



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

December 14, 2011

Larry Olson
Co-Chair of U.S. – Canada Radio Technical Liaison Committee
Assistant Chief, Strategic Analysis Division
International Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Olson

The National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) is a federation of public safety organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership. NPSTC pursues the role of resource and advocate for public safety organizations in the United States on matters relating to public safety telecommunications. NPSTC provides guidance on issues that can either negatively impact or benefit the operation of public safety communications.

In addition to the 15 organizations listed below, several federal agencies are liaison members of NPSTC. These include the Department of Homeland Security (the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Communications, the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, and the SAFECOM Program); the Department of Commerce (National Telecommunications and Information Administration); Department of the Interior; and the Department of Justice (National Institute of Justice, CommTech Program). NPSTC has liaison relationships with associate members, the Telecommunications Industry Association, the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group, the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators and the Utilities Telecom Council.

NPSTC has standing committees to monitor issues of interoperability, spectrum management, and technology. Within these committees, working groups manage specific issues. NPSTC's Border Issues Working Group has been working closely with the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Department of State, Industry Canada, and Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group in pursuit of interoperability on the border and the management of spectrum. One of the issues that has arisen in discussions is the need to amend the *Convention Between Canada and the United States of America relating to the Operation by Citizens of Either*

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 Technology Directors | National Emergency Number Association | National Sheriffs' Association

*Country of Certain Radio Equipment or Stations in the Other Country*¹, which deals with the use of mobile and portable units on the U.S./Canadian border to allow public safety officials properly licensed in one country to communicate in all three of the following scenarios:

- Scenario 1: Operation of mobile and/or portable radio transceivers on the other side of the border in the “direct,” i.e., non-repeater mode;
- Scenario 2: Use of base station repeaters on the other side of the border to interoperate with public safety officials in the other country;
- Scenario 3: Use of base station repeaters on the other side of the border to communicate with public safety officials in their own country.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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¹ Treaty Series 1952 No. 7, Operation of Certain Radio Equipment or Stations Convention between CANADA and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [Signed at Ottawa February 8, 1951, Ratification exchanged at Washington May 15, 1952]