; and (4) reviewing and accepting proposed plans (or amendments to approved plans) or rejecting them with an explanation.⁶

¹ The Region 1 regional planning area consists of 67 counties and 52,423 square miles in area.

² See Letter from Eric Linsley, Chair, Region 1 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee, to Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, WT Docket No. 02-378 (filed October 9, 2015) (Cover Letter) and accompanying Plan Amendment.

³ The General Use spectrum is administered by RPCs and is licensed by the Commission for public safety services on a site-by-site basis in accordance with the relevant Commission-approved regional plan and frequency coordination.

⁴ See 47 CFR § 90.527; see also *Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010*, First Report and Order and Third Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 14 FCC Rcd 152 (1998) (*First Report and Order*); *Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements For Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010*, Second Memorandum Opinion and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 16844 (2000).

⁵ See 47 CFR § 90.527. Each RPC must incorporate certain common elements into its 700 MHz plan. A list of 700 MHz RPCs and region activities is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/700-MHz/>.

⁶ *First Report and Order*, 14 FCC Rcd at 195 para. 87.

On October 17, 2014, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order* revising the rules governing the 700 MHz public safety narrowband channels.⁷ Specifically, the Commission released the narrowband reserve channels (twenty four 12.5 kHz channels) for General Use under the administration of the RPCs for the benefit of state and local public safety users.⁸

In the T-Band markets,⁹ the Commission released the reserve channels for General Use under RPC administration with priority access given to T-Band incumbents within 128 km of the city center coordinates as specified in Sections 90.303 and 90.305¹⁰ of the Commission's rules. Priority access is also afforded any T-band incumbent that received a waiver of the 128 km distance requirement.¹¹ Outside the T-Band markets the Commission authorized the RPCs to assign (1) up to eight 12.5 kHz former reserve channels for deployable trunked systems and (2) sixteen 12.5 kHz channels for General Use, including vehicular mobile repeaters (MO3).¹² Thus, the Commission stated, "RPCs have the flexibility to designate a mixture of General Use and temporary (deployable trunked infrastructure) channels in their Regional Plans."¹³

On January 9, 2015, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) provided guidance on licensing the former reserve channels.¹⁴ On April 23, 2015 the PSHSB approved the channels recommended by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) and the National Regional Planning Council (NRPC) for deployable trunked systems.¹⁵ Regional plan amendments are due by October 30, 2015.¹⁶

Region 1 Major Amendments. The Region 1 Plan Amendment changes the plan to incorporate the former reserve spectrum.¹⁷ Region 1 divides the former "Reserve Channels" into three categories: (1)

⁷ *Proposed Amendments to the Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769-775/799-805 MHz Bands*, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 13283 (2014) (*Report and Order*).

⁸ *Id.* at 13297 para. 39. 47 CFR § 90.531(b)(2).

⁹ Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; Houston, Texas; Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida; New York, New York/N.E. New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; San Francisco/Oakland, California; Washington, District of Columbia/Maryland/Virginia (the Affected T-Band Markets). See 47 CFR § 90.303. There are no T-Band public safety incumbents in Cleveland, Ohio, or Detroit, Michigan. *Id.*

¹⁰ 47 CFR §§ 90.303, 90.305.

¹¹ *Report and Order*, 29 FCC Rcd at 13298-99 paras. 43-45.

¹² *Id.* at 13299 para. 46, 13301 para. 51.

¹³ *Id.* at footnote 126.

¹⁴ *Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Provides Guidance for Licensing Channels in the Former 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve Spectrum*, Public Notice, 30 FCC Rcd 124 (PSHSB 2015).

¹⁵ *Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Approves Recommended Nationwide Channels for Deployable Trunked Systems in the 700 MHz Narrowband Public Safety Band*, Public Notice, 30 FCC Rcd 3723 (PSHSB 2015).

¹⁶ *Proposed Amendments to the Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769-775/799-805 MHz Bands, et al, Order*, 30 FCC 3699 (PSHSB 2015).

¹⁷ Cover Letter and Plan Amendment at Section 9.

“Deployable Trunked Systems;” (2) Fixed Base Repeaters and Vehicular Repeater Pairs (“FB2T/MO3”); and (3) “Pool.”¹⁸ Region 1 allocates eight of the former reserve channels for deployable trunked use, including the six channels recommended by NPSTC and the NRPC.¹⁹ Region 1 assigns thirteen channels for Fixed Base Repeaters and Vehicular Repeater Pairs to be used throughout the State of Alabama with a maximum Effective Radiated Power of 30 watts.²⁰ The remaining former reserve channels will be kept in “General Category and are to be used as a fixed site, first-come, and first used basis.”²¹

The Region 1 Plan Amendment also adds Section 5.5 Orphan Channels. With regard to Section 5.5. Orphan Channels, Region 1 submits that the original frequency plan allocation was developed with 25 kHz channels and that the 25 kHz channels have been split into two 12.5 kHz channels.²² Region 1 notes that the first 12.5 kHz channels (lowest in frequency) are the assigned channels, and the second 12.5 kHz channels (highest in frequency) are the Orphan Channels.²³ The Region 1 Plan Amendment provides that Orphan Channels can be used in adjacent counties provided that they are at least 38 miles from an adjacent channel.²⁴

The Region 1 Plan Amendment also (1) removes former Section 6.2 Simplex On-Scene Statewide Analog Tactical Channels²⁵ and (2) adds a reference to Section 90.553(a) and (b),²⁶ of the Commission’s rules in new Section 6.4 Interoperability Technical Parameters.²⁷

Region 1 coordinated the Plan Amendment with four regions – Region 9 (Florida), Region 10 (Georgia), Region 23 (Mississippi), and Region 39 (Tennessee) – and these regions provided letters of concurrence.²⁸ We have reviewed the Region 1 Plan Amendment and tentatively accept the Plan Amendment.²⁹

Request for Comments on the Region 1 Plan Amendment. Prior to taking further action on the Plan Amendment, by this *Public Notice* we solicit comments on the Region 1 Plan Amendment. If no

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² Cover Letter and Plan Amendment at Section 5.5.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ Cover Letter and Plan Amendment at Section 6.2 (Adjacent State Tactical Channels).

