



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Fourth Quarter Report 2008

This Quarterly Report documents the activities of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), its Governing Board, Committees, and Working Groups for the Fourth Quarter, 2008. NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.

Governing Board

During the Fourth Quarter, 2008, NPSTC held its quarterly Governing Board and Committee meetings on November 18-19, in Baltimore, Maryland. Ralph Haller, Chair, NPSTC, welcomed NPSTC's Governing Board and Participants and special guests that included Tom Chirhart, Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and, reporting on the teleconference bridge on November 19, Jeff Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

On behalf of NPSTC's Governing Board, Mr. Haller congratulated Alan Bull, Chair, National Regional Planning Council (NRPC) on the Motorola Trunked Users Group (MTUG) award he received honoring his service to public safety. Also recently honored, Alan Caldwell, representing the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to the Governing Board, received the Edward H. McCormack, Jr. Spirit of Excellence Award. At the RCA dinner to be held on November 21, 2008, Chief Charles Werner will receive NPSTC's Richard DeMello Award.

Marilyn Ward, Executive Director, NPSTC, announced that Mr. Haller was also recently honored when he received the 2008 DeMello Award presented by the Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA), also named for Mr. DeMello who was a frequency coordinator for FCCA.

FCC Filings and Regulatory Issues

On behalf of its member organizations, NPSTC made the following filings in the Fourth Quarter.

NPSTC filed Comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) addressing broadcast low power auxiliary operations in the 698-806 MHz band on October 3, 2008. NPSTC urged the Commission to adopt its proposed rules. The proposals preclude low power auxiliary operations such as wireless microphones in the 698-806 MHz band and prohibit the manufacture, import, sale, or shipment of such devices after February 17, 2009. These actions will help promote effective public safety communications by removing low power auxiliary operations from the 700 MHz band.

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

NPSTC Submitted Comments in the Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on November 3, 2008, regarding the 700 MHz D Block, the Public/Private Partnership, and the Public Safety Broadband Licensee.

NPSTC Submitted Reply Comments in the Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on November 12, 2008.

NPSTC Submitted a Letter with the FCC on November 25, 2008, as a Joint Wireless Microphones Ex Parte regarding the Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698-806 MHz Band, et al. The letter was signed by NPSTC, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO), the CTIA, and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA).

Presentations

The following presentations were made during the November Governing Board and Committee meetings:

- Tom Chirhart, Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), on OIC programs including the Radio Over Wireless Broadband (ROW-B) and Multi-band radio projects.
- Patrick Halley, National Emergency Number Association (NENA), on the National Framework and Deployment Plan for the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Next Generation 9-1-1 Project.
- Dan Abeyta, Assistant Chief, Spectrum and Competition Policy Division, FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.
- Jim Weichman, Chair, Wireless Alerting Working Group, and James Dabbs, provided a demonstration of Richmond, Virginia's, two-way alerting system.
- Al Ittner, President, Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), on LMCC narrowbanding initiatives.
- Lance Valcour and Rick Finn, Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (CITIG) on a draft version of Canada's National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP), and a Toronto workshop to be held on December 7-10.
- Eric Brooks, Vice President Government and Public Safety, Motorola, on Public Safety Requirements for multi-band, multi-mode radio.
- Ken Barber, Communications Planner, Communications Directorate Joint Task Force – Civil Support (JTF-CS), on activities of JTF-CS.
- Jeff Cohen, Senior Legal Counsel to the Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, FCC, by teleconference on current activities at the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) and the FCC.
- Peter Kim, Electronics Engineer, Office of Emergency Communications (OEC), on OEC projects.
- John Logan, NPSTC Regulatory Advisor, on FCC activities.
- Chief Harlin McEwen, Chair of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST), on the 700 MHz NPRM.
- Bette Rinehart, Motorola, on FCC activities related to the 700 and 800 MHz bands.

- Alan Bull, Chair, National Regional Planning Council (NRPC), and Richard Reynolds, National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) and Vice Chair, NRPC, on NRPC activities.

Committee Action Items

At the November Governing Board meeting, NPSTC's member organizations approved the following items recommended by the Chairs of the NPSTC Committees.

