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Narrowbanding Update

As of August 28, 2012 there are 125 days until the FCC narrowband mandate deadline of January 1, 2013. As of Sunday, August 26, 2012, 45% of the FCC licenses in Wyoming by Frequency Registration Number (FRN) have modified the emission designators to narrowband, 34% by call sign and 25% by transmitter.

With four months left to complete the narrowbanding requirements, agencies must modify their FCC licenses and program their radios and transmitters to narrowband technologies. The FCC sent out a FCC Enforcement Advisory on August 22, 2012 (attached) which describes the penalties for non-compliance after January 1, 2013. **Penalties for non-compliance may include license revocation and/or monetary forfeitures of up to \$16,000 for each such violation or each day of continuing violation and up to \$112,500 for any single act or failure to act.**

As of today, the State of Wyoming radio systems – Mutual Aid conventional, SALECS conventional, Highway Patrol conventional and WYDOT Maintenance conventional – have all been narrowbanded according to the schedule developed in 2011. This schedule was published and disseminated by the PSCC for local agencies to coordinate with the Mutual Aid narrow-banding. (WyoLink was built as a narrowband system, and does not need modification.)

What agencies need to complete for Narrowband Compliance

1) Verify that your company or organization has a current and valid FCC Part 90 radio station license. Click here to do a FCC License search: <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchAdvanced.jsp>

2) Conduct a full inventory of all radios in your system, including all portable (hand-carried) radios, mobile (in-vehicle) radios, dispatcher-used radios, wireless data or SCADA radios, and on- or off-site base or repeater radios.

3) Contact a local professional two-way radio service vendor for assistance in determining which models are capable of being re-programmed for narrowband operation and which models are not. Most new equipment has the capability for both 25 kHz and 12.5 kHz operation, because any VHF/UHF radio equipment accepted by the FCC after February 14, 1997, had to have 12.5 kHz capability.

4) Initiate the internal business process of budgeting for and procuring any new narrowband capable replacement radios that may be needed as well as contracted labor to program radios. Many public safety agencies only have one budget cycle left to secure funding.

5) Develop a "wideband" to "narrowband" system conversion plan that reflects well-coordinated logistical and implementation strategies. The plan should address:

a) The replacement and installation of any new narrowband-capable off-site base or repeater station radio(s) needed in advance

b) The reprogramming of all radios in a system; this should occur simultaneously, if possible, to assure minimal disruption to normal radio communication operations

c) Potential loss of radio system coverage

d) Include local, regional, and statewide mutual aid channels

6) Coordinate narrowbanding implementation schedules with neighboring public safety agencies and other non-governmental agencies that might access the channels that you are responsible for. Coordination with other agencies is an essential component of the narrowbanding process. If coordination does not take place, communications with other critical agencies may be compromised; this will prove especially damaging during emergency situations.

7) As soon as possible, schedule and coordinate with your radio service vendor dates and times for the actual system conversion (or cutover). Ensure that all radio users have been advised in advance and are aware of the process. Try to coordinate narrowbanding with regularly scheduled radio maintenance, if possible.

8) Finally, modify your FCC radio station license to remove any "wideband" emission designators, replacing them with the correct "narrowband" emission designators. This step may occur earlier in the process or at the end; regardless, it needs to take place before the process can be considered complete. Click here for instructions on how to modify your FCC license: [http://vcomm.vermont.gov/sites/vcomm/files/Narrowbanding - FCC Instructions 01 11 .pdf](http://vcomm.vermont.gov/sites/vcomm/files/Narrowbanding_-_FCC_Instructions_01_11_.pdf)

Additional Information Resources:

The following resources or websites may provide additional information on narrowbanding.

1. **FCC Narrowbanding Website:** Includes a countdown clock, recent articles written about narrowbanding, links to helpful resources, and FCC contact information. (<http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/narrowbanding.html>)
2. **NPSTC Narrowbanding Website:** A comprehensive list of narrowbanding resources including technical briefs, articles about the narrowbanding process, the cost of narrowbanding, and general fact sheets about narrowbanding. (<http://www.npstc.org/narrowbanding.jsp>)
3. **Wireless Radio Narrowbanding Website:** Provides information for FCC Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio (LMR) licensees, dispatch system managers, consultants, integrators, sales and service facilities and end-users facing the narrowbanding deadline. (<http://wirelessradio.net/>)

For additional assistance or information, please feel free to contact me.

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