

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D. C. 20554

OFFICE OF  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

August 16, 2007

Kevin F. Neyland  
Deputy Administrator  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Neyland:

The Federal Communications Commission requests clearance under the “emergency processing” provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (5 CFR 1320.13) for the information collection described in the attached documents. We request approval by September 13, 2007.

I am requesting expedited emergency processing because, as described below, this collection of information is needed prior to the expiration of the normal 120-day time period associated with routine processing of information collections. I also explain below why this information collection is essential to the responsible and effective implementation of the Commission’s mission and the public harm that could result if routine procedures were followed.

BACKGROUND:

On July 31, 2007, the Commission adopted its *700 MHz Second Report and Order* to create a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network. One major component of this process is the establishment of a public safety band plan consistent with such a network. The *700 MHz Second Report and Order* consolidates narrowband operations in the upper twelve megahertz of the 700 MHz Public Safety band and designates the lower ten megahertz of that band solely for broadband communications. It also shifts the public safety spectrum block down by one megahertz in order to avoid interference problems along the border with Canada. This requires relocation of all public safety narrowband operations in channels 63 and 68, and the upper one megahertz of channels 64 and 69.

The *700 MHz Second Report and Order* requires the winner of the Upper 700 MHz Band D Block license to pay the costs associated with relocating public safety narrowband operations to the consolidated channels. It also assigns responsibility to a newly created Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL) to administer the relocation process consistent with the requirements and deadlines set forth in the *700 MHz Second Report and Order*. To facilitate such relocation, the *700 MHz Second Report and Order* seeks to identify the actual numbers of radios and base stations for which the D Block licensee will be responsible for paying the relocation costs.

Thus, in order to obtain reimbursement for relocation costs, every 700 MHz Band public safety licensee, whether holding individual narrowband authorizations or operating pursuant to a State License, must provide the following information to the Commission: (1) the total number of narrowband mobile and portable handsets in operation in channels 63 and 68, and the upper one megahertz of channels 64 and 69, as of 30 days after the date of adoption of the *Second Report and Order*, (2) the total number of narrowband base stations serving these handsets in operation,

(3) contact information for each identified set of handsets and base stations, as appropriate, (4) the areas of operation of the mobile and portable units (such as defined by the jurisdictional boundaries of the relevant public safety departments), and (5) the location, in latitude and longitude, of the base stations.

If the normal PRA review schedule applies, we may not get the results of the foregoing information collection until November or December. But every moment of delay means further delay in interoperable communications for first responders, with possibly devastating consequences in the event of a major disaster or terrorist attack. Thus, in order to avoid any delay in the implementation of the public-private partnership tasked with establishing a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network, we must deliver these reports to the Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL) as soon as possible. Given emergency PRA approval, we believe that we can have these reports in the hands of the PSBL by December 2007, following our own internal review which we will carry out as quickly as we can.

In sum, the Commission is requesting emergency OMB approval for this information collection to ensure the timely consolidation of public safety narrowband operations, as well as the timely implementation of the public-private partnership, both of which are vital to the creation of a nationwide, public safety interoperable communications network and the resulting improvement to first responder communications in times of crisis.

My staff is ready to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to assure OMB's approval of this emergency request by September 13, 2007.



Karen Wheelless  
Associate Managing Director for Performance  
Evaluation and Records Management  
Federal Communications Commission