

Full power analog TV stations are required by law to vacate the 700 MHz band no later than February 17, 2009; however, there is no wholesale requirement to clear low power TV stations (LPTV), TV translators, ad hoc auxiliary broadcast operations, or wireless microphones from the band. Under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, these uses have secondary status to public safety users. Unfortunately there is a potential risk of harmful interference to public safety from these secondary users. An entity with secondary status must resolve the interference it causes to primary users or discontinue operation. Public safety communications involve safety of life and therefore licensees cannot afford to wait until interference exists but must eliminate the potential for interference before it occurs.

Public safety agencies need to notify LPTV and TV translator licensees of any 700 MHz operations they plan to deploy. The notifications would be targeted to LPTV and TV translator stations on conflicting channels within interference range of pending public safety deployments and would advise these licensees of the need to move to an alternative channel. The



National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC's) 700 MHz Advocacy Working Group has been studying this issue and has released an informational paper, with a template letter

and additional analysis and resources for addressing the risk of interference from LPTV and other secondary sources in your area. The package, *Maximizing Availability of the 700 MHz Band*, is available at [www.npstc.org](http://www.npstc.org).

## LPTV AND TV TRANSLATOR NOTIFICATION

The FCC is supporting the NPSTC efforts and recommends that notifications for relevant LPTV and TV translator stations occur 9 to 12 months prior to actual operation of a 700 MHz public safety system. LPTV stations need this time to find a viable alternative channel and to obtain authorization from the FCC to use it. The map below depicts the LPTV stations in the narrowband segment of the 700 MHz band. While different LPTV stations impact the broadband spectrum, the maps are similar. A full set of maps and station counts for all segments of the 700 MHz public safety spectrum are included in the package referenced above on the NPSTC web site.



## TV BROADCAST AUXILIARY OPERATIONS

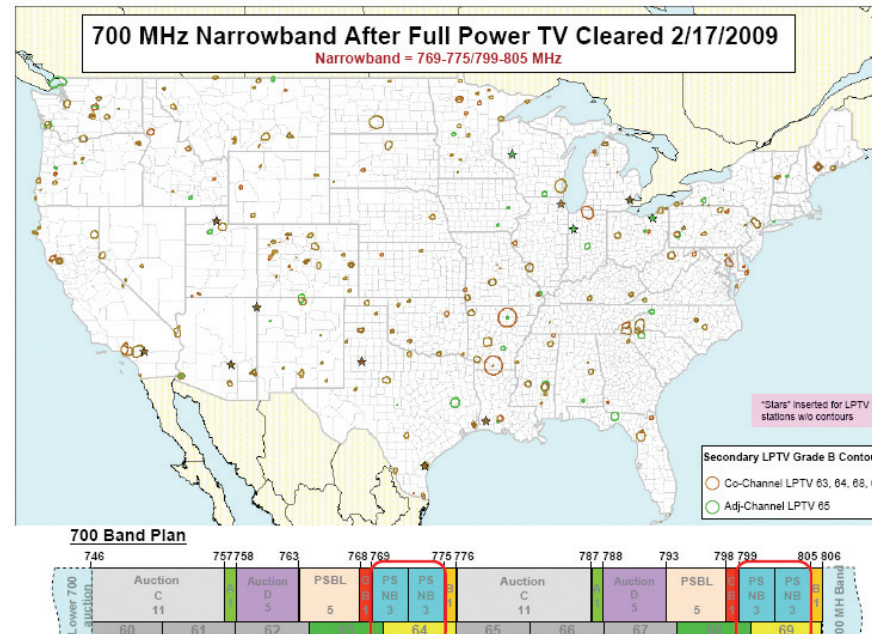
Broadcasters are allowed to use spectrum not occupied by TV for broadcast auxiliary operations, including wireless microphone use in support of broadcast operations, as well as permanent and temporary fixed links. These operations, which occur on an ad hoc basis are coordinated through the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE); therefore, SBE coordinators also need to be made aware of 700 MHz public safety systems so they can avoid any proposed auxiliary operations that would conflict with public safety systems.

## UNLICENSED USE

In addition to broadcast and auxiliary uses licensed "by rule," churches, schools, bands, businesses, and others use wireless microphones in this spectrum. While not authorized under the rules, these wireless

microphones are nonetheless prevalent in the market. Some wireless microphone manufacturers have designed new products that avoid the 700 MHz band; however, there is a significant embedded base of wireless microphones already in the market and some operate at 700 MHz. These are low power and pose a limited interference potential but still must be addressed. NPSTC is having additional discussions with microphone manufacturers and the FCC to determine viable ways to address the wireless microphone issue.

### Low Power TV Stations Potentially Affecting Use of the 700 MHz Narrowband Spectrum



## AN OPEN INVITATION

Your voice can become part of the collaborative work of NPSTC's member organizations to improve public safety telecommunications and interoperability. Although only the representatives of NPSTC's 15 Member Organizations make up the Governing Board and are entitled to vote, NPSTC Participants make a valuable contribution to the field nationally and locally, and to their organizations. NPSTC's ongoing dialogue on national public safety telecommunication issues affects the activities of your organization every day.



Ralph Haller  
Chair, NPSTC

**Anyone who is interested is public safety telecommunications is welcome to become a NPSTC Participant**

NPSTC actively seeks out the participation, expertise, and feedback of public safety and other individuals to be included among the many voices discussing and debating communications technology, interoperability, spectrum, planning, and policy and legislative issues. NPSTC Participants can share their points of view in numerous ways. If your schedule or cost constraints preclude you from attending our quarterly meetings, you may participate in the meeting via an open toll-free teleconference line, or throughout the year on our active listservs and teleconferences.

**Get your voice heard: Become active in NPSTC today!**

NPSTC Participants are critical to its consensus process. As NPSTC seeks to understand the complex technical and policy issues surrounding many of the public safety telecommunications issues that the Council faces, the lively debate of issues from the NPSTC community and the viewpoints expressed at its quarterly meetings and listserv discussions are very important in providing as broad a base of informed input possible. The voices of NPSTC Participants shape public safety telecommunications, and we want you to have a voice in the community and the future of our profession. Join NPSTC and participate in the future of public safety communications.

Visit our website today, [www.npstc.org](http://www.npstc.org). For more information, please contact us at [info@npstc.org](mailto:info@npstc.org) or call 866.807.4755.

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
American Radio Relay League  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Association of Public Safety Communications Officials  
Forestry Conservation Communications Association  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
International Association of Emergency Managers  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Municipal Signal Association  
National Association of State Chief Information Officers  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials  
National Association of State Foresters  
National Association of State Telecommunications Directors  
National Emergency Number Association  
National Sheriffs' Association  
Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (Associate Member)  
Telecommunications Industry Association (Associate Member)

## LIAISON ORGANIZATIONS

Department of Justice  
- National Institute of Justice  
Federal Communications Commission  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
- Office of Interoperability & Compatibility  
- Office of Emergency Communications  
Federal Partnership for Interoperable Communications  
- Federal Emergency Management Agency  
- SAFECOM  
U.S. Department of Interior



*Avoiding Potential Interference from Secondary Users in the 700 MHz Band*



**NPSTC**

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL  
8191 SOUTHPARK LANE | SUITE 205 | LITTLETON, CO 80120  
866-807-4755 TEL | 303-649-1844 FAX



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TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL