

REGULATORY UPDATE

By Bette Rinehart

Certain Interim Narrowbanding Deadlines Extended

The FCC has extended two of the interim VHF/UHF narrowbanding deadlines in response to a stay request filed by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) in 2009.

The interim deadlines which have been extended until **January 1, 2013**, are:

- Prohibition on the manufacture or import of equipment that includes a 25 kHz operational mode
- Requirement that equipment submitted for certification include a 6.25 kHz operational mode

Interim deadlines which remain in effect for January 1, 2011, are:

- Prohibition on new or expanded 25 kHz operations. Such requests will require individual waivers and be handled on a case-by-case basis
- Prohibition on certification of equipment including a 25 kHz mode

The Commission emphasized its commitment to the January 1, 2013, narrowbanding deadline which it felt would be undermined by permitting additional licensing of systems or certification of equipment utilizing 25 kHz efficiency modes.

The text of the News Release is available at:

http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0630/DOC-299410A1.doc

The text of the decision is available at:

http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0630/FCC-10-119A1.doc

Mexican Border Rebanding Negotiation Deadlines Extended

There still isn't a new agreement between the United States and Mexico on use of the 800 MHz spectrum so the negotiation period for 800 MHz licensees located along the Mexican border has been extended until October 1, 2010. Mediation will begin October 2. The application freeze has been extended until November 16, 2010.

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1229A1.doc

Wireless Microphones May Not Operate in 700 MHz Band After June 12, 2010

The FCC released an Enforcement Advisory in June to alert wireless microphone users that they may not operate in the 700 MHz band as of June 12, 2010. The Public Notice explained that television stations have migrated off this spectrum and that public safety and commercial wireless providers now use the 700 MHz band. To prevent potential interference to public

safety and commercial operations, wireless microphones must cease to operate in 700 MHz (698-806 MHz) band.

The Public Notice provided a [website](#) that wireless microphone operators could visit to determine whether or not their equipment was operating in the 700 MHz band and whether it could be modified to operate in a different frequency range. Users were warned that any microphones operating in the 700 MHz band had to be brought into compliance either by retiring it from use or modifying to operate in a different band. Failure to comply could result in equipment seizure or fines.

General information on the topic is available at:

<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/>

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1053A1.doc

Comment Sought on PSST's Proposed Budget and Administrative Fees for 700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Waiver Recipients

Comments were due July 9 on the Public Safety Spectrum Trust's (PSST) proposed budget and administrative fees which, in turn, will drive the annual lease fees for use of the public safety broadband spectrum. The lease fee is only to cover administrative costs and is not a "spectrum use fee." The PSST proposed first-year lease fee is \$15,000 per lessee. The FCC must approve the amount of the fee. The fee in the approved amount would be due 60 days after FCC approval of the lease. The PSST will submit a budget proposal for the second year of the lease 2 months prior to the end of the first year. The estimated second year lease fee is \$5,000.

A copy of the PSST's proposed budget is available at:

<http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7020504643>

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1091A1.doc

Comment Date for Technical Input on Public Safety Broadband Network Extended

In May, the FCC released a Public Notice seeking comment on various technical issues related to interoperability, out-of-band emissions, and equipment certification for 700 MHz public safety broadband networks and set the comment deadline for June 17.

One of the broadband early deployment waiver recipients, the District of Columbia, asked for a 1-month extension to the comment deadline because the window for preparing and filing funding requests to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) fell within the same timeframe. The FCC agreed and has extended the comment deadline until July 19, 2010. The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1070A1.doc

NPSTC submitted comments in response to the public notice. These comments can be accessed on the NPSTC site at:

<http://www.npstc.org/documents/NPSTC700MHzCommentsPN100719.pdf>

FCC Announces Information Due Dates for Public Safety Broadband Early Deployment Waiver Grantees

In granting the 21 public safety broadband early deployment waivers, the Commission established certain timeframes for the waiver grantees to provide information, sign spectrum leases with the PSST, and to notify and coordinate with other grantees. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the FCC's requested information collections and the FCC announced due dates for these tasks:

- Interoperability Showings provided to ERIC: July 19, 2010
- Initial Quarterly Reports: July 19, 2010
- Spectrum leases executed: August 18, 2010

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1097A1.doc

Members of Technical Advisory Committee to ERIC Announced

Twenty members of the public safety community were selected to serve as members of the Technical Advisory Committee to the FCC's Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC). The members represent agencies from both coasts, the midwest, and the southwest.

The text of the Public Notice is available at:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1104A1.doc

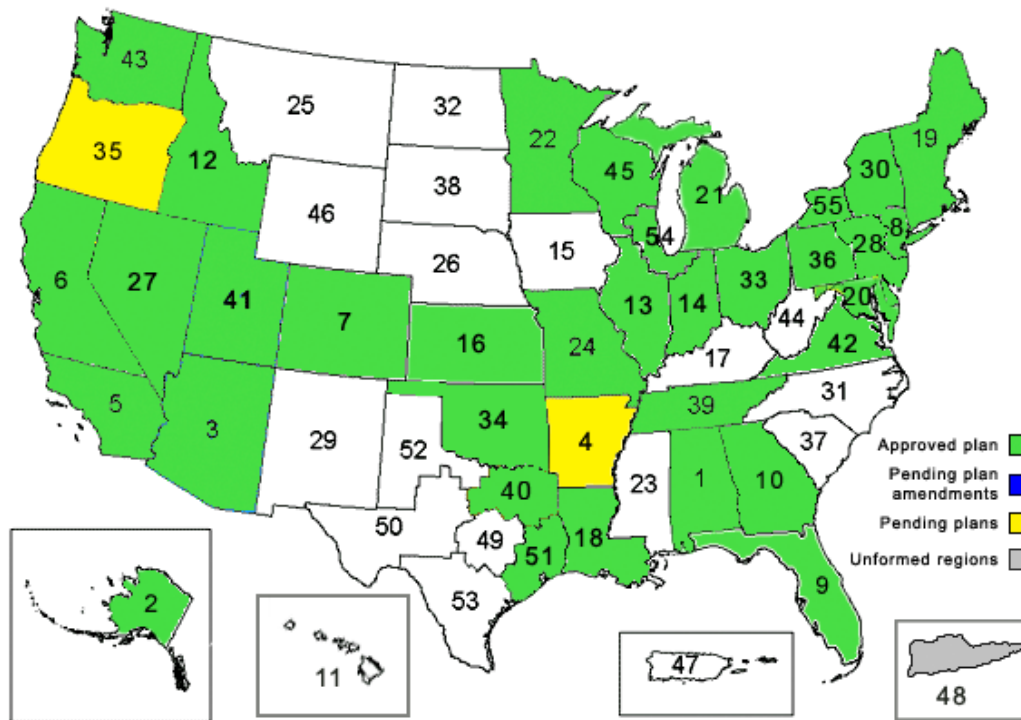
700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING UPDATE

One 700 MHz Regional Plan Placed on Public Notice

In June the FCC placed Region 35's (Oregon) 700 MHz Regional Plan on Public Notice. Comments are due July 1; Replies July 12. The text of the Public Notice is available at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1057A1.doc

FCC Approves One 700 MHz Regional Plan

The FCC approved Region 42's (Virginia) 700 MHz Regional Plan on June 24. The text of the Public Notice is available at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-10-1164A1.doc



Map courtesy of FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau website