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National Public Safety Telecommunications Council

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Summary of FCC NPRM and Order re Low Power Broadcast Auxiliary Operations at 700 MHz

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NPSTC is a federation of organizations whose mission is to improve public safety communications and interoperability through collaborative leadership.



FCC Action- 700 MHz Wireless Mics

- NPSTC letter to FCC June 30, 2008 requested action to address wireless mics and similar devices at 700 MHz
- FCC released joint Order and NPRM 8/21/08; NPRM generally consistent with NPSTC recommendations
- Note -- this Order/NPRM addresses auxiliary equipment & operations, not Low Power TV stations
- Comments due October 3, Replies due Oct. 20



Summary of FCC Order & NPRM

Order -- Effective 8/21/08:

- Freezes filing of new low power broadcast auxiliary license applications in Part 74 for operation in 698-806 MHz after February 17, 2009.
- Freezes grants of equipment authorization of low power auxiliary station devices that would operate in 700 MHz Band frequencies.
- Withholds action on pending low power broadcast auxiliary license or equipment authorization applications at 700 MHz, pending outcome of proceeding.

NPRM – FCC Proposes to:

- Amend the rules to prohibit low power broadcast auxiliary station operation in the 700 MHz band after Feb. 17, 2009
- Prohibit the manufacture, import, sale, offer for sale, or shipment of low power auxiliary devices that operate in the 700 MHz band.
- Modify existing low power auxiliary stations licenses to prohibit operation at 700 MHz after February 17, 2009.
- FCC also seeks comment on the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition (PISC) proposals, incl. establishing wireless mic band at 2 GHz

Recommended Board Action

- Approve development of comments
 - Support FCC proposals re low power broadcast auxiliary operations at 700 MHz
 - Leave comments on the PISC proposals to others
- Direct Spectrum Management Cmte. to work with outside counsel to develop draft for Board approval