- The Governing Board voted to delegate authority to the Interoperability Committee Chair to work with the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International (APCO) as the NPSTC Common Channel Naming Report moves through APCO's American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard and to present the finished product to the Governing Board for approval.
- At the request of the Outreach Committee, approved potential actions of the Committee to assist the Technology Education Working Group in publicizing the goals of the National Unified Goal (NUG) for Traffic Incident Management (TIM).
- At the request of the Outreach Committee, approved the missions and goals of the three Working Groups.
- At the request of the Regional and Broadband (R&B) Liaison Committee, approved the mission and charters of the Itinerant Channel Naming Working Group and the 700 MHz Narrowband Relocation Working Group.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, approved closing a previous action item regarding the former Low Power Television/National Telecommunications and Information Administration (LPTV/NTIA) recommendation in 700 MHz, which has become a moot point as many LPTV stations are shutting down operations.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, approved the Spectrum Management Committee actions to request that the Commission perform an audit of the two-way paging frequencies and, develop a Petition for Rulemaking (PFR) asking the Commission to consider allocating some of those channels to public safety if they find some unused.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, approved a letter supporting the Coalition letter that was sent on November 13 to the FCC regarding 700 MHz microphones, requesting that the FCC act expeditiously to adopt a proposal in the NPRM Docket No. 08-167, preventing wireless mics/low power device operation in the 700 MHz band and prohibiting the manufacture, import, sale, and/or shipment of 700 MHz band wireless mics/low power devices. Signatories include CTIA, APCO, NEMA, Rural Cellular Association, Alcatel-Lucent, AT&T, Bluegrass Wireless, Cellular South, Cincinnati Bell, Metro-PCS, Motorola, PISC, Qualcomm, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon.
- At the request of the Spectrum Management Committee, endorsed support of LMCC and the Telecommunications Industry Association-Private Radio Section (TIA-PRS), which are both seeking clarification from FCC of issues surrounding narrowbanding.
- At the request of the Technology Committee, approved the closing of a previous action item to respond to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) model codes as the window of opportunity to respond has ended.

Meetings and Conferences

During the Fourth Quarter, the Executive Committee (EC) and the Executive Director met in person and via teleconference to discuss program planning and future meetings. NPSTC holds monthly EC meetings and most of the Committees meet in teleconference monthly as well.

10th Annual Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness (TCIP), Chicago, Illinois. October 29-31, 2008. NPSTC representatives presented a summary on NPSTC and provided informational training on features and benefits of the National Interoperability Information Exchange (NIIX) at the Conference and Exposition, which highlights DHS, Department of Justice (DOJ), and Department of Defense (DoD) technology and training tools currently available and being developed for the emergency responder community.

FCCA Conference, Orlando, Florida. October 6-7, 2008. The FCCA meeting covered federal technical sessions on the topics affecting public safety communications, along with breakout sessions and new equipment demonstrations. FCCA provided NPSTC with a booth and NPSTC representatives presented a summary on NPSTC and NIIX training. FCCA has created several NIIX communities and are pleased to have the tool which provides an avenue for document sharing all over the United States.

Florida Region 5 Domestic Security Task Force (DSTF). October 30, 2008. The Florida Region 5 DSTF held its monthly meeting in Rockledge, Florida, on October 30, 2008. The group represents nine counties (and agencies from fire, police, and EMS for each) spanning all of Eastern Central Florida. Information was provided on NPSTC, NIIX, and the role of the Communications Unit Leader (COML).

Border On-Air Testing. A letter from the Office of Interoperability & Compatibility (OIC) to the NPSTC Executive Director initiated an opportunity for NPSTC involvement with Canadian border issues. The Chair of the NPSTC Northern Border Issues Task Force, a public safety person from Vermont, was able to participate in on-air testing with Industry Canada (IC) to determine whether certain frequencies requested by Vermont caused interference in Canada.

Prior to the testing, the combined FCC and IC calculations showed the potential for interference from 16 sites in Vermont within the line "A" region. Those projections were based on final technical parameters (transmitter ERP, frequency, antenna type and orientation) mutually agreed to by all parties. The actual on-air test was very successful. A combination of 25 frequencies in both the VHF and UHF band were tested from the 16 sites, only one site failed the initial test. Two FCC inspectors from Vermont conducted the test, along with one inspector in Canada monitoring their systems. The information obtained through this process was informative and will assist with future U.S./Canada border issues.

NPSTC Governing Board Executive Meeting. November 19, 2008. NPSTC's Governing Board held an Executive Session meeting following the adjournment of the NPSTC Governing Board General Session. The goals of this meeting were to discuss and adjust the 2009 goals and objectives agreed upon at the September Governing Board Planning Meeting.

Governing Board and Committee Meetings for 2009 have been scheduled and re-formatted to ensure its important activities remain ongoing and NPSTC continues to receive input from its member organizations, associate members, liaisons, and many participants. In the interest of cost savings, the NPSTC Governing Board decided to convene one teleconference in February 2009, one condensed meeting in March at the IWCE Conference, one public meeting in June, and one Governing Board Planning Session in November at a member venue.

SAFECOM Executive Committee and Emergency Response Council Meeting, December 3-4, 2008. NPSTC's Executive Director participated in this 2-day meeting.

Three State Conference (Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana) for Public Safety Telecommunications users, December 11, 2008. NPSTC hosted a booth, distributed 50 NPSTC LPTV brochures, 100 newsletters, 25 annual reports, 175 NIIX brochures, 200 NPSTC Resource CDs, and 30 IMSA/IAFC narrowbanding materials, and made a NIIX presentation to over 110 participants.

CITIG Meeting in Toronto, Canada, December 12, 2008. NPSTC representatives from the Northern Task Force participated in the meeting and advanced relationships with Industry Canada. On December 3, a presentation was provided in Sheurbrook, Canada, as well. Discussions occurred regarding participation in potential border pilot projects with the head of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Communications. The plan is to hold three pilot projects on the Northern border and three on the Southern border.

On December 12, 2008, representatives from NPSTC, the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and Enterprise Wireless Alliance (EWA) met with the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology, Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau, and Wireless Bureau to address clarifications needed in VHF/UHF narrowbanding rules. The group's recommendations were well received but FCC staff indicated any action would await the new administration.

NIIX

NIIX provides the states virtual, secure communities for sharing documents and for supporting their statewide planning documents. The NIIX tool is offered to Communities of Practice related to the mission of NPSTC, OIC, and OEC that request the creation of NIIX communities to share and store documents.

NIIX use has expanded with over 1,000 registered users and 75 communities, including communities from DHS, currently meeting and sharing documents in this repository. The new communities include the National Governors' Association (NGA) Policy Academy Selection Committee, Wildland Fire Incident Response-National (FCCA), and Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Emergency Communications Coordination (FEMA RECC) Community Region 10. Many of the 1,000 belong to multiple communities and are regular users of NIIX.

NIIX) outreach activities include meeting support, website maintenance, community page development, training sessions, outreach presentations, and customer service.

Publications

Press Releases. NPSTC issued press releases on the following topics.

NPSTC Forms Northern Border Task Force. October 18, 2008.

Chief Charles Werner Receives Richard DeMello Award 2008. November 21, 2008.

npstc quarterly. NPSTC released its newsletter, npstc quarterly, in early December 2008. Other publications include an article for next *IMSA Journal* on the topic of paging. This will be highlighted as the cover article of the January/February edition.

Interoperability Bulletin. On October 31, 2008, the OIC newsletter, *Interoperability Bulletin* was distributed to the public safety community through the NPSTC Participants listserv and posting on the NPSTC website allowing for additional exposure to the newsletter.

Article Repository. NPSTC maintains an article repository that includes a searchable database by topic on NPSTC newsletter articles and articles in other publications that refer to NPSTC or are written by NPSTC Participants.