²⁶ 47 CFR § 90.553(a) and (b).

²⁷ Cover Letter and Plan Amendment at Section 6.3.

²⁸ Letters of Concurrence attached to Plan Amendment.

²⁹ The Region 1 Plan Amendment also updates Region 1 Officers and Committee Positions. *See* Plan Amendment at Section 1. Under the Commission’s rules, “minor” amendments are not subject to comment. 47 CFR § 90.527(b)(2).

party raises an objection during the comment period, the Region 1 Plan Amendment will be deemed approved without further action by the PSHSB.³⁰

Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on the plan amendment on or before **March 11, 2016**. All comments should reference the subject plan amendment and **WT Docket No. 02-378**. Parties may file comments and reply comments by using (1) the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), (2) the Federal Government's eRulemaking Portal, or (3) by filing paper copies. See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- Electronic Filers: Comments may be filed electronically using the Internet by accessing the ECFS: <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs> or the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Filers should follow the instructions provided on the website for submitting comments.
- For ECFS Filers: In completing the transmittal screen, filers should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the rulemaking number. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions, filers should send an email to ecfs@fcc.gov and include the following words in the body of the message: "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in response.
- Paper Filers: Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing.

Commenters may send filings by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although the Commission continues to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). Commenters must address all filings to: Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- Effective December 28, 2009, commenters must submit all hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary to FCC Headquarters at 445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. **PLEASE NOTE**: The Commission's former filing location at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE is permanently closed.
- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.
- U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554.
- People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an email to

³⁰ See 47 CFR § 90.527(b); *Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010, Proposed Amendments to the Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769-775/799-805 MHz Bands*, Seventh Report and Order, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 28 FCC Rcd 4783, 4804 para. 66 (2013).

fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (tty).

Commenters must address all filings to the Commission's Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

The Plan Amendment is available through ECFS at ecfs@fcc.gov. Region 1 Plan Amendment documents in **WT Docket No. 02-378** are available for public inspection and copying during business hours at the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th St. SW, Room CY-A257, Washington, D.C. 20554.

For further information regarding this matter, contact John A. Evanoff, Attorney-Advisor, Policy and Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau at (202) 418-0848 or John.Evanoff@fcc.gov.

- FCC -



Region 1, Alabama

Region 1, 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee
Eric Linsley, Chairman
1150 Schillinger Road North
Mobile, AL 36608

August 28, 2015

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: FCC 14-172, DA 15-476
Revised Region 1 - 700 MHz Regional Plan

Dear Sirs:

Attached is the Revised Region 1 700 MHz Regional Plan for your review and approval. This communications plan replaces our previously submitted request. We have successfully coordinated our revised plan with all the adjacent regions and have received concurrence from each. See attached.

This modified plan includes the following changes/revisions:

- Region 1 Officers and Committee Position Changes
- Adding Section 5.5 Orphan Channels
- Removal of Section 6.2 Simplex On-Scene Statewide Analog Tactical Channels
- Adding Section 6.2 Adjacent State Tactical Channels
- Adding Section 6.3 Interoperability Channel Technical Parameters
- Added Section 9 Reserve Spectrum


We are confident that this plan best represents the immediate and future communication needs of all Public Safety and First Responders in the great State of Alabama. I would like to recognize

Page two
August 28, 2015

and commend the many Public Safety Communications Officials on the Regional Planning Committee that made the numerous road trips across the State of Alabama in assisting these modifications and to attend our meetings.

It is our hope that this Plan will meet your approval and allow public safety agencies in Alabama access to this much needed spectrum.

Respectfully,



Eric Linsley
Chairman Region 1 RPC
251-574-7931
elinsley@mobilecounty.net

REGION CHAIRMAN
Mr. Ray Carlson
Division Manager
PBC Sheriff's Office
3228 Gun Club Road
W. Palm Beach, FL 33406
(561) 688-3514
carlsonr@pbso.org

THE FLORIDA REGION 9 COMMITTEE

(800 & 700 MHz Regional Planning)

REGION VICE CHAIRMAN
Mr. Gary Gray
Radio Systems Manager
City of Ft. Lauderdale
100 N. Andrews Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
(954) 828-5762
GGray@fortlauderdale.gov

May 7, 2015



Mr. Eric Linsley
Director Public Safety Communications
APCO Alabama State Alternate Frequency Advisor
Chairman Region 1 Alabama 700MHz & 800 MHz Planning Committee
Mobile County Electronics Department
1150 Schillinger Road North
Mobile, AL 36608

Dear Eric:

The Florida Regional Planning committee was pleased to receive your revised plan on Monday. Happily, The Florida Regional Planning Committee was meeting the next day for the yearly review of the Region 9 operations.

