



National Association of Regional Planning Committees *Outreach Initiative*

ALERT TO LICENSEES AND USERS OF 853.4875 MHz (Channel 100) and 868.4875 MHz (Channel 790)

Current licensees of 868.4875 MHz will be moved to 853.4875 MHz in the “Re-banding” process. These licensees should be aware of the history of 853.4875 (A value 15 MHz below the existing NPSPAC channel and a channel utilized in Land Mobile applications for years), the environment it currently exists within and how the 800 MHz re-banding process can potentially negatively impact users of this channel as well as 868.4875 MHz.

In the past, 853.4875 MHz (channel 100) was informally assigned for itinerant and simplex mobile operation on a nationwide basis. This was primarily for businesses but there are also some public safety licenses and agencies utilizing it in their Land Mobile implementation. For example, this channel has been established as a State of Florida mutual aid channel, used throughout Florida to promote interoperability. Eventually, with the legacy mixed public safety/business SMR operator operating environment that was created with channels 1-120, SMR operators were also allowed to include this frequency on their licenses and thereby cover the use of this channels use by their customers. The result is that there are still many radios that still exist programmed and operating on this frequency and most of the users cannot be easily identified.

Because these users are “secondary”, the FCC does not believe they will cause significant interference and does not plan to remove them from 853.4875 MHz, or recognize them as “eligible incumbents” within the re-banding process. In fact, the FCC seems to indicate that they will continue to license new stations (mobile only) on the frequency, possibly outside of the NPSPAC licensing process. Here is the language on this from the FCC Supplemental Order that was released on December 22, 2004:

"The 800 MHz R&O does not specifically address whether these secondary, mobile-only systems must be moved from former Channels 1-120. Because these stations are secondary, and do not have as great a potential for interference as base stations, we do not believe it necessary to

remove them from former Channels 1-120 and will continue to accept public safety and CII applications for such secondary, mobile-only operations on these channels."

While it is likely that new public safety high power fixed stations on 853.4875 will not be significantly impacted by these existing secondary users, Licensees, Regional Planning Committees, State Interoperability Executive Committees that have identified this channel as an interoperable resource and communications service organizations, should be aware