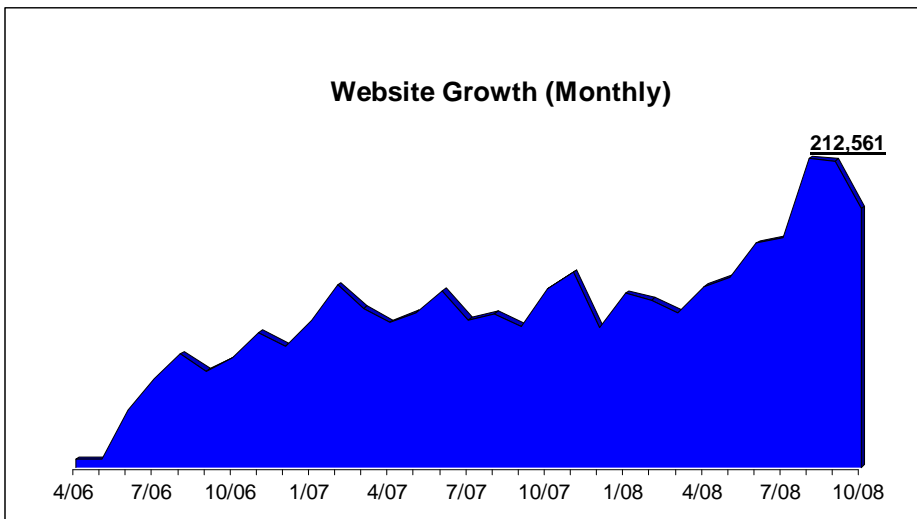
Werner Wins IAFC Award	Editor	Mission Critical	Governing Board	GB alternate wins award	Sep-08
PSST To Form Committee To Address APCO NENA Concerns	Editor	Mission Critical	700 MHz	GB reps for APCO and IAFC quoted	Sep-08
We've Changed Our Banners	Jackie Siegel	npstc quarterly	Governing Board		Sep-08
Executive Directors Report	Marilyn Ward	npstc quarterly	Governing Board		Sep-08
Outreach in Action: Photo Essay	Jackie Siegel	npstc quarterly	Governing Board		Sep-08
Moving from Ten Codes to Plain Language	Jackie Siegel	npstc quarterly	Interoperability		Sep-08
700 Regional Planning Update	Bette Rinehart	npstc quarterly	Interoperability		Sep-08
NPSTC Partner Advancing Communications Interoperability to the North	Lance Valcour	npstc quarterly	Interoperability		Sep-08
Regulatory Update	John Logan	npstc quarterly	Regulatory		Sep-08
NPSTC Technology Education WG Works to Make Important Information More Available	Stephen Devine	npstc quarterly	Technology		Sep-08
Canadian Border: The Next Step in 800 MHz Reconfiguration	Brett Haan	npstc quarterly	800 MHz		Sep-08
NASF-Communicating with Local, State, and Federal Partners To Preserve America's Trees	Lloyd Mitchell	npstc quarterly	Interoperability		Sep-08
NIIX: Not Just for Statewide Planning	Jackie Siegel	npstc quarterly	Governing Board		Sep-08
Leveraging Common Goals: Similarities Drive Public Safety and DoD Communications Technology Developments	Sean O'Hara	Urgent Comms	Technology	Article written by NPSTC Tech Support and WG member	Sep-08
Industry Insights	Editor	Mission Critical	Technology	NPSTC Chair quoted	Sep-08
Inside Washington	Ralph Haller	Mission Critical	Regulatory	Article by NPSTC Chair	Sep-08
News Briefs: NPSTC Urges Microphone Restriction at 700 MHz	Editor	Mission Critical	Technology	Article on NPSTC filing	Sep-08
State of the Industry: 800 MHz Rebanding, Narrowbanding, Challenges	Editor	Mission Critical	800 MHz	NPSTC Chair, APCO and IACP reps, WG BB Chair quoted	Sep-08
NPSTC Is Valuable Radio Resource	Editor	Dispatch Magazine	NPSTC	NPSTC website cited as great source	Sep-08
COML Training Schedule Available	Editor	Mission Critical	Interoperability	Cites NPSTC website	Sep-08
NPSTC Forms Northern Border Task Force	Editor	Mission Critical	Interoperability	Article on NPSTC's border task force	Oct-08
Just the Beginning	James Careless	Urgent Comms	Interoperability	Quotes GB alt on PSIC grants	Oct-08
The Great Communicator	Rick Markey	Fire Chief	Governing Board	Article of Fire Chief of the Year GB alt	Oct-08