Please to advise that your plan revisions were voted and accepted by the full committee on Tuesday.

Therefore, this is your concurrence letter for your revision dated 4-6-2015.

Sincerely,

Chairman.

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 1
Mr. Carl Fortner III
Communications Manager
Bay County Sheriff's Office
3421 N. Hwy 77
Panama City, FL 32405
fortner@bayso.org

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 2
Lt. Billy Fair
Leon County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 727
Tallahassee, FL 32302
(850) 922-5800
fair@leoncountyfl.gov

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 3
Mr. Lee Mathis
Radio System Manager
St. Johns County
4425 Avenue A
St. Augustine, FL 32095
(904) 282-1788
lm.mathis@sjcfl.us

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 4
Cpl. Jason Matthews
Communications Bureau
Lake County Sheriff's Office
360 W. Ruby Street
Tavares, FL 32778
(352) 742-4000
jason@lcsso.org

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 5
Mr. Ben Holycross
Radio Systems Manager
Polk County Emergency Management
2202 Bartow Municipal Airport
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 514-7341
benholycross@polkfl.com

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 6
Mr. Andrew Stadler
Communications System Manager
Lee County Emergency Operations Center
2665 Ortiz Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33905
(239) 533-3617
astadler@leegov.com

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 7
Mr. Richard Jenkins
Radio Systems Manager
Martin County
6000 S.E. Tower Drive
Stuart, FL 34997
(772) 463-3257
rickjens@martin.fl.us

CHAIRMAN - SUBREGION 8
Mr. Carlton Wells
Bureau of Public Safety
State of Florida
4030 Esplanade Way, 135
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0950
(850) 922-7466
carlton.wells@dms.myflorida.com

REGION 10(GEORGIA)
700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

JIM MOLLOHAN, CHAIRMAN
RALPH BEVAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY
47 TRINITY AVE SW, 3rd Floor
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-9007
OFFICE: 404-656-5619
EMAIL: JIM.MOLLOHAN@GTA.GA.GOV

June 9, 2015

Federal Communications Commission
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

Ref: Region 1, RPC 700 MHz Plan Changes

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to provide concurrence and approval of the following changes to Region 1, 700MHz RPC Plan:

- Region 1 Officers and Committee Position Changes
- Adding Section 5.5 Orphan Channels
- Removal of Section 6.2 Simplex On-Scene Statewide Analog Tactical Channels
- Adding Section 6.2 Adjacent State Tactical Channels
- Adding Section 6.3 Interoperability Channel Technical Parameters
- Added Section 9 Reserve Spectrum

This action is in compliance with the Region 10, 700 MHz Plan, and is recommended to be acted upon favorably by the FCC.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Respectively,



Jim Mollohan
700/800MHz RPC, Region 10 Chairman

cc: Eric Linsley, Chairman, Region 1, 700/800MHz RPC
Ralph Bevan, GTA



*Mississippi 700 MHz Regional Planning & Frequency Advisory
Committee*

May 11, 2015

Eric Linsley
Chairman Region 1700MHz & 800 MHz Planning Committee
1150 Schillinger Road North
Mobile, AL 36608

Dear Mr. Linsley,
Region 23 on May 6, 2015, received and reviewed the modifications to the Region 1 700 MHz Plan.

This letter serves as the official, written concurrence of Region 23 with the Region 1 700 MHz Plan as reviewed on the date specified above.

Respectfully,

Tom Lariviere,
MSRPFAC

NPSPAC Region 39 800 MHz Regional Review Committee

Jesse D. Griggs, Chair
Rachel Jackson State Office Bldg
6406 Centennial Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37209
Jesse.d.griggs@tn.gov
(615) 350 – 1930

David E. Wolfe, Vice Chair
TN Emergency Mgmt. Agency
3041 Sidco Drive
Nashville, TN 37204
dwolfe@tnema.org
(615) 741 – 2749

28 August 2015

Federal Communications Commission
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
1270 Fairfield Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245

Ref: Region 1, RPC 700 MHz Plan Changes

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to provide concurrence and approval of the following changes to Region 1, 700MHz RPC Plan:

- Region 1 Officers and Committee Position Changes
- Adding Section 5.5 Orphan Channels
- Removal of Section 6.2 Simplex On-Scene Statewide Analog Tactical Channels
- Adding Section 6.2 Adjacent State Tactical Channels
- Adding Section 6.3 Interoperability Channel Technical Parameters
- Added Section 9 Reserve Spectrum

This action is in compliance with the Region 39, 700 MHz Plan, and is recommended to be acted upon favorably by the FCC.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

