



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL



National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Third Quarter Report, 2007

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), its Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups for the Third Quarter, 2007. NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

Governing Board

During the Third Quarter, 2007, NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board and Committee meetings on September 24-26, 2007, in Crystal City, Virginia. Doug Aiken, Vice Chair, NPSTC, welcomed special guests, Tom Chirhart, Spectrum and Interoperability Technologies Program Manager, Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Mike Roskind, Acting Director, Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), DHS; Hal Grigsby, Director of Telecommunications Policy for Mexico, U.S. Department of State; and Jeff Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Third Quarter Highlights

Notable highlights during the quarter include the following coordinated responses to complex issues:

- An intense schedule of teleconferences, meetings, and extremely focused detail work as the Broadband Standards Working Group, Technology Committee, assembled participants to develop the 700 MHz Statement of Requirements (SoR) to guide the potential bidders for the D Block spectrum on what public safety needs from a broadband network. Work on issues surrounding 700 MHz in general dominated NPSTC's member organizations, whose participants spent hours of volunteer time responding to the complicated issues in the 700 MHz band, guided by the research, input, review, and consensus of many parties.
- The progress of the national Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST), which has applied to the FCC to serve as the Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL). The PSST has hired an advisor/agent and requested NPSTC to task its Broadband Standards Working Group to develop a Statement of Requirements to outline public safety's mission critical needs in a 700 MHz broadband network.
- The positive response to the Common Channel Naming Report and the responsiveness of the original Task Force to changes that will be required by the FCC's Report and Order, in which previously bifurcated spectrum has been

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials | American Radio Relay League | American Red Cross | 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

consolidated. The revisions will be published for comment by the public safety community and submitted to the Governing Board at its February meeting.

- The rapid growth of the National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX), which went live the first week in July with the Community Collaboration feature added on August 10. NIIX is a library of information resources that provides the states with a secure, web-based national repository of other states' plans and related documents, and a secure, web-based mechanism for team sharing. As of October, there were 575 users from 52 of the 56 United States and Territories. NIIX has established 37 Communities for Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASIs), Regional Planning Committees (RPCs), Regional Communications Coalitions as well as Statewide Interoperability Executive Committees (SIECs) who are preparing their Statewide Communications Interoperability Plans (SCIP) grants and Investment Justifications (IJs). These communities are currently sharing, reviewing, editing, and finalizing over 234 individual documents.
- The synergy between NPSTC and its new Canadian counterpart, the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG), which has modeled its consensus style on the NPSTC model.
- The continued growing relationship with the Department of State, which has encouraged NPSTC's member organizations to provide public safety input to telecommunications issues on the borders.

Presentations

The following presentations were made at the Governing Board and Committee meetings at the September 2007 meeting:

- Ralph Haller, Vice Chair, NPSTC, explained the intricacies of the FCC's rulemaking procedures.
- Jeff Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, FCC, provided an update on current activities at the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) and the FCC.
- Hal Grigsby, Director of Telecommunications Policy for Mexico, U. S. Department of State discussed a joint Department of State and DHS initiative to improve and expand cross-border communications.
- Kevin McGinnis, National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO), updated NPSTC on the FCC's Commercial Mobile Service Alert Advisory Committee (CMSAAC), which has been meeting for a year to develop recommendations for how commercial mobile companies can alert their subscribers.
- Marilyn Ward, Executive Director, NPSTC, reported on the Emergency Response Council, an advisory group to the SAFECOM program, and on the status of Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) planning.
- Joe Gallelli, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO), reported on APCO's Standards Development Committee (SDC), proposing that APCO's SDC apply the standards process to NPSTC's *Common Channel Naming Report*. APCO would initiate the standards process and maintain and update the standard.

- Chief Harlin McEwen, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), updated NPSTC on the status of the national Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST).
- Lance Valcour, Inspector, Ottawa Police Service, updated the group on the work of the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG).
- Dave Bassett, SAFECOM Program, reported on SAFECOM's Plain Language Resource website, an initiative generated by a request from the practitioners of the Emergency Response Council to translate the code language used on the radio to plain language.
- Maribel Martinez-Bradwell, NPSTC Support Office, presented a discussion of the applicable rules of 47 CFR Part 90 Subpart R (90.521), governing the licensing and use of frequencies in the 764-776/794-806 MHz band, including issues governing eligibility, operational requirement, planning and licensing requirements, and technical issues; and on the roles and responsibilities of the RPCs in the planning process based on the FCC rules for the 700 MHz band.
- Sean O'Hara, NPSTC Support Office, briefed on the national 700 MHz pool allotments, why they were generated, and how they were developed; and on the effect of the FCC's Report and Order on the 700 MHz band plan.
- Joe Heaps, Program Manager, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) CommTech Program, discussed the new NIJ Centers of Excellence, the recent NIJ meeting with the RPC Chairs in Austin, Texas, and RPC support through the Texas Sheriffs Association.
- Jim Weichman, Systems Manager, City of Richmond, discussed two-way paging technologies for emergency group alerting in the City of Richmond.

Action Items

At the September Governing Board meeting, NPSTC's member organizations approved the following items:

- At the request of the Interoperability Committee, approve the recommendation to downgrade the Data Interoperability Working Group to liaison status where it will continue to support interoperability activities now underway in the Broadband Standards Working Group within the Technology Committee.
- At the request of the Interoperability Committee, develop an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/NPSTC National Public Safety Interoperability Channel Naming Standard, working through APCO as the lead Standards Development Organization (SDO) with liaisons to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA), also SDOs.
- At the request of the Interoperability Committee, revise the *Common Channel Naming Report* to include 700 MHz narrowband revisions and file a Request for Rulemaking with the FCC to:
 - Revise 90.531(b)(1)(ii) [Calling Channels] to remove Channels 681/1641 and 682/1642.

- Revise 90.531(b)(1)(i) [Data Interoperability] to add a sub-paragraph designating Channels 921/1881 and 922/1882 as primary data and secondary voice.
- Revise 90.531(b)(2) [Reserve spectrum] to re-designate the listed channels as Interoperability Channels for use in Deployable Infrastructure [trunking systems on wheels], in accordance with TIA-102 standards. Mobiles and portables would be licensed by rule. Transportable “fixed” (base / relay) equipment would be specifically licensed as “temporary,” with an owner-designated area of operation up to and including nationwide.
- Amend 90.531(b)(3) and 90.531(b)(4) [Low Power Itinerant Operations] to permit analog (11K3F3E) operations, and to allow power levels of 20 Watts ERP on channels 1–8/961–968 [90.531(b)(3), Narrowband low power channels subject to regional planning], and 9–12/969–972 [Narrowband low power itinerant channels] for on-scene incident response purposes using mobiles and portables.
- At the request of the Interoperability Committee, request that the P-25 User Needs Subcommittee work with NPSTC to update the P25 User Needs Subcommittee document to define requirements for deployable trunked infrastructure systems, including:
 - Most efficient use of the 24 12.5 kHz channel pairs, e.g., 3 groups of 8, 4 groups of 6, etc.
 - Development of a nationwide unit ID system that would, at minimum, identify the user agency.
 - Development of recommendations/standards to support both individual system IDs and a national system ID structure that would allow any properly programmed subscriber to access a nationally deployable system (in a similar manner to 156.7 Hz being designated as the nationwide PL for the five 800 MHz national interoperability channels).
- At the request of the Interoperability Committee, direct the NPSTC Common Naming Task Group to update the IO-0060 Channel Naming document to:
 - Revise the table of 700 MHz IO channels to reflect the consolidated narrowband allocations.
 - Re-designate the single Calling Channel (now 7CALL50) as “7CALL70.”
 - Re-designate Channels 681-682/1641-1642 as Travel and Initial Contact channel – suggest using TRAV as designator.
 - Re-designate “7DATA89” as “data use primary.”
 - Correct typos in 90.531 footnotes.
- At the request of the RPC Committee, close out the 800 MHz Rebanding Support Working Group and move any open action items to the Spectrum Management Committee under the 800 MHz Reconfiguration Working Group.
- At the request of the RPC Committee, distribute the National Planning Oversight Committee (NPOC) appeal and resolution documents to the U.S. District Chairs to route to the RPC Chairs within their region.

- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, study possible uses for the 700 MHz B Block and develop recommendations to the Governing Board for an FCC filing supporting public safety uses.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, close out the Below 512 MHz Working Group.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, begin process for setting requirements and opening dialogue with the FCC regarding Part 24 paging spectrum that is underused.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, conduct outreach to industry groups on in-building and code initiatives.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, approve NPSTC endorsement of concept for development of nationwide code initiatives addressing in-building public safety communications.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, develop outreach tool to recruit practitioners from within various NPSTC member organizations.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, draft 700 MHz Public Safety Statement of Requirements (SoR) on or before November 7, 2007.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, close the survey requested by the Project 25 Interest Group (PTIG) to seek input through the NPSTC Participants listserv to develop an FAQ on P25.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, disband the Public Safety (PS) Interface to Emergency Alerting Systems (EAS) Working Group.

The Governing Board also approved these actions:

- Revisions and additions to NPSTC's Governing Board policies and procedures, with the following caveats, change the word "association" to "organization," and ensure that all materials have dated footers.
 - Chair/Vice Chair Appointment
 - Committee Chair Election & Appointment
 - New Committee Chair Orientation
 - New NPSTC Member Appointment
 - New Member Association Orientation
 - Public Safety Opinion Polls
 - New Working Group Formation
- Seek membership of the National Sheriffs' Association in NPSTC.

FCC Filings and Regulatory Issues

On behalf of its member organizations, NPSTC filed the following documents during the Third Quarter.

- Reply comment, addressing the City of New York's Petition for Reconsideration regarding the FCC's decision involving the transition to 6.25 kHz efficiency. July 2, 2007

- 700 MHz Position Paper. July 6, 2007.
- Ex Parte Communication, addressing the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking In the Matter of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Provide for Flexible Use of the 896-901 MHz and 935-940 MHz Bands Allotted to Business and Industrial Land Transportation Pool, WT Docket 05-62.; August 13, 2007
- Ex parte response to the FCC 700 MHz Order. NPSTC prepared a letter to Chief Derek Poarch, FCC, regarding the restriction on new 700 MHz narrowband channels and the need to inventory equipment by a difficult-to-meet deadline date. August 30, 2007.
- Resolved 700 MHz Petition for Partial Reconsideration addressing structure of Board of Directors of PSBL. FCC issued Order on September 25, 2007 agreeing with NPSTC position. Document was not filed due to last minute negotiations. Discussion included: Precluding deployment after 08/31/07; RPC process; PSBL obligations and that of D Block Licensee; and technical parameters of broadband channels.
- Letter, examining National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) position to preclude paging frequencies on mutual aid channel 154.6 MHz.

Executive Committee

As noted under Third Quarter highlights, the Executive Committee was focused on intense schedules of teleconferences, meetings, filings, and detailed work on 700 MHz issues prior to the release of the FCC's Report and Order and at an even greater pace following the release of the Order. At the request of the PSST, NPSTC tasked the Broadband Standards Working Group, Technology Committee, to develop the 700 MHz Statement of Requirements (SoR) to guide the potential bidders for the D Block spectrum on public safety needs in a broadband network. Intense negotiations with Project MESA and Project 34 leaders resulted in a formal letter defining each other's commitment to work together on the overall issue of broadband data standards with the agreement to develop the SoR through the NPSTC process.

Meetings

During the Third Quarter, the Executive Committee (EC) and the Executive Director met in person and via teleconference to discuss program planning and future meetings. The EC met monthly via teleconference. The Executive Director participated in the development and review of many different documents, including the SAFECOM Technicians Handbook. NPSTC representatives attended a number of major conferences this month with several successful panels and information distribution to thousands of conference attendees.

The **APCO International Conference**, August 5-9, 2007, in Baltimore, Maryland, was an opportunity for outreach on a number of levels. NPSTC hosted a booth where over 120 contacts were obtained, to be added to the NPSTC contact database, and attended the super sessions and other smaller, related sessions to distribute outreach materials. Over 1,500 newsletters were handed out at the super sessions and over 1,000 at the NPSTC booth. Twenty-thousand NPSTC Channel Naming Report CDs, a mini compact disc that holds not only the report but other NPSTC documents, were distributed. It is an excellent source of information and will be used for other outreach activities.

On August 6, NPSTC facilitated an **RPC training session**, focused on wideband, broadband, and narrowband technologies. Twenty-four participants, primarily RPC representatives, attended; overall evaluation comments were positive. On August 9, NPSTC hosted a NPSTC panel, with over 60 attendees, who engaged in side bar conversations after the session was over, and a SAFECOM panel to discuss the activities of the Emergency Response Council (ERC). The new panel format was successful and will be used at the next conference. NPSTC representatives also contacted and talked with a number of current and potential new writers for the newsletter. Contact was made with the editor of Mobile Radio Technology magazine to discuss generating a NPSTC column.

At the **IAFC Conference**, August 23-25, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia, NPSTC representatives manned a booth and participated in a communication panel presentation with 240 attendees. Over 5,000 Common Channel Naming CDs were placed in each attendee package, and over 400 CDs were distributed at the booth.

NPSTC representatives participated in the **Software Defined Radio (SDR) Forum** meeting, September 10-12, 2007, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the **SAFECOM Executive Committee** meeting, September 26, 2007; Arlington, Virginia; **AASHTO's Annual Meeting**, September 27-October 1, 2007, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the **Forestry Conservation Communications Association** (FCCA's) Annual Meeting, September 30-October 3, 2007, in Orlando, Florida.

The **Governing Board Annual Planning Meeting** was held in Arlington, Virginia, following the quarterly NPSTC meeting in September. The mission statement, goals, and objectives were reviewed to assure the direction in which the Governing Board wants to proceed for 2008. Outreach was defined as NPSTC's highest priority accompanied by increased participation within member associations and the public safety community. The Governing Board also asked the Support Office to construct a "Help Wanted" page for the NPSTC website and include ads in the *npstc spectrum* to request more public safety participation, particularly in efforts such as the 700 MHz SoR.

The RPC Committee Chair supported the **Region 3, Regional Planning Committee meeting** on July 25, 2007 in Phoenix, Arizona.

RPC Teleconference. NPSTC hosted a widely attended teleconference forum for RPCs to discuss the impact of the 700 MHz order and to address the issues identified by the RPCs that need to be clarified and potentially changed.

Meeting on behalf of the RPCs with FCC. On behalf of the RPCs, NPSTC representatives met with the FCC's Bureau Chief Derek Poarch to encourage FCC waiver approval for agencies that are mid-deployment of systems and that should be reimbursed by the D Block winner for their system equipment retuning. NPSTC urged the FCC to consider the following:

- Continue to allow deployment of 700 MHz systems on current narrowband channels with the right to reimbursement for subsequent reprogramming, until at least December 30, 2007. The additional time will allow for the uninterrupted deployment of 700 MHz narrowband systems and, hopefully, for the expedited updating of the CAPRAD database so that systems can be deployed on the new narrowband channels as quickly as possible.
- Extend the deadline for submission of the inventory by public safety agencies until at least March 31, 2008.
- Extend the deadline for RPCs to amend their plans until March 1, 2008, provided that the CAPRAD database is updated no later than December 30, 2007.

- Streamline the regional plan amendment approval process to avoid additional delays in deployment on the new narrowband channels.

NPSTC also suggested that rule modifications would probably be needed to address the timing of funds being made available by the D Block licensee. NPSTC representatives were assured that public safety will not be harmed and that the FCC would review the waivers immediately and take action to ensure public safety would be reimbursed if their system is not yet completely deployed but in progress. The RPCs were grateful for the support and, as a direct result, 25 more signed up for the NPSTC RPC listserv. Initially the RPCs asked if NPSTC would host monthly calls to provide updated information, but these teleconferences have been canceled due to changes in RPC activities funded by NIJ. [See RPC Committee report.] The RPCs also asked for a NIIX community to be developed for RPC information sharing, which has been accomplished.

RPC Training Session. NPSTC provided RPC training at the September Governing Board meeting. Topics included basic understanding of 700 MHz and 4.9 GHz Rules, RPC roles in 700 MHz and 4.9 GHz, and the National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX).

Publications

During the Third Quarter, the Council issued several press releases soliciting input on the 700 MHz SoR. As of this writing, the SoR has received 4,851 hits on NPSTC's website. NPSTC published its quarterly newsletter, *npstc spectrum*, in June, and the monthly *What You Need To Know Today*, NPSTC's electronic bulletin; provided an article from the Executive Director to APCO's Bulletin, an article to IAFC's OnScene, and an article to IMSA Journal. NPSTC sent a letter to the editor of RadioResource *Mission Critical* magazine responding to their editorial and letters to the editor in the August issue of that publication.