				NPSTC SDR WG chair and Participant quoted as well as NPSTC GB meeting in article about SDR and CR	Oct-08
Almost Ready for Prime Time	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Technology		
FCC enthusiasm for white-spaces use must be questioned	Lynette Luna	Urgent Comms	Technology	NPSTC Interoperability Chair Quoted	Oct-08
FCC Hint at Changing D Block Rule	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	700 MHz	NPSTC I/O Chair Quoted	Oct-08
				NPSTC GB NASEMSO Rep and I/O Chair+E446 Quoted	Oct-08
The Need for Speed	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Technology		
DeMello Award	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Governing Board		Oct-08
Eco Tabletop and NG 9-1-1 Featured at NPSTC's November Meeting	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Governing Board		Oct-08
NIIX--Up Close and Personal Training	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Interoperability		Oct-08
NASEMSO Passes Plain Language Resolution	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Interoperability		Oct-08
Alan Bull Receives MTUG Award	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Governing Board		Oct-08
Khanna Becomes NASCIO President	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Governing Board		Oct-08
If You Missed it on NPSTC's Participant ListservFCC Implements NET 911 Rules. Tower Lights	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Regulatory		Oct-08
FCCA Holds October Conference	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Governing Board		Oct-08
Understanding IP Voice Connectivity Alternatives	Stu Overby	Police Chief	Spectrum Management	Article by NPSTC Vice Chair	Oct-08
Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) Offers Valuable Resources	Jackie Siegel	npstc monthly	Interoperability		Oct-08
Several 700 MHz Regional Plans Receive Approval	Sandi Wendelken	Mission Critical	RPCs	NPSTC referenced as source of data	Nov--08
Two-Way Paging, Cost Effective and Valuable Resource for Public Safety	Doug Aiken	IMSA Journal	Technology	Article by NPSTC Vice Chair	Nov--08
Could More Spectrum Be Mined out of the 2009 DTV?	Ralph Haller	Mission Critical	Regulatory	Article by NPSTC Chair	Nov--08
Canadian Interoperability and Spectrum Issues Gain Attention	Lance Valcour	Mission Critical	Interoperability	Article by NPSTC Liaison Rep	Nov--08
NPSTC To Pursue Comparison of TETRA and P25	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Technology	Article on NPSTC; quotes from Tech Cmte Chair	Nov--08
	Charles Werner	Urgent Comms	700 MHz	Article by IAFC Alt on broadband network	Nov--08
Divided We Fail	Charles Werner	Urgent Comms	700 MHz		
Chief Charles Werner Receives DeMello Award	Mary Rose Roberts	Urgent Comms	Governing Board	Article on NPSTC's DeMello Award	Dec-08
Inter-City Frequency: A Call to Action	John Johnson	APCO PS Comms	Technology	Article by NPSTC RPC District Chair	Dec-08
Trunking Below 512 MHz	Steven	APCO PS	Technology	Article by Tech	Dec-08

	Devine	Comms		Education WG Chair	
Nine People to Watch	Donny Jackson	Urgent Comms	Governing Board	Article cites NPSTC's McEwen, Powell, and Werner as three of nine most influential people in telecomm	Dec-08
Network's Viability Will Hinge on Type, Cost of Access	Charles Werner	Urgent Comms	700 MHz	Article by NPSTC's Werner	Dec-08
NPSTC Proposes New Technical Standards for Land Mobile/DTV Operation in 470-512 MHz Band	David Eierman	npstc quarterly	Spectrum		Dec-08
Director's Column	Marilyn Ward	npstc quarterly	Governing Board		Dec-08
Chief Charles Werner Wins DeMello Award	Jackie Siegel	npstc quarterly	Governing Board		Dec-08
Frequency Coordination Along U.S. Canada Border: Is Your Proposed Station within Line A or C?	Maribel Martinez-Bradwell	npstc quarterly	Spectrum		Dec-08
Regulatory Update	Bette Rinehart	npstc quarterly	Regulatory		Dec-08
Interference Testing on the Northern Border	Jackie Siegel	npstc quarterly	Interoperability		Dec-08
Spotlight on the NSA	Aaron Kennard	npstc quarterly	Governing Board		Dec-08

Website

Revised Web Pages. An improved webpage for the NPSTC quarterly meetings has been under development to include a more interactive and streamlined collection of data. One of the additions is a new registration form for speakers. The form allows each Committee Chair the opportunity to review presentations prior to the meeting and to obtain biographies for introduction.



In the Fourth Quarter, the website continued to experience steady growth.

Interoperability Committee

ESF2 Working Group

The Working Group has reviewed FEMA's new Communications Annex, which describes the kinds of support that can be provided by the federal government to the states and locals, and which will be the basis for the work of the Working Group. The Working Group believes that if it is to be a useful resource, it needs to become part of local planning. The Working Group will work to expand

this document or do an additional document, based on the discussions and FEMA presentation at the September Governing Board meeting. NPSTC made it clear at the last meeting that the RECCs need to focus more on coordination at the local level rather than at the state level.