Jesse D. Griggs
Region 39 Chair

Public Safety 700 MHz
Communications Plan
For Region 1
The State of Alabama

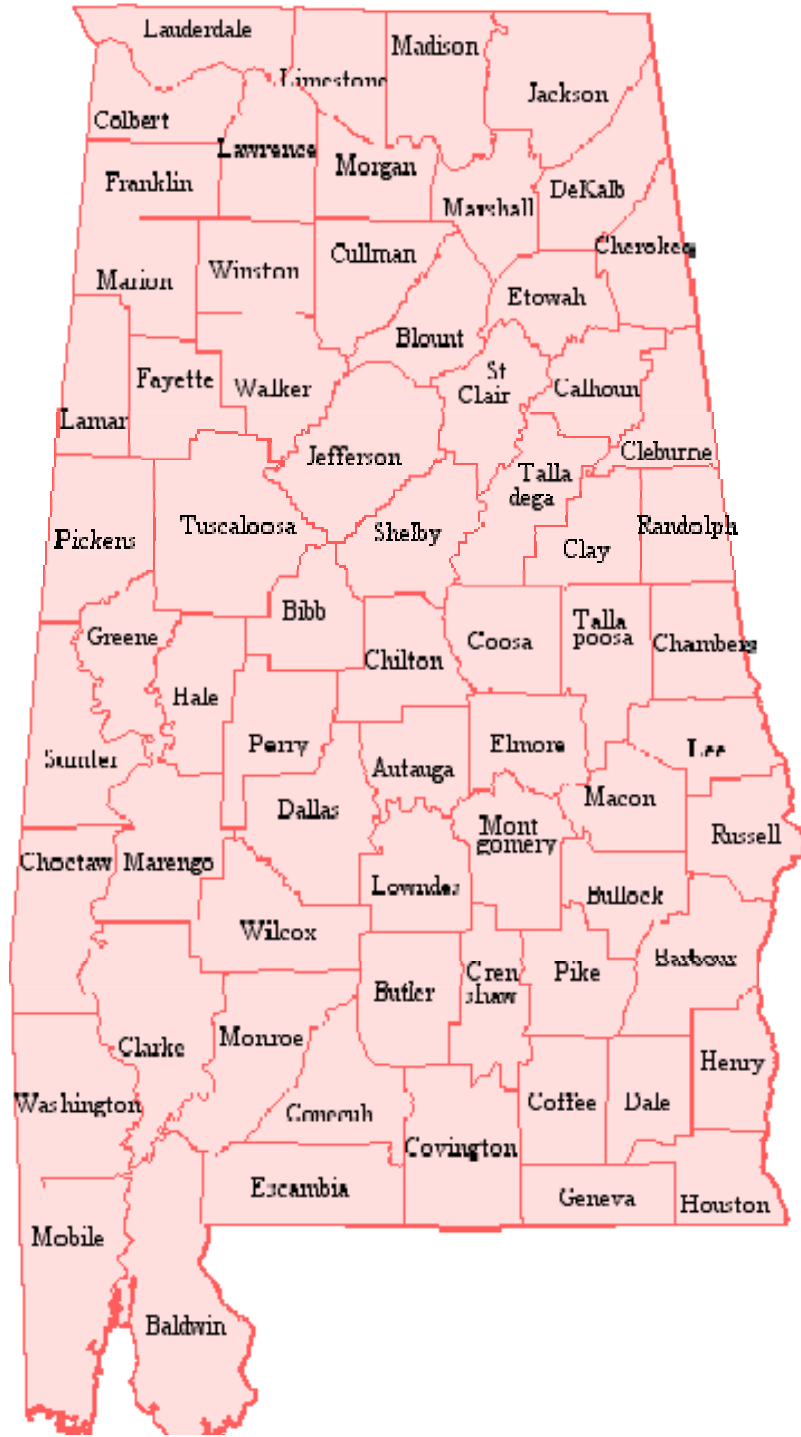


Table of Contents

Section	Page Number
1	Regional 1 Officers and Committee Positions..... 3
2	RPC Membership..... 3
3	Alabama Region 1 Description.....3
4	Alabama Region 1 Notification Process.....4
5	Region 1 Plan Administration..... 4
5.1	Operations of the Region 1 Plan Committee..... 4
5.2	Procedure for Requesting Spectrum Allotments.....5
5.3	Procedure for Frequency Coordination..... 5
5.4	Adjacent Region Spectrum Allocation..... 6
5.5	Orphan Channels.....6
5.6	Dispute Resolution.....6
6	Alabama Region 1 Interoperability Channels..... 6
6.1	Introduction.....6
6.2	Adjacent State Tactical Channels 7
6.3	Interoperability Channel Technical Parameters..... 8
6.4	Interoperability Channels Use 9
6.5	Calling Channels..... 10
7	Alabama Region 1 Interference Protection..... 10
8	Allocation of Narrowband Low Power Spectrum..... 10
8.1	Narrowband Low Power Channels..... 10
8.2	Narrowband Low Power Nationwide Itinerant Channels..... 10
8.3	Narrowband Low Power Secondary Trunking Channels..... 10
8.4	Priority for Receiving Spectrum Allocations..... 11
9	Reserve Spectrum..... 11
9.1	Deployable Trunked Systems 11
9.2	MO3 / FB2T's..... 12
9.3	Pool Frequencies..... 12
10	Spectrum Utilization..... 12
11	RPC Meeting Locations and Dates..... Appendix 1
12	Region 1 Bylaws..... Appendix 2
13	Membership List..... Appendix 3
14	Alabama UHF TV Station Map..... Appendix 4
15	Alabama State Regions Based on 25 Year Projections..... Appendix 5
16	Plan Summary Report of Allotments by Area..... Appendix 6
17	Plan Report of FCC Channel Allotments..... Appendix 7
18	Plan Detail Report of Allotments by Area..... Appendix 8
19	Plan Report of Channel Assignments by Class..... Appendix 9
20	Plan Report of Detailed Channel Allotments..... Appendix 10
21	Indian Tribes and Commissioners Recognized by Alabama Appendix 11
22	Inter-Regional Coordination Procedures and Resolution of Disputes Appendix 12
23	Adjacent Region Letter of Concurrence..... Appendix 13
24	Channel Numbers and Channel Center Frequencies..... Appendix 14

1. Region 1 Officers and Committee Positions

Chairman: 700 / 800

Eric Linsley
Mobile County Public Works
1150 Schillinger Road North
Mobile, AL 36608
(251) 574-7931 Work
elinsley@mobilecounty.net

Vice-Chairman: 700

Ernie Blair
Huntsville Madison County E911
5827 Oakwood Rd NW
Huntsville, AL 35806-1529
(256) 722-7341 Work
Eblair@madco911.com

Treasurer: 700, Vice-Chairman: 800

Richard Ranson
University of Alabama Police Dept
P.O. Box 870180
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
(205) 310-4624 work
rranson@uapd.ua.edu

Secretary: 700

George Grabryan, Jr
Director, Florence-Lauderdale EMA/E-911
110W. College St.
Florence, AL 35630
(256) 760-6363 office
ggrabryan@florenceal.org

Subcommittees:

Reserve Spectrum:

Chairman, Richard Ranson
University of Alabama Police Dept
rranson@uspd.ua.edu

2. Alabama Region 1 Plan Committee Memberships

Appendix 3 contains the membership list for Region 1. Membership is open to any individual or Public Safety Agency representatives interested in developing a state-wide plan for 700 MHz in Alabama. Any member of an Alabama Public Safety agency may run for any elected position. All meetings are governed by Robert's Rules of Order. All members of an Alabama Public Safety agency may attend any meeting of this Planning group. All agencies are entitled to one vote regardless of the number of attendees by that agency. Voting members and requirements are described in parts 2.1 of the Region I Bylaws.

3. Alabama Region 1 Descriptions

Region 1, Alabama, consists of 67 counties and 52,423 square miles in area. Alabama's highest elevation is at Cheaha Mountain: 2407 feet and lowest point is sea level at the Gulf of Mexico. Topography includes coastal plains, hills, and broken terrain. Population is 4,447,100 with 6 major population centers. Alabama is primarily an agricultural region with existing industries in paper, lumber, and wood products, mining, rubber, and plastic products, transportation equipment and apparel. While our population growth is not rapid we are in the process of playing catch up with our communications needs. Alabama's state, county, and municipal public safety agencies and services use radio in Low Band, VHF, UHF, and 800MHz.

4. Alabama Region 1 Notification Process

The First Regional Plan Meeting was held on January, 2002. The FCC provided a Public Notice and local invitations were sent by E-mail to all Public Safety Agencies, the members of Alabama APCO, Alabama NENA, and various public safety users groups. The convener Captain David A. Rose of the City of Mobile Fire-Rescue Department contacted many agencies by telephone. It was agreed that the E-mail system of notification worked well and all agencies picked this as the primary notification system. A list server was set up on yahoo groups and advertised at all meetings. It is noted that the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission recognizes 22 Indian Tribes and Commissioners (see appendix 11). Their single email address; aiac@mindspring.com is added to our E-Mail notification.

5. Alabama Region 1 Plan Administration

5.1 Operations of the Region 1 Plan Committee

This committee will use Robert's Rules of Order to conduct meetings. All decisions will be by clear consensus vote with each Public Safety Agency casting one vote. The meetings are open to all persons and a public input time is provided to assess the viewpoint of the whole group about the planning process. Subcommittees may be formed as needed to work on specific issues. Subcommittees are intended to work on details and making recommendations to the full committee.

Changes or modifications to the completed Region 1 700MHz Plan must be voted and approved by the full Regional Plan Committee. The Chairman of the Region 1 Planning Committee appoints the chairman for each subcommittee. The subcommittee chairman selects the subcommittee members from eligible voting or non-voting Region 1 members.

The following is our process:

1. A minimum of one meeting per year will be held of the full committee.
2. Special meetings may be called if conflicts in frequency assignment occur.
3. The Chairman shall see that elections are held at a minimum every two years to elect or reelect the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman's positions, treasurer and secretary. There are no term limits for any elected position.
4. If the Chairman is unable to serve a complete term the Vice-Chair will serve as Chairperson until an election can be held.
5. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair are unable to serve their full terms an emergency meeting will be called to elect officers.
6. All meetings will have 90 day notice prior to the date selected
7. For further clarifications refer to the Bylaws in appendix 2.

5.2 Procedure for Requesting Spectrum Allotments

Region 1 will utilize the following process and procedures to assure that allocation and assignment of frequencies meets the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination Resource and Database system (CAPRAD) frequency database attached in the appendixes. When the Alabama Plan is approved the following procedures will be used:

- Requesting agencies shall submit the appropriate Federal Communications Commission Form to one of the authorized F.C.C. Frequency Coordinators of their choice.
- The Frequency Coordinators will use the CAPRAD frequency allocations by county first based on the Region 1 Plan.
- All spectrum requests shall be on first come first serve basis.
- In the absence of those county's allocated frequencies, the Frequency Coordinator will use the un-allocated frequency pool.
- Adjacent Regions close enough to be affected by a frequency that is selected from the un-allocated frequency pool will be coordinated by the CAPRAD Frequency Database.
- The Frequency Coordinator will pick the best frequency according to F.C.C. standard of interference.
- All frequencies used are subject to F.C.C. rules and regulations.
- Protests of any frequency assignment will be considered if interference or violation of this plan is the issue.
- An agency may protest approval within 30 calendar days. Protests must be heard by the whole committee within thirty days of the filing of a written protest.

