

# FREQUENCY PROPOSAL REPORT FACT SHEET For Call Signs Affected by the U.S.-Mexico Sharing Zone

This Fact Sheet provides information about the Frequency Proposal Report (FPR) that reconfiguring 800 MHz licensees along the U.S.-Mexico border will receive from the 800 MHz Transition Administrator, LLC (TA). On April 1, 2013, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) issued the Fifth Report and Order requiring affected licensees along the U.S.-Mexico border to commence reconfiguration. An FPR identifies a licensee's current frequencies designated for reconfiguration and contains the proposed new frequencies and other information to assist licensees in the reconfiguration process.

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

FPRs do <u>not</u> constitute an authorization to operate on the proposed frequencies. Following approval by the TA of a Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement (FRA), 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 base station 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 cleared by those licensees prior to your relocation. After you have a
  fully executed FRA, the TA and Sprint will advise you when your replacement channels are
  cleared and ready for your use.
- You will have no co-channel licensees and locations that are not in compliance with the short-spacing rules found in Section 90.621 of the FCC's rules, or with whom you are not already co-channeled 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, if you have submitted a cost estimate, raise the issue with Sprint.

Pursuant to the 800 MHz Report and Order, reconfiguring licensees are entitled to receive comparable facilities. Section 90.699(d) of the FCC's rules defines 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. Licensees should keep in mind that the FCC requires that



licensees receive comparable, not better, facilities, including frequencies. The FCC has also determined that reconfiguring licensees are not entitled to their choice of specific frequencies.

<u>Right to Resources</u>: Reconfiguring licensees may utilize certified Frequency Coordinators or other qualified experts or consultants to review the proposed frequencies to help determine if they are comparable. Sprint will reimburse 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 <a href="https://www.800TA.org">www.800TA.org</a>, for additional information and guidance regarding using external resources to evaluate your proposed frequencies and related Sprint funding of such costs.

Reconfiguring Frequencies: For non-NPSPAC frequencies, the FPR contains information regarding the permanent base station frequencies on your licenses that must be reconfigured. Your mobile and control station frequencies on the same license as your base station frequencies may not appear but they will be changed to appropriate frequencies in the 806-824 MHz range that are 45 MHz below the related base station frequencies. If your license includes additional base station frequencies in ranges that are not subject to reconfiguration, they will not be listed on the FPR.

For NPSPAC licenses, replacement frequencies for all your fixed, mobile, and control station locations will be included in 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 (888) 800-8220 or via email at <a href="mailto:comments@800TA.org">comments@800TA.org</a>.

**Information in the Frequency Proposal Report**: An FPR contains information about current and proposed frequencies as well as the co-channel environment for those frequencies.

Online FPRs are available via a unique URL (web address) for each call sign. The online FPR provides frequently updated co-channel information. Updated FPRs may be viewed on-screen or exported as an Acrobat .pdf file. Sections 3 and 4 described below are only available via the URL or by contacting the TA and requesting a full FPR. If you do not have Internet access and want to access your updated co-channel environment, you may contact the TA by phone at 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 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 of the FRA with Sprint.

Your FPR includes the following information for the listed call sign. Sections 3 and 4 described below are only available via the URL or by contacting the TA and requesting a full FPR.

- **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 via the Internet.
- **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, base station (also known as repeater) frequencies are in the 851-869 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 806-824 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 852.2875 MHz and are being moved to 855.8625 MHz, your mobiles will move from 807.2875 MHz to 810.8625 MHz.
    - If you have a non-NPSPAC license with reconfiguring frequencies in the 851-866 MHz range that does not have a base station location, please include 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 will not be reconfigured.
  - If you have a license with frequencies only in the 806-824 MHz range for which you have not been given an FPR, please include 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 will 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, which is available on the TA's website at <a href="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</a>

Section 2.2: The current frequencies for any granted <a href="NPSPAC">NPSPAC</a> location and frequency identified in the FCC's ULS database for the call sign and the proposed replacement frequencies pursuant to the FCC's rules for the 800 MHz band plan under which the locations on the call sign operate. This section will appear but not be populated with frequency information if the call sign does not have frequencies authorized in the NPSPAC band.

Section 3: A listing of the <u>expected</u> co-channel licensees on the proposed frequency(ies) to which your system 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. 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, or authorized to use an "offset" frequency 12.5 kHz higher or lower. For instance, if you are authorized to use 852.5125 MHz and ACME Towing is also authorized to use 852.5125 MHz, you are co-channel licensees.