The editor of *Heard Across Montana* (HAM), a weekly electronic newsletter, asked to print the article entitled *Plain Language Will Replace "10" Codes* from NPSTC's October 2007 issue of *What You Need to Know Today* for distribution to an email mailing list of about 600 persons. Ms. Spooner would also like permission to re-print articles in the future.

Interoperability Committee

Radio Channel Naming Working Group

During the quarter, the Channel Naming Task Group forwarded the *Common Channel Naming Report* to SAFECOM, with the recommendation that it be adopted as part of the grant guidance. Changes will be required by the FCC's Report and Order, in which previously bifurcated spectrum has been consolidated. The revisions, noted under the Governing Board approval section of this report, will be published for comment by the public safety community and submitted to the Governing Board at its February meeting.

When public safety spectrum was bifurcated, it made sense to have duplicate sets of interoperability channels, but within the new band structure, the Working Group examined the issue of whether it makes sense to have two sets of channels. FCC staff has suggested that the Task Group should initiate a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking if a new recommendation is made. In place of one of the interoperability channel sets, public safety could have a system access channel; dedicated analog channels to respond to the needs of the fire community, particularly in high noise environments that affect the operation of the vocoder; and/or a trunked system "on wheels" with three sets of channels, cellular reuse, determined system codes, pre-programmed

subscriber sets, and a pre-defined talk group list. This could be used as an overlay, augmentation, or replacement system.

The Report will also require revision as protocols with Canada are adopted. The *Common Channel Naming Report* and CDs have a warning label alerting users not to make changes until the FCC's decision on 700 MHz and regarding the NTIA channels because they are works in progress.

Software Defined Radio Working Group

During the quarter, the SDR Forum's Public Safety Special Interest Group (PS-SIG) completed its work on the use cases of cognitive radio. The cognitive radio use cases are based on After Action Reports in the London bombing event and examine how cognitive radio capabilities could enhance and improve public safety's ability to respond. The PS-SIG defined four use cases and the implications related to technical requirements, regulations, policy and procedures, and operations. The first use case defined is a networking extension that would allow radios to be reconfigured as repeaters. This would have been particularly applicable to the bombing in the London underground because there was infrastructure damage and some of the responders' radios were not able to communicate from below ground with command above. The second potential concept is dynamic spectrum access or the ability to access additional spectrum to increase capacity. Dynamic prioritization, the third use case, would facilitate more focused load management by dynamically providing more balanced load-bearing tools. Finally, the fourth use case deals with the interface between non-public safety first responders with first responder networks.

SDRF is also examining potential activity regarding aspects of the 700 MHz public/private partnership.

Project MESA Working Group

Project MESA's U.S. team and a counterpart in Europe have kicked off a project known as Project MESA focus groups to move the Project MESA Statement of Requirements (SoR) through the practitioner community here and in Europe. The Broadband Standards Working Group and Project MESA are coordinating harmonization of the U.S./European standards effort with the work of the Broadband Working Group, which will co-publish a 700 MHz document that sets the tone for the January 16, 2008, FCC auction.

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Working Group

During the Third Quarter, the National Interoperability Information Exchange (NIIX), a free service provided by NPSTC to the interoperability communications community, has grown to include 575 users from 52 of the 56 United States and Territories as of this writing. NIIX has established 37 communities for UASIs, RPCs, Regional Communications Coalitions as well as SIECs who are preparing their SCIP grants and IJs. These communities are currently sharing, reviewing, editing, and finalizing over 234 individual documents

NIIX provides a centralized, secure warehouse for interoperable communications related information. Registered NIIX members can access peer-created documents and share information with each other. Members can also use NIIX tools to collaborate in the creation and management of their statewide plans.

Interoperability planning committee members can access peer-created documents and share information with each other. NIIX represents a collaborative effort of local, tribal, state, and

regional organizations to share statewide plans, agreements, policy documents and other related information through a web-based, secure location.

EMS Working Group

The EMS Working Group is in the process of developing a mission, charter, and goals, which it will provide at the November Governing Board meeting. Informally the group has assembled emergency physicians and others to decide what types of technologies will be useful for EMS communications. There will be a meeting in Washington, D.C., in early December to discuss the issues further. They are also gathering information on data systems for patient tracking and for communicating patient information from OnStar and other automatic crash notification systems to CAD systems. They have referred these activities regarding standards development to the Disaster Management (DM) section of OIC within the Science and Technology Directorate.

Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Committee

During the Third Quarter, the RPCs met in Austin, Texas, for a meeting of the Regional Planning Chairs, assembled by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). NIJ has stated it will support the RPCs through the Texas Sheriff's Association. NIJ asked the regional planners to make a list of what needed to be done to ensure the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination and Resource Database System (CAPRAD) is fully functional and to detail what other assistance the RPCs require. After a lengthy debate, the RPCs decided to form an independent organization, to be called the National Regional Planning Council. There was also discussion of the CAPRAD Oversight Team previously developed at the last RPC Committee meeting, which will now reside in the new RPC Council. NPSTC will continue to support the RPCs. It was suggested at the Governing Board meeting that the RPCs should maintain the status quo with NPSTC until the National Regional Planning Council attains a structure and bylaws are created and voted on.

It was also noted that NPSTC's RPC Committee sent NIJ a letter in June 2007 requesting that the role of CAPRAD Oversight Team be instituted. NIJ did not respond and the RPC Committee would like to close out this issue. Also noted—the RPC Committee is the recognized National Plan Oversight Committee (NPOC), a fact that is noted in many RPC plans. This role should also be clarified.

Software Tools & Training Working Group

During the quarter, the Working Group investigated a software tool developed by the state of New York through its contract with Syracuse Research Center. Initially it was recommended that the software tool could be added to CAPRAD, but this action was rejected at the June Governing Board meeting, pending more study and review of the tool by the frequency coordinators. CAPRAD will continue to function as a stand-alone software tool. The state of New York has agreed to distribute the software tool to the RPCs through another mechanism. NYS-SWN is currently doing acceptance testing and will set up a web demonstration for the frequency coordinators prior to the November Governing Board meeting.

NPOC Planning Oversight Committee (NPOC)

The Working Group is developing a formal mission, goals and objectives, and strategies that will be reviewed by the District Chairs. A draft document that would be used by an RPC desiring to file an appeal to the NPOC has been drafted as well as a guideline for dispute resolution.

Spectrum Management Committee

700 MHz Advocacy Working Group

The Working Group has been working to analyze and monitor the key elements of the FCC's 700 MHz decisions and the impact on public safety. Key elements include:

- Identification of 20 MHz of spectrum and rules for hybrid nationwide public safety/commercial broadband network. One network uses both public safety and auctioned spectrum blocks nationwide; Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL) and auction winner negotiate an agreement and choose technology.
- There is no dedicated spectrum for local broadband systems. Any local build-out will be based on agreement among the local agency, PSBL, and D block licensee. The local agency would lease spectrum from the PSBL, and the local system would have to be interoperable with the nationwide public safety broadband system. Unless otherwise agreed, the local system must be eventually integrated into nationwide system. Includes waiver provisions for limited local broadband and wideband system deployments on exception basis only.
- There is no dedicated spectrum for local wideband systems. Wideband waiver requests must include letter of concurrence from PSBL licensee. Wideband license terms are limited to a maximum 5-year initial term with one 3-year extension.
- Reconfiguration of narrowband blocks (12 MHz).
- Slight shift in bandplan to improve access in U.S./Canadian border areas once treaty revised.
- Relocation and modification of guardbands.
- Additional spectrum for commercial auction.

Important 700 MHz Dates

July 31, 2007	FCC Adopts 700 MHz Decision
August 10	FCC releases text of Decision (367 pages)
August 24	FCC Decision published in Federal Register
August 30	Cutoff to deploy narrowband systems under previous bandplan (unless waiver of rule granted) Per FCC decision, only narrowband equipment in operation at 700 prior to this date eligible for retuning compensation.
September 24	Deadline for any petitions for clarification or reconsideration of the FCC decision
October 10	Deadline for submission of application to be the nationwide public safety licensee
October 23	FCC 700 MHz Decision Effective.

	Deadline for users with 700 narrowband equipment deployed to file certified inventory for retuning compensation
November 23	RPCs must submit amendments to all 700 MHz regional plans approved or pending approval
January 16, 2008	700 MHz auction starts – 62 MHz total being auctioned in lower and upper 700 MHz band

Border Issues Working Group

The Working Group will monitor the new 700 MHz bandplan and compare it to the existing agreement with Canada. Work will be required to align some of the technical items in the Canadian agreement.