5.3 Procedure for Frequency Coordination

The Region 1 plan for application submission for any 700MHz spectrum is based on our dependence on the CAPRAD frequency database. Applications may be made to any one of the FCC recognized frequency coordinators using the allocated county frequencies.

This process allows the frequency allocation to move forward expeditiously. We have discussed to increase the initial CAPRAD allotments to counties having a projection population increase for the next 25 years (see Appendix 5) but decided that if all the spectrum allotments for a particular county are used, the frequency coordinator will search for the best frequency from the un-allocated frequency pool. It is only when a conflict occurs due to a technical problem, or shortage of spectrum that the committee of the whole needs to be called into session. All applications will be handled on a first-come / first-served basis.

Since many Alabama Public Safety agencies have no local technical persons on staff, we believe that the process we have outlined above will cause the least amount of problems for our Public Safety agencies in filing their license applications. APCO, NENA, or The

Alabama Mutual Aid System will try to assist requesting agencies with technical assistance. All companies supplying equipment must advise their clients that their equipment will meet the appropriate published standards.

We believe that an interference prediction map is not necessary due to our reliance on the CAPRAD frequency database.

5.4 Adjacent Region Spectrum Allocation

Region 1 shares borders with Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Our population density on the borders of adjoining states should have been handled in the creation of the CAPRAD frequency database but adjacent regions will be notified of any applications that potentially interfere with their region. However, if an adjacent Region has difficulties satisfying intra-regional requests due to channel allocation within Alabama, our committee will use the Inter-Regional Coordination Procedure and Procedures for Resolution of Disputes That May Arise Under FCC Approved Plans as our procedure for resolutions of adjacent region disputes. See Appendix 12.

5.5 Orphan Channels

Only pertains to General Use Spectrum. The original plan frequency allocation was developed with 25 kHz channels. As requests for frequencies were made, the 25 kHz channel was split into two 12.5 kHz channels. The first 12.5 kHz channels (lowest in frequency) are the assigned channels, and the second 12.5 kHz channels (highest in frequency) are the Orphan Channels. Orphan Channels can be used in adjacent counties provided that they are at least 38 miles from an adjacent channel.

5.6 Dispute Resolution

If an agency disputes the implementation of this plan after the FCC approves it, then the agency must notify the Chairman in writing of the nature of the dispute. The Chairman will attempt to resolve the dispute informally. If this cannot be accomplished, then the full committee will be called to a meeting to decide the issue. When a dispute involves an agency that employs any member of the planning committee that person may participate in the resolution of that dispute but not act as the mediator and may not vote on the outcome of the resolution. If no common ground can be found in settling the dispute then all pertinent information will be forwarded to the National Regional Planning Oversight Committee, a subcommittee of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Committee (NPSTC) for review. As a last resort, the dispute will be forward to the Federal Communications Commission for final resolution.

6. Alabama Region 1 Interoperability Channels

6.1 Introduction

Interoperability is a major concern for Public Safety agencies in the State of Alabama. Occasionally there is a need for multiple agencies to respond to disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and now the threat of terrorist activity. As a result, Mutual Aid agreements have been created for Public Safety agencies throughout the state to send units from any area within the state to assist any other city or county regardless of distance.

6.2 Adjacent State Tactical Channels

Additionally, it is our desire that we have common Interoperability Channels used within the State of Alabama and by all adjacent states. The below table is the same for Region 24 and Region 39 and will be for Region 1. It is our desire to adopt the common nomenclature as defined by NCC / NPSTC Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels.

For Specific Uses/Services

* - Mandatory

16 CHANNEL SETS	DESCRIPTION	LABEL
Channel 23 & 24	General Public Safety Services	7TAC51
Channel 103 & 104	General Public Safety Services	7TAC52
Channel 183 & 184	General Public Safety Services	7TAC53
Channel 263 & 264	General Public Safety Services	7TAC54
Channel 39 & 40	Calling Channel *	7CALL50
Channel 119 & 120	General Public Safety Service *	7TAC55
Channel 199 & 200	General Public Safety Service	7TAC56
Channel 279 & 280	Mobile Data	7DATA69
Channel 63 & 64	Emergency Medical Service	7MED65
Channel 143 & 144	Fire Service	7FIRE63
Channel 223 & 224	Law Enforcement Service	7LAW61
Channel 303 & 304	Mobile Repeater *	7MOB59
Channel 79 & 80	Emergency Medical Service	7MED66
Channel 159 & 160	Fire Service	7FIRE64
Channel 239 & 240	Law Enforcement Service	7LAW62
Channel 319 & 320	Other Public Service *	7GTAC57
Channel 657 & 658	General Public Safety Services	7TAC71
Channel 737 & 738	General Public Safety Services	7TAC72
Channel 817 & 818	General Public Safety Services	7TAC73
Channel 897 & 898	General Public Safety Services	7TAC74
Channel 681 & 682	Calling Channel *	7CALL70
Channel 761 & 762	General Public Safety Service *	7TAC75
Channel 841 & 842	General Public Safety Service	7TAC76

Channel 921 & 922	Mobile Data	7DATA89
Channel 641 & 642	Emergency Medical Service	7MED86
Channel 721 & 742	Fire Service	7FIRE83
Channel 801 & 802	Law Enforcement Service	7LAW81
Channel 881 & 882	Mobile Repeater *	7MOB79
Channel 697 & 698	Emergency Medical Service	7MED87
Channel 777 & 778	Fire Services	7FIRE84
Channel 857 & 858	Law Enforcement Service	7LAW82
Channel 937 & 938	Other Public Services*	7GTAC77

6.3 Interoperability Channel Technical Parameters

Project 25 Common Air Interface

Certain common P25 parameters need to be defined to ensure digital radios operating on the 700 MHz Interoperability Channels can communicate. This is analogous to defining the common CTCSS tone used on NPSPAC analog Interoperability channels.