Interoperability Channel Naming Working Group

The Governing Board was provided a draft of the NPSTC Common Channel Naming Report as adapted through APCO's American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards process for their consideration at the November NPSTC meeting. There are two parts to the standard—the first part is the normative part, which defines the standard, and the second, the informative part, which has supporting information and describes how the standard would be implemented. Changes referring to the A and the B Block will have to be made eventually, but these changes will be able to be made quickly once they are approved by ANSI. The document has been sent back to the Working Group for review.

The Working Group is waiting for feedback from the FCC on its request for redesignation of some of the 700 MHz calling channels as potential travel channels.

Software Defined Radio Working Group

The SDR Working Group had two presentations on SDR and Cognitive Radio (CR) in Seattle at the September Governing Board meeting. The SDR Forum met in Boston about 6 weeks ago, and is looking at tackling the new white space issue and restructuring its organization. The next meeting will be a joint meeting in San Diego with the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) Program.

Outreach Committee

Mr. Haller announced that the Governing Board had approved, by electronic vote, the appointment of Bette Rinehart as Chair, Editorial Review Working Group. Ms. Rinehart will initiate a new regulatory update that will be available electronically on NPSTC's website. The Outreach Committee comprises three Working Groups: the Editorial Working Group, the Volunteer Coordination Working Group, and the Website Review Working Group. Further details of the work of the Outreach Committee are specified in the above reports on NIIX, publications, meetings, and the website.

Regional and Broadband Liaison Committee

700 MHz Narrowband Relocation Working Group, Don Root, Chair

The Working Group developed its mission and charter during the Fourth Quarter although the Working Group is on hold due to the auction that has not yet occurred and unknown future of the broadband network nationwide.

700 MHz Itinerant Channel Naming Working Group

The Working Group developed its mission and charter during the Fourth Quarter.

National Planning Assistance and Coordination (NPAC) Working Group

The Working Group has reviewed National Coordination Committee (NCC) reports and circulated the revisions within the Committee. There are a significant number of changes related to the interoperability channels. They propose to post the document on the NSPTC website because it

will be of value to the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committees, with the caveat that there will be changes as the FCC acts.

Spectrum Management Committee

The Spectrum Management Committee held numerous meetings to develop Comments and Reply Comments for NPSTC to approve and file in response to the FCC 3rd Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM). The Comments addressed use of the 700 MHz broadband segment and advocated public safety interest in the context of the public private network.

The key points of the Comments filed November 3, 2008, support the following:

- Reaffirms support for the public/private partnership.
- Asks FCC to expand local build out alternative for regions unsold, sold without buildout by year 4, and in areas where no service exists.
- Wants more options to enhance reliability, robustness, and hardening.
- Proposes revising priority access rules to reflect local needs.
- Urges FCC to require regional licensees to form a national governance structure with which the PSBL can negotiate.
- Emphasizes an underfunded PSBL is detrimental to public safety and asks the FCC to re-examine proposed \$5 million annual cap on PSBL.
- Notes lack of NPSTC consensus on proposed PSBL election rules.
- Recommends additional service rate options.
- Urges FCC to re-examine critical infrastructure industries (CII) prohibitions in light of incident response.
- Recommends cache of deployable 700 MHz broadband terrestrial base stations for use in rural areas when needed.
- Suggests FCC solicit cost information from each agency regarding the narrowband relocation and that the cap encompasses all costs related to the relocation.

The key points of the reply comments filed on November 12, 2008, support the following.

- Addresses balance of public-private partnership and local involvement.
- Recommends a coordinated commitment among the PSBL, D Block licensee(s), and local agencies for early deployment.
- Supports 4 G technology and notes that the chosen technology needs to be ready for deployment in 2010.
- Urges the FCC to address gap in interim funding so PSBL can adequately engage in negotiations with D Block licensee(s).
- Emphasizes need for adequate funding to support narrowband relocation; recommends giving D Block licensee(s) auction credit for relocation funding.

The FCC provided a month to develop comments. Conference calls were held on October 1, 9, 15, 21, and on November 3. Three successive drafts were reviewed and edited with a final draft provided to the Governing Board for review and approval. The FCC deadline provided only 9 days to develop reply comments, developed through a preliminary email on November 5, with follow-up conference calls on November 7 and 11, and a final draft to the Governing Board submitted on November 11, 2008. Reply comments were submitted to the FCC on November 12. The entire NPSTC Governing Board approved the comments.