Spectrum Below 512 MHz Working Group

At the September Governing Board meeting, it was proposed that the Working Group be disbanded.

Wireless Alerting Working Group,

The Working Group will identify unused Narrowband Personal Communication Service (NPCS) spectrum, and develop a strategy to allow public safety access to that NPCS spectrum. The Working Group will proceed based on research on the two-way paging system developed by the City of Richmond and the benefits of Part 24 and what it can bring to public safety. Part 24 was the intended band for two-way paging applications. The irony is that public safety is the leading user of paging technology, yet has no access to the main paging band.

Previously, NPSTC filed a request to allow public safety access to the Part 90 Business/Industrial Land Transportation band for the purposes of 900 MHz paging. Two-way paging is a good solution for mid-size and smaller cities and counties. White space is available in many areas with coordination, interference resolution, and licensing procedures in place.

800 MHz Rebanding Update

The FCC recently issued another order and public notice aimed at completing the reconfiguration as soon as possible. There have been regional meetings to address needs that could delay the process.

Technology Committee

Amateur Radio Working Group

The Working Group is developing a draft white paper on what is permitted of the amateur radio community during an emergency. The draft has been circulating within the Working Group and includes research on the issue regarding the regulatory environment with the FCC and also covers International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and TIA rules. The paper examines interoperability between the services and the common frequencies that could be used, with an examination of the technology differences between the amateur community and public safety.

In-Building Working Group

During the quarter, the Working Group has expanded the scope of the best practices white paper from interference issues to include issues such as local codes that require a minimal level of in-building coverage for public safety systems. The revised version has been on the NPSTC website and sent to the NPSTC Participants listserv for comment and also presented at the APCO meeting in August. The Working Group has met with a representative of the International Code Council (ICC), which is working to develop universal codes for in building. The group has also worked with the In-Building Working Alliance (IBWA) to revise the draft of the scorecard developed in June to add explanatory material to the scorecard to make it more user friendly. The group will finalize the white paper for presentation at the November Governing Board meeting.

PS Interface to EAS Working Group

It was proposed that the Working Group be closed out because this work is being done in other organizations.

Technology Education Working Group

This new Working Group's first task will be to develop a list of public safety education topics, such as P25 education and the in-building issues.

Broadband Standards Working Group

During the quarter, the Broadband Standards Working Group was extremely busy, working to develop a draft 700 MHz public safety requirements by November 20, 2007, with continued revision as needed through January 16, 2008; also undertaking a pro and con technology analysis on or before January 16; and utilizing the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 700 MHz broadband simulation capability to help the D Block spectrum winner in development of the broadband public safety network.

Participants to the process have included manufacturers, standards groups such as P25, and practitioners. The effort to draft public safety requirements addressed the following concerns—recognize the economic impact of satisfying a given requirement, determine which are immediate and which are long term, and which requirement does the bidding community need now. The requirements will focus on the “what” and leave the “how” to address later. The scope of the public safety draft requirements includes operational, application/service, security, device requirements, network, business, and direct mode requirements.

During the quarter, the Working Group hosted weekly conference calls and breakout groups for each major section of requirements, to develop a list of user expectations including coverage, local control and flexibility, type of prioritization control regarding national, regional, state, county, and local control, culminating in a 2-day meeting to edit and vet the requirements. Public safety practitioner input, ongoing as of this writing, is critical in determining these expectations.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology/Office of Law Enforcement Standards (NIST/OLES) released a Request for Information (RFI) in May to analyze broadband technologies. The D Block winner will select the technology while the Working Group will perform the technical analysis.

As the standards/requirements effort in broadband moves forward, the Working Group is working with Project MESA to avoid duplication of effort with that standardization project.

In the area of 4.9 GHz, the Working Group and the P34 User Needs Committee are developing a user group to perform decision analysis between the two proposed protocols and looking for public safety practitioners to perform that decision analysis. The group is looking for practitioners with an interest in broadband who either have or have not deployed a 4.9 system to participate in several teleconferences and a face-to-face meeting in late October or November in Washington, D.C.

Future NPSTC Activities

The next Governing Board meeting will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 11-14, 2007. The first meeting of 2008 will be held in Mesa, Arizona, on February 11-13; followed by meetings in Washington, D.C., on June 2-4; in Seattle, Washington, on September 9-11; and in Greensboro, North Carolina, on November 18-20.