Network Access Code

In the Project 25 Common Air Interface definition, the Network Access Code (NAC) is analogous to the use of CTCSS and CDCSS signals in analog radio systems. It is a code transmitted in the pre-amble of the P25 signal and repeated periodically throughout the transmission. Its purpose is to provide selective access to and maintain access to a receiver. It is also used to block nuisance and other co-channel signals. There are up to 4096 of these NAC codes. For ease of migration in other frequency bands, a NAC code table was developed which shows a mapping of CTCSS and CDCSS signals into corresponding NAC codes. Document TIA/EIA TSB102.BAAC contains NAC code table and other Project 25 Common Air Interface Reserve Values.

The use of NAC code \$293 is required for the 700 MHz Interoperability Channel NAC code.

Talk group ID

In the Project 25 Common Air Interface definition, the Talk group ID on conventional channels is analogous to the use of talk groups in Trunked radio. In order to ensure that all users can communicate, all units should use a common Talk group ID.

Recommendation: Use P25 default value for Talk group ID = \$0001

Manufacturer's ID

The Project 25 Common Air Interface allows the ability to define manufacturer specific functions. In order to ensure that all users can communicate, all units should not use a specific Manufacturer's ID, but should use the default value of \$00.

Message ID

The Project 25 Common Air Interface allows the ability to define specific message functions. In order to ensure that all users can communicate, all units should use the default Message ID for unencrypted messages of \$00000000000000000000.

Encryption Algorithm ID and Key ID

The FCC has updated encryption capabilities.

§90.553 Encryption.

(a) Encryption is permitted on all but the two nationwide Interoperability calling channels. Radios employing encryption must have a readily accessible switch or other readily accessible control that permits the radio user to disable encryption.

(b) If encryption is employed, then transmitters manufactured after August 11, 2014 must use the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) specified in ANSI/TIA-102.AAAD-A: Project 25 Digital Land Mobile Radio-Block Encryption Protocol, approved August 20, 2009. Until 2030, manufacturers may also include the Digital Encryption Standard (DES) or Triple Data Encryption Algorithm (TDEA), in addition to but not in place of AES, for compatibility with legacy radios that lack AES capability.

The Project 25 Common Air Interface allows the ability to define specific encryption algorithms and encryption keys. In order to ensure that all users can communicate, encryption should not be used on the Interoperability Calling Channels, all units should use the default Algorithm ID for unencrypted messages of \$80 and default Key ID for unencrypted messages of \$0000. These same defaults may be used for the other Interoperability channels when encryption is not used.

Use of encryption is allowed on the other Interoperability channels. Regional Planning Committees need to define appropriate Message ID, Encryption Algorithm ID, and Encryption Key ID to be used in the encrypted mode on Interoperability channels. Due to the number of natural disaster type events that take place simultaneously in Alabama that for interoperability use all radios should have the minimum number of National Interoperability Channels called for in the NCC guidelines. All of these National Interoperability Channels should have met the NCC guidelines using common alphanumeric nomenclature.

6.4 Interoperability Channels Use

Region 1 will equip state owned communications vehicles with radio equipment to support interoperability at remote locations. They will also support mutual aid task force events statewide. Almost all interoperability communications in this state use National Interoperability VHF, UHF channels, NPSPAC channels, or state wide mutual aid channels.

6.5 Calling Channels

Any Agency deploying 700 MHz spectrum must install the National Interoperability Channels at their dispatch point for emergency calls.

7. Alabama Region 1 Interference Protection

All initial spectrum allotments were made by CAPRAD which has interference protection. Any additional spectrum allotments made by a frequency search by a F.C.C. Frequency Coordinator must give interference protection which is the F.C.C. standard of that time. Interference predictions in Alabama can be problematic due to the geography of mountains, rolling hills, rivers, and gullies. We hope that users and designers recognize that better equipment may limit interference.

8. Alabama Region 1 Allocation of Narrowband Low Power Spectrum

8.1 Narrowband Low Power Channels

In the 700 MHz spectrum, the FCC set aside channels numbers 1 through 8 paired with 961 through 968, and channel numbers 949 through 958 paired with 1909 through 1918 for low power use for on scene response purposes using mobiles and portable radios. Transmit power not to exceed 2 watts. (ERP)

8.2 Narrowband Low Power Nationwide Itinerant Channels

In the 700 MHz spectrum, the FCC set aside channels 9 through 12 paired with 969 through 972, and channel numbers 959 through 960 paired with 1919 through 1920. Transmit power is not to exceed 2 watts. (ERP)

These selected channels may operate using analog operations. Analog modulation will require two (2) channels to allow for 12.5 kHz bandwidth. On scene base and portable relay stations are limited by existing FCC regulations 6.1 meters above the ground. We encourage the use of simplex mode when possible. Alabama does not limit use to analog use exclusively. These channels are intended for a wide variety of uses and some that may require digital modulation. Therefore we choose not to assign them to a particular public safety discipline. No Alabama Public Safety agency requested spectrum in the initial filing period. Therefore no allocations were made. Based on the CAPRAD frequency database all voice channels can be in 25 kHz for various digital technologies, 6.25 kHz for each voice channel, or for narrow band if requested.