470-512 MHz Working Group

The Working Group has developed a first draft Petition for Rulemaking to the FCC which would expand the area where base stations are allowed from 50 miles to approximately 80 miles around the eleven cities where this band is used. The Petition would support such an expansion by proposing that FCC adopt the same protection standards for the digital TV stations on channels 14-20 as it adopted at 700 MHz. Revisions are in process to finalize prior to seeking Governing Board approval.

NPSTC might consider a joint filing with the LMCC or ask the LMCC to file a letter of support with the Commission.

700 MHz Advocacy Working Group

During the Fourth Quarter, in addition to participating in the comment process to the FCC, the 700 MHz Advocacy Working Group worked on the following tasks.

700 MHz Wireless Mics. A Coalition letter was sent on November 13 to the FCC regarding 700 MHz microphones, requesting that the FCC act expeditiously to adopt a proposal in the NPRM Docket No. 08-167, preventing wireless mic/low power device operation in the 700 MHz band and prohibiting the manufacture, import, sale, and/or shipment of 700 MHz band wireless mics/low power devices. Signatories include CTIA, APCO, NEMA, Rural Cellular Association, Alcatel-Lucent, AT&T, Bluegrass Wireless, Cellular South, Cincinnati Bell, Metro-PCS, Motorola, PISC, Qualcomm, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon. The Governing Board agreed to generate a letter to be sent to the FCC supporting the Coalition letter.

H.R. 7013. This bill extended the DTV transition from February 17 to March 3, 2009, to allow limited analog broadcast of DTV transition information and analog transmission of essential public safety announcements in an emergency for 2 weeks. It required the FCC to act by January 15, 2009, to provide the extension. Section 2(c)(5) of the bill says that the FCC shall prohibit analog broadcast on any spectrum that is approved or pending approval by the FCC for public safety use. FCC subsequently completed an expedited rulemaking known as the "night-light" proceeding to implement the requirements in the legislation. This is not to be confused with new proposals in Congress to extend the DTV transition date to June 12, 2009, for full rather than limited analog use.

TV Whitespace: The FCC adopted rules that allow use of white space; the amount of white space will vary depending on location and geography, with the rural areas having more white space. The FCC opened TV channels 5 -36 and 38-51 for unlicensed use. Fixed operations are allowed on all channels; portable operations on channels 21 and above. Two channels between TV Channels 21 and 51 will be dedicated for wireless microphones in the top 13 markets and high-demand mic locations may register in the database for protection. TV whitespace devices must have geo-location and sensing to protect incumbents, with limited exceptions for sensing-only devices. A third party database will be used for geo-location and registration.

800 MHz Reconfiguration Working Group

The Working Group, which monitors the rebanding effort, reported there is progress on actual implementation, with system reconfiguration, contracts completed, and project schedules documented. There are a few non-border regions that are not yet done. The Transition Administrator is working hard on the Canadian border on frequency assignments. The agency in Mexico that corresponds to the U.S. FCC has had personnel changes, slowing the progress there.

Border Issues Working Group

As noted previously, the Chair of the Northern Border Task Force, a task force created in the Third Quarter, participated in on-air interference testing with Industry Canada (IC). He reported that Vermont applied to IC for 66 applications in June 2007; 32 were denied in the Above Line A region due to anticipated harmful interference. Vermont has been working on changing the engineering and requirements to get those passed since that time and, a few months ago, participated in on-air testing with IC for about 15 different frequencies, which all passed. They are now looking at the original engineering and determining if the models accurately predicted interference. A report will be forthcoming.

Wireless Alerting Working Group

The FCC issued a Report and Order in October 2008 regarding NPSTC's request to access the 900 MHz Business Industrial Land Transportation band for public safety alerting. The Commission denied the request, but stated that the Wireless and Homeland Security Bureaus will discuss how public safety alerting can be accommodated. The Spectrum Management Committee will follow up with a request that the Commission perform an audit of the 900 MHz two-way paging frequencies and, develop a Petition for Rulemaking (PFR) asking the Commission to consider allocating some of those channels to public safety if they find some unused.

Technology Committee

During the Fourth Quarter, the Technology Committee was tasked with developing a white paper that provided an objective comparison of the TETRA and P25 standards. The Committee Chair provided a table comparing the digital solutions of P25, TETRA, and OpenSky, responding to the request for a comparison table from the September 2008 meeting, and a list of 25 questions comparing TETRA and P25 and suggesting potential scenarios for the use of each standard. Representatives from P25 and TETRA would provide information on the deployment of their technology and develop an action item list for the other. The 'virtual' communities for coverage solutions to swap might include a rural and urban community for each team to highlight their solutions and then in the other's chosen virtual community.

