



## **FREQUENCY PROPOSAL REPORT FACT SHEET** **For Public Safety Call Signs in the Canadian Border Regions**

This document provides information about the Frequency Proposal Report (FPR) that reconfiguring Public Safety licensees in the U.S.-Canada Border Regions will receive from the 800 MHz Transition Administrator, LLC (TA) related to the relocation from their existing 800 MHz frequencies to new frequencies pursuant to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) 800 MHz Second Report and Order and the TA's Implementation Plan and Timetable. An FPR identifies a licensee's current frequencies designated for reconfiguration and contains the proposed new frequencies as well as other information to assist licensees in the reconfiguration process.

Licensees should be aware that a separate FPR is generated for each non-NPSPAC site-specific call sign authorized for fixed primary locations and for all NPSPAC call signs, and that copies of the FPRs are provided to Sprint.

FPRs do not constitute an authorization to operate on the proposed frequencies. An application must be filed with and granted by the FCC prior to commencing operations on the new frequencies.

The TA has evaluated proposed frequencies and location information to ascertain that:

- A new frequency has been proposed for each reconfiguring frequency that you are currently authorized to operate pursuant to your call sign.
- The new frequency is consistent with the 800 MHz band plan for the region(s) in which your call sign has licensed locations.
- You are eligible to operate on the frequencies that have been proposed.
- If the proposed frequencies are currently licensed to Sprint, the frequencies will be vacated prior to your relocation. If the proposed frequencies are currently licensed to other licensees, they will be reconfigured prior to your relocation.
- You will have no co-channel licensees and locations that are not in compliance with the FCC's short-spacing rules found in 47 C.F.R. § 90.621, or with whom you are not already co-channelled on a short-spaced basis.

Note: The TA relies on data contained in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS). This data is known to have inaccuracies and inconsistencies. If you believe that any of the criteria above are not met by the proposed frequencies, please contact the TA or immediately raise the issue with Sprint upon initiation of reconfiguration discussions.

Pursuant to the 800 MHz Report and Order, reconfiguring licensees are entitled to receive comparable facilities. The TA has not made a determination that your proposed frequencies are comparable to your existing frequencies or will provide the same operational capability your system had prior to relocation. Licensees are responsible for determining whether their proposed frequencies are comparable and may use a qualified expert to assist them in making that determination.

September 27, 2013 – v. 1.1

**Right to Resources:** Reconfiguring licensees may utilize certified Frequency Coordinators or other qualified experts or consultants to review proposed frequencies to help determine if they are comparable. Sprint will fund reasonable costs for such services, but any such costs must be negotiated with Sprint and approved by the TA. Licensees should be aware that the cost of using outside expertise to analyze whether proposed frequencies are comparable is considered a transactional cost. The TA will take a hard look at any request involving transactional costs that exceed two percent of hard costs to determine if the transactional costs are excessive or unreasonable.

The TA encourages reconfiguring licensees to evaluate resources selected for reconfiguration work based on proven experience performing similar tasks and to carefully consider the competency of resources with limited historical experience. The TA cautions that the costs of using unqualified personnel to perform reconfiguration tasks will not be recoverable.

Please see the 800 MHz Reconfiguration Handbook, which is available on the TA's website at [www.800TA.org](http://www.800TA.org), for additional information and guidance regarding using external resources to evaluate your proposed frequencies and related Sprint funding of such costs.

**Reconfiguring Frequencies:** Not all of the frequencies of a Public Safety license may need to be reconfigured. For non-NPSPAC frequencies, the attached FPR contains information regarding only your permanent base station frequencies on your site-specific license that must be reconfigured. Your related non-NPSPAC mobile and control station frequencies will be changed to appropriate frequencies in the 806-821 MHz range depending on their related base station frequencies. For NPSPAC frequencies, replacement frequencies for all your fixed, mobile, and control station locations are included. If your license includes additional frequencies in ranges that are not subject to reconfiguration, they will not be listed on the FPR.