8.3 Narrowband Low Power Secondary Trunking Operations

Using existing FCC rules in order to facilitate portable operation by public safety agencies for special purposes we recommend certain low power secondary use be allowed. Public Safety agencies already licensed to use one or more general use channels in this plan may

license any additional channel for secondary use based on meeting the following requirements:

- Operations of these units will be considered secondary to other licensees on co-channel and adjacent channels.
- No wide area channels may be used for secondary purpose.
- Channels will be licensed for specific area use.
- Maximum power will be limited to 6 watts ERP.
- No use on aircraft.
- License may be reviewed at any time due to complaints or interference.
- Secondary channel users are not protected from agencies requiring those channels for their primary use.

8.4 Priority for Receiving Spectrum Allocations

The six television stations now in operation in Alabama provide signal coverage in the most populated areas. See Appendix 4. We feel that no station operating license extension should be granted to these television stations so that we may issue this spectrum to Region 1 Public Safety Agencies in a timely manner.

9. Reserve Spectrum

This plan recognizes FCC DA 15-34 guidance for licensing channels in the former 700 MHz Narrowband Reserve Channels. There are twenty four 12.5 kHz channels that have been released to General Use under the administration of the RPC for the benefit of state and local public safety users. Applicants seeking to license these former reserve channels shall file a FCC Form 601 and received RPC approval. In analyzing the frequencies as they relate to other adjacent channels, not all of them are suitable for statewide use and will be available . We have made three categories, Deployable Trunked Systems, FB2T/MO3's and Pool.

9.1 Deployable Trunked Systems

The efforts of NPSTC and NRPC have recommended 6 channels for deployable trunked system. Alabama adds two more frequencies for an 8 channel deployable trunked system to be utilized throughout the State of Alabama. They are:

Class	Channel	Base Frequency	Mobile Frequency	Label	NOTES	ERP
General Use	37-38	769.23125	799.23125	FB2T	1	Deploy
General Use	61-62	769.38125	799.38125	FB2T	2	Deploy
General Use	117-118	769.73125	799.73125	FB2T	3	Deploy
General Use	141-142	769.88125	799.88125	FB2T	4	Deploy
General Use	301-302	770.88125	800.88125	FB2T	7	Deploy
General Use	699-700	773.36875	803.36875	FB2T	8	Deploy
General Use	883-884	774.51875	804.51875	FB2T	5	Deploy
General Use	939-940	774.86875	804.86875	FB2T	6	Deploy

9.2 MO3 / FB2T's

There is a need to identify and set aside multiple Fixed Base Repeaters and Vehicular Repeater Pairs to be used throughout the State of Alabama. The maximum ERP is 30 watts. They are:

Class	Channel	Base Frequency	Mobile Frequency	Label	NOTES	ERP
General Use	77-78	769.48125	799.48125	MO3/FB2T	1	30 watts
General Use	157-158	769.98125	799.98125	MO3/FB2T	2	30 watts
General Use	197-198	770.23125	800.23125	MO3/FB2T	3	30 watts
General Use	237-238	770.48125	800.48125	MO3/FB2T	4	30 watts
General Use	277-278	770.73125	800.73125	MO3/FB2T	5	30 watts
General Use	317-318	770.98125	800.98125	MO3/FB2T	6	30 watts
General Use	643-644	773.01875	803.01875	MO3/FB2T	7	30 watts
General Use	683-684	773.26875	803.26875	MO3/FB2T	8	30 watts
General Use	723-724	773.51875	803.51875	MO3/FB2T	9	30 watts
General Use	763-764	773.76875	803.76875	MO3/FB2T	10	30 watts
General Use	803-804	774.01875	804.01875	MO3/FB2T	11	30 watts
General Use	843-844	774.26875	804.26875	MO3/FB2T	12	30 watts
General Use	923-924	774.76875	804.76875	MO3/FB2T	13	30 watts

9.3 Pool Frequencies

The frequencies that were not suitable to be used throughout the states because they were adjacent channels to state licensed and interoperability and could have interference potential. They will be kept in General Category and are to be used as a fixed site, first-come, and first used basis.

10. Spectrum Utilization

This plan will allow Alabama public safety agencies to move to the 700 MHz spectrum at such time as it becomes financially feasible. Many agencies are presently trying to modernize existing communications by establishing interoperability capabilities and increasing existing capabilities by adding modern equipment. Our initial position allows for an open filing window based on channel allocations for each of Alabama's 67 counties. The Plan Report of Detailed Channel Allotment can be found in Appendix 10.

At this time there is no way that this regional planning committee may anticipate or estimate the movement of agencies with Alabama's migration to the 700 MHz spectrum. We believe that this plan will enable Alabama, when the time is appropriate, a smooth transition to the 700 MHz band.

We encourage the use of 6.25 kHz in place of 12.5 kHz as advances in communications technology allow for best spectrum operational efficiencies. We also advocate the usage of

digital modulations such as Time Domain Multiple Access, Frequency Domain Multiple Access, and other modulations for the best spectrum efficiency.