There was no official Governing Board vote, but there was an informal consensus agreement to investigate further if industry is willing to underwrite the costs to do the comparison. NPSTC does not have the resources for a project this size. No decision was made at this point.

Amateur Radio Working Group

The Amateur Radio Working Group is finalizing the operational side of the white paper on the interface between the ham radio community and public safety during emergencies. The Working Group has set up a NIIIX community to facilitate discussion on the white paper.

In-Building Coverage Working Group

The Best Practices for In-Tunnel Communications, requested as an addendum to the original In-Building Best Practices White Paper, has been delayed somewhat due to the effort required to respond to the 700 MHz FNPRM. The white paper is about 65 percent complete. The paper will comprise chapters on the following issues:

- Basic system components for in-tunnel coverage.
- Types of tunnel systems.
- Understanding the spectrum environment.
- System design considerations and tradeoffs.

- Signal distribution methods and tradeoffs.
- Coverage testing and the limitations of testing in tunnels.
- Maintenance.

Technology Education Working Group

The Working Group has completed initial products soon to be available on the technology education web page. The Working Group is ready to deliver more articles, slides, and information on topics of interest. The group plans to develop a Land Mobile Radio (LMR) 102 and a Project 25 (P25) 101 next. The first products are listed below.

Understanding the FCC is an interactive slide show on filing comments with the FCC. These are detailed, easy-to-follow presentations with links to the FCC website. The presentations will be used for RPC training in February 2009.

- *Participating in the process aka Making your Voice Heard at the FCC: A NPSTC tutorial on filing comments, replies, and other documents in FCC proceedings*
- *What questions are being asked by the FCC, and/or What is the FCC Thinking? A NPSTC tutorial on searching for FCC documents to clearly understand what is being asked, or Why the FCC decided one way rather than another.*
- *What have others said or recommended as their part of Participating in the Process? A NPSTC tutorial on searching comments, replies, and other documents in FCC proceedings.*

Land Mobile Radio (LMR) 101. Beginning with the basics and moving to a thorough discussion of the Project 25 (P25) standards history, process, and current status.

Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1. A look at the history of 9-1-1, the development of NG 9-1-1, and how it affects users.

Coming soon are presentations on 700 MHz Backbone. A history that provides context and understanding of the complicated evolution of 700 MHz for public safety, and the 4.9 GHz Demonstration Project, a technological explanation of at how Pinellas County, Florida, tested varying implementations of 4.9 GHz technology to connect local systems to Department of Defense systems to provide information sharing that would be vital in disaster situations.

Broadband Working Group

The Broadband Working Group awaits the FCC's decision on 700 MHz, which will guide the next stage of broadband activity. Regarding 4.9 GHz activities, as noted at the September meeting, the original P34 standards were written before the 700 MHz broadband was a possibility; given that, the APCO Project 25 Interface Committee (APIC) Broadband Task Group intends to host a user meeting to look at device requirements and move the analysis process forward. Funding concerns have delayed a meeting of the P34 User Needs Committee to review the requirements document and make any changes they deem necessary.

Future NPSTC Activities

The next Governing Board Meeting will be held by teleconference on February 11, 2009. This meeting will be open to the Governing Board, Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Working Group Chairs, associate and liaison members, and invited participants.

NPSTC will conduct a panel and host a complimentary booth at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE), in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 3 pm. The panel will address key NPSTC activities and assistance to the public safety community.

On March 20, 2009, at the International Wireless Communications Expo (IWCE), in Las Vegas, Nevada, NPSTC has retained a small complimentary meeting space from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm for Governing Board members attending the IWCE conference. Governing Board Associate and Liaison members, NPSTC Committee and Working Group Chairs, and IWCE attendees are welcome to attend. For those unable to be present in person, a conference bridge will be available for participation.

NPSTC will hold Governing Board and Committee Meetings on June 10-11, 2009, at the Key Bridge Marriott, Washington, D.C. The venue will include a full meeting format for registered members and other public safety professionals. On November 19, 2009, NPSTC will hold a Governing Board Planning meeting at a member's complimentary venue, the Hall of States, Washington, D.C., with a half day designated for the NPSTC Committees to provide a brief summary of activities. The Committee meetings are open to the public and participants joining via teleconference.