- With the exception of certain areas in Southern California, 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, following reconfiguration, it is expected that you
  will have no co-channel licenses within 113 km (70 miles) of your locations.<sup>2</sup>
- If there are co-channel licensees on the list, it is likely (but not certain) that they
  are co-channel licensees currently operating on your existing frequencies. In
  proposing new frequencies, efforts are made to move existing non-Sprint cochannel licensees to the same new proposed frequencies.
- If your FPR contains proposed co-channel licensees that are not current cochannel licensees, the TA has analyzed the relevant separation distance(s) to

<sup>1</sup> Four sites in Southern California – Santiago Peak, Sierra Peak, Mount Lukens, and Mount Wilson – are entitled to protection for up to 169 kilometers under certain circumstances. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.621(b). If your call sign has operations on one of these sites, the FPR will list co-channels within 169 kilometers of your site. Conversely, if you are not on one of these sites, but are being proposed a replacement frequency that will be co-channel to one of these sites, you will see these locations identified if they are within 169 km. There are also sites in the northern part of NPSPAC Region 5, such as McKittrick Peak, that get additional co-channel protection from certain other specific sites, and this was considered in proposing replacement frequencies.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote 1 for sites that get expanded co-channel distance protection. As a reconfiguring licensee, you should be aware that changes may occur to the co-channel environment of your frequencies after your reconfiguration. For example, once a NPSPAC region is fully reconfigured, the frequencies relinquished by Sprint will be available to new users. All new licenses will follow appropriate FCC rules regarding separation between co-channel users. All licenses will be available for review via the FCC's ULS database. If your reconfiguration implementation will occur after other licensees have reconfigured, the TA recommends using the Call Sign Radius search tool discussed below to evaluate the updated proposed environment.



ensure the distances comply with the FCC's rules regarding short-spacing.<sup>3</sup> If you do not believe the distance complies with the FCC's rules, please contact the TA or, if you have submitted a cost estimate, raise the concern with Sprint. Please note that your co-channel environment may change during reconfiguration, and licensees are encouraged to review their co-channel information periodically.

## Section 4:

A reference listing of current co-channel licensees within 113 kilometers (70 miles) of, or closer to, your 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. 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 the FCC's short-spacing rules for these "historical" co-channel licensees.<sup>4</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 online tools that allow licensees to analyze their FPR and to perform searches of the co-channel environment.

#### Home

This returns to the main page which displays all the frequencies on the license, similar to
the information available from the TA's Call Sign Checker tool on the TA's website at
<a href="http://www.800TA.org/content/800mhz/tools.asp">http://www.800TA.org/content/800mhz/tools.asp</a>. Once a reconfiguration application has
been granted and the Service Code changes to a post-reconfiguration code, the
frequency data will not display.

### **Frequency Proposal Report**

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> As noted previously, certain locations in Southern California will have the distance extended to 169 km.



This tool generates an updated FPR for your call sign. It will reflect any changes made
to your replacement frequencies since the original FPR was mailed, and will also provide
Sections 3 and 4 noted above. The Export tab allows the results to be exported as a
.pdf (Adobe Acrobat), Excel, or .csv file.

#### Call Radius Search

- This tool identifies licenses with locations on a single frequency or within a frequency range you specify (up to 50 kHz) and within a specified distance (up to 250 kilometers) from any fixed location on your call sign.
- The report lists all proximate call signs, arranged by distance, along with current and proposed replacement frequencies, coordinates, and other common parameters as reported in ULS.
- The Export tab allows the results to be exported as a .pdf (Adobe Acrobat), Excel, or .csv file.

## **Proposed Frequency Quick Search**

- This tool describes the nearby proposed frequency environment listing all call sign locations with proposed reconfiguration frequencies within 1 kilometer of the fixed location selected. This is to assist with intermodulation analysis.
- The Export tab allows the results to be exported as a .pdf (Adobe Acrobat), Excel, or .csv file.

## **Blocking Report**

- This report provides Call Sign Blocking Detail, displaying any of your call sign locations on which your replacement frequencies are blocked by other licensees or call sign locations for other licensees that you may be blocking from reconfiguring. The detail includes distance and frequency information, as well as whether or not an application to add the replacement frequency has been granted by the FCC. You can search based on blocked, blocking, or both. The reports show blocks by licensees on both co-channels and 12.5 kHz offset channels.
- The report generates a formatted version for export and printing to review. When the report is generated a link labeled "Tabular Export" appears that will provide a more simply formatted table of the data. This is suitable for exporting into Excel or other data analysis software for further analysis.
- The Export tab allows the results to be exported as a .pdf (Adobe Acrobat), Excel, or .csv file.

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 is required to be reconfigured; (2) you have received frequencies on which you are not eligible to operate pursuant to the Fifth 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 <a href="mailto:comments@800TA.org">comments@800TA.org</a> 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 <a href="www.publicsafety800mhzinterference.com">www.publicsafety800mhzinterference.com</a>. 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.