If you believe your license contains frequencies not covered in the FPR but that are supposed to be reconfigured, please contact the TA by phone at **1-888-800-8220** or via email at [comments@800TA.org](mailto:comments@800TA.org).

The TA may determine that certain non-NPSPAC public safety licensees currently operating in the 806-809 MHz/851-854 MHz block with 25 kHz-spaced channels will remain in this band post-reconfiguration. This band is the new NPSPAC band and licensees that operate frequencies in this band following reconfiguration will be required to conform to the FCC's rules for operations in the NPSPAC band, including but not limited to the NPSPAC 12.5 kHz channelization band plan, the tighter emission mask requirements found in Section 90.210 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. § 90.210) and the regional planning process. Affected licensees may request a waiver from the FCC to continue to operate equipment on a 25 kHz bandwidth basis using non-NPSPAC emission masks, provided they obtain the approval of the applicable NPSPAC Regional Planning Committee.

**Information in the Frequency Proposal Report:** An FPR contains information about current and proposed base station transmit frequencies as well as the co-channel environment for non-NPSPAC channels. The information available in the FPRs will vary depending on whether the call sign has NPSPAC frequencies or not. Online FPRs are available via a unique URL (web address) for each call sign. The online FPR provides constantly updated co-channel information for non-NPSPAC frequencies. Note: Sections 3 and 4 described below are only available for non-NPSPAC frequencies and only via the URL or by contacting the TA and requesting a full FPR. Using the URL, updated FPRs can be viewed on-screen or exported as an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file.

If you do not have Internet access and want to access your updated co-channel environment, you may contact the TA by phone at **1-888-800-8220** to request copies of updated reports.

Since the co-channel environment may change during the reconfiguration program, you may wish to periodically check your co-channel environment for updates using the online tools. Suggested milestones for checking online include:

- Prior to signing the Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement (FRA) with Sprint,
- Prior to reconfiguration implementation if more than two weeks have elapsed since the FRA was signed,
- While assessing unresolved issues after reconfiguration implementation (if any), and
- Prior to the closing the FRA with Sprint.

Your FPR includes the following information for the listed call sign:

**Section 1:** Licensee name and address information, as well as a unique URL (web address) to access the online FPR associated with your listed call sign. Sections 3 and 4 described below are only available for non-NPSPAC frequencies and only via the URL or by contacting the TA and requesting a full FPR.

**Section 2.1:** The current base station transmit frequencies for every non-NPSPAC fixed location identified in the FCC's ULS database that requires reconfiguration and the proposed replacement frequencies.

- In the 800 MHz band, non-NPSPAC base station (also known as repeater) frequencies are currently in the 851-866 MHz range.
- On your license, base stations are fixed locations with a station class code starting with the letters "FB" (e.g., FB2).
- Base station frequencies determine the mobile and control station transmit frequencies used by the system in the 806-821 MHz range.
  - Mobile and control stations, or non-base station fixed locations, are identified on licenses by station class codes "MO" or "FX" (e.g., FX1).
  - Your new frequencies for mobile and control stations will be 45 MHz lower than your proposed base station channels. For instance, if you currently operate on 851.2875 MHz and are being moved to 855.8625 MHz, your mobiles will move from 806.2875 MHz to 810.8625 MHz.
  - If you have a license with reconfiguring frequencies in the 851-866 MHz range that does not have a base station location, please make a point of including this information in your negotiations with Sprint. Some of these frequencies may be associated with a base station on another call sign and can be included in your negotiations with Sprint. Others not associated with any base station may be secondary licenses that may not be reconfigured.

