

## SUMMARY OF THE JOINT COMMENTERS' CONSENSUS PLAN

On August 7, 2002, a compromise proposal was submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in response to the WT 02-55 docket, addressing interference to public safety communications in the 800 megahertz (MHz) band. The following parties were contributors to the proposal: Nextel Communications, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc. (APCO), several other public safety organizations and a group of other 800 MHz channel licensees. The proposal of the group (Joint Commenters) was offered to achieve the FCC's three primary goals of this docket: to eliminate interference to public safety communications on the 800 MHz band; to cause minimum disruption to existing services; and to provide sufficient spectrum for public safety users.

The plan would divide the 800 MHz band into two separate blocks of channels. The first would be designated for traditional, noise-limited, non-cellular architecture systems (including public safety), at 806–816/ 851–861 MHz. The other block of channels would be composed of systems using cellular architecture (CMRS), at 816–824/861–869 MHz. A guard band, containing “campus-like” Business and Industrial/ Land Transportation (B/ILT) or non-cellular Special Mobile Radio (SMR) systems at 814–816/859–861 MHz, would serve as a buffer between the two. The Joint Commenters have agreed that removing the interleaved channels would “relieve a substantial portion” of interference to public safety entities from commercial providers. They also foresee that the channels recovered in rebanding would be allocated for public safety use. The highlights of the plan include the following provisions:

- National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) licensees must approve the transition.
- Other incumbent public safety, B/ILT, and traditional SMR users would not be required to move.
- All entities could remain in the 800 MHz band.
- Public safety users would be relocated adjacent to the 700 MHz public safety block.
- Nextel would pay \$500 million or more toward public safety relocation costs, with no public safety licensees required to move without full payment of all costs.
- Moves would occur on a region-by-region basis.
- Moves would cause no disruption of critical operations.
- Interference to public safety operations would be “mitigated.”

The plan would be gradually implemented in five steps to allow time for the retuning of equipment and other measures necessary to enable the proposed transition. First, all public safety licensees operating in the 806–809/851–854 MHz band, especially those with daily critical needs, would relocate first. Second, non-Nextel, site-licensed B/ILT and SMR licensees in that band would be relocated to the guard band, or 809–814/854–859 MHz band, depending on availability. Next, non-Nextel economic area (EA) licensees would also relocate from the 806–809/851–854 MHz band, and receive equivalent licenses from the lower 80 EA licenses currently occupied by Nextel. Then, the NPSPAC channels would relocate, system by system, to the 806–809/851–854 MHz band, with prioritization based on the amount of interference being experienced in a given region, and by population density. Finally, Nextel would remove all operations from the 809–816/854–861 MHz band. The Joint Commenters predict that the plan could be completed in 3 years.

Public Safety Benefits of Consensus Plan	Nextel Benefits of Consensus Plan
Contiguous block of spectrum for public safety use, next to 700 MHz band	Reduced costs incurred for resolving case-by-case interference incidents
Minimal disruption to incumbents	Nationwide band at 1910–1915/1990–1995 MHz
No interruption of critical public safety services	Receives licenses for 6 MHz in 800 MHz band
All public safety relocation costs paid	Favorable public relations
Channels vacated in rebanding reallocated for public safety	Guard band for 800 MHz channels created from public safety spectrum