- If you have a license with frequencies only in the 806-821 MHz range, please make a point of including this information in your negotiations with Sprint. Some of these licenses may be associated with base stations on another call sign and can be included in your negotiations with Sprint. Others not associated with any base station may be secondary licenses that may not be reconfigured.
- The FCC provided guidance regarding reconfiguration of certain secondary authorizations, including mobile-only authorizations, FB2T temporary site licenses, and secondary licenses for offset channels, in a February 12, 2007 letter (DA 07-641), which is available on the TA's website at [http://www.800TA.org/content/fccguidance/DA\\_07-641\\_02.12.07.pdf](http://www.800TA.org/content/fccguidance/DA_07-641_02.12.07.pdf).

**Section 2.2:** The current frequencies for any granted public safety NPSPAC location and frequency identified in the FCC's ULS database for the call sign and the proposed replacement frequencies specified by the FCC's rules for the 800 MHz band plan under which the locations on the call sign operate.

**Section 3:** A listing of the expected co-channel licensees on the proposed frequencies to which your non-NPSPAC frequencies will be reconfigured. This is a projection of the co-channel environment after Sprint has fully relocated out of your area based on data available at the time your FPR was produced. This section is only available via the online FPR and only for non-NPSPAC frequency locations. The unique URL (web address) in Section 1 of your mailed FPR Summary Sheet will provide access to this section online.

A "co-channel" licensee is another party authorized to use the same frequencies as those on your license. For instance, if you are authorized to use 852.5125 MHz and ACME Ambulance is also authorized to use 852.5125 MHz, you are co-channel licensees.

- Generally, there are no restrictions on licensing another user on a co-channel basis at sites beyond 113 km (70 miles) from an existing license.<sup>1</sup>
- This list will contain no data if, immediately following reconfiguration of your entire NPSPAC region and Sprint clearing, it is expected that you will have no co-channel licenses within 113 km (70 miles) of your locations.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Certain locations in the western United States, including in the State of Washington, specified in Section 90.621 of the FCC's rules have a standard co-channel separation of 169 km (105 miles). The short-space distances for those sites are also adjusted.

<sup>2</sup> As a reconfiguring licensee, you should be aware of changes that may occur after reconfiguration to the co-channel environment of your frequencies. For example, not all NPSPAC regions are reconfiguring simultaneously. For instance, within an adjacent region that reconfigures later, other licensees may be relocated to the same frequency and be placed within 113 km (70 miles) of your site. This will always be planned according to appropriate FCC rules regarding separation between co-channel users. Reasonable attempts will be made to keep the same licensees across regional boundaries as co-channel licensees. Once a NPSPAC region is fully reconfigured and Sprint has reconfigured its systems, the frequencies relinquished by Sprint will be available to new users. Under current FCC rules, those new users are allowed to come within the standard 113 km (70 mile) spacing limit. All reconfiguring systems will require an FCC grant of a license that will be available for review via the FCC's ULS database. If your reconfiguration negotiations are delayed such that your implementation will be after many other licensees have reconfigured, the TA recommends using the Call Sign Radius search tool discussed below to evaluate the updated environment.

- If there are co-channel licensees on the list, it is likely (but not certain) that they are historical co-channel licensees currently co-channelled on your existing frequencies. In proposing new frequencies, every effort was made to move existing co-channel licensees to the same new proposed frequencies.
- If your FPR contains proposed co-channel licensees that are not current co-channel licensees, the TA has analyzed the relevant separation distance(s) to ensure the distances comply with FCC rules regarding short-spacing. If you do not believe the distance complies with the FCC's rules, please contact the TA or raise the concern immediately upon initiating discussions with Sprint. Please note that your co-channel environment may change during reconfiguration, and licensees are encouraged to review their co-channel information periodically using the online tool noted below.

**Section 4:** A reference listing of current co-channel licensees 113 kilometers (70 miles), or closer to your non-NPSPAC licensed location, including a calculation of the distance from your site to the co-channel site. This list is organized by your current frequencies and locations requiring reconfiguration. This section is only available via the online FPR and only for non-NPSPAC frequency locations. The unique URL (web address) in Section 1 of your mailed FPR Summary Sheet will provide access to this section online.

- The FCC permits co-channel licensees on a "short-spaced" basis at distances less than 113 km (70 miles). If applicable, this section will show existing short-spaced co-channel locations, as this provides information to consider in determining comparability. The information in this section contains no analysis of compliance with FCC short-spacing rules for these "historical" co-channel licensees.<sup>3</sup>
- This list is likely to include many Sprint licenses, but may include other non-Sprint licensees.
- If there is an overlying market-based license (also known as an Economic Area (EA) license), this list will also include the co-channel EA licensee. There will be no distance listed, however, because EA licenses do not identify site-specific operations.

**Section 5:** An explanation of the remark codes found in Sections 2, 3, and 4.

**Online Tools available through the unique URL:** For every call sign, the TA will make available an online tool that allows licensees to perform searches of the co-channel environment. The tool is especially useful for NPSPAC licensees to review their current and proposed co-channel and adjacent offset channel environment in lieu of Sections 3 and 4, which are only available for non-NPSPAC frequencies. Because frequency planning will be done over a period of several months, and there may

---

<sup>3</sup> The FCC's rules for short-spacing can be found in 47 C.F.R. § 90.621.



be minor changes to the plan that may affect your proposed frequency environment, please review the data periodically prior to the reconfiguration of your system.

### Call Sign Radius Search Tool:

- Every fixed base station location on the license can be used as the center point of a search.
- The user specifies a limited radius (up to 250 kilometers) and a limited frequency range for their search.
- The frequency range can be a single frequency or a range of up to 50 KHz (0.050 MHz).
- The user can also select from data sets that include just proposed frequencies in the search range, or proposed and granted non-Sprint channels found in ULS. Sprint's licenses are not included in the searchable data to improve search times and reduce the size of the downloads.
- Reports may be exported in common data formats including Excel and Adobe Acrobat.

**What if there is a problem with proposed frequencies?** If you believe that: (1) you have not received a proposed frequency for each frequency (or call sign) that you operate that must be reconfigured; (2) that you have received frequencies that you are not eligible to operate pursuant to the 800 MHz Report and Order; or (3) there are co-channel stations to your proposed non-NPSPAC frequencies that do not comply with the FCC's co-channel separation rules, please notify the TA by phone at **(888) 800-8220** or via email at [comments@800TA.org](mailto:comments@800TA.org) and we will review your proposed frequencies and respond promptly.

If you believe that the new frequencies contained in your FPR are not comparable to your existing frequencies, you should compile information, including the technical details regarding why the frequency is not comparable (e.g., it does not work within your combiner scheme). When you are contacted by Sprint to negotiate your reconfiguration agreement you should identify this issue to Sprint as soon as possible and work with Sprint to identify and agree to alternative frequencies. The TA requests that you and Sprint coordinate with the TA for TA review of any revised frequencies.

**How do I report interference before, during, or after reconfiguration?** Licensees experiencing interference problems before, during, or after reconfiguration should visit the 800 MHz interference reporting website at [www.publicsafety800mhzinterference.com](http://www.publicsafety800mhzinterference.com). The interference notification website was created as a result of the FCC's requirements in the 800 MHz Report and Order and can be used to submit interference reports to local wireless carriers for investigation and resolution.



### About the 800 MHz Transition Administrator

800 MHz Transition Administrator, LLC ("TA LLC") is the Transition Administrator ("TA") for the reconfiguration of the 800 MHz band mandated by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). TA LLC has contracted with Deloitte Consulting LLP, Squire Sanders (US) LLP, and Baseline Wireless Services, LLC to perform the duties of the TA. Among its duties, the TA establishes reconfiguration guidelines, specifies replacement channels, reviews reconfiguration cost estimates, monitors payment of reconfiguration costs, manages the relocation schedule, facilitates issue resolution, and administers the alternative dispute resolution process. TA LLC uses information it receives solely for the purposes of administering the 800 MHz reconfiguration process and may disclose such information to the FCC or other authorized parties pursuant to the requirements of the 800 MHz Order or other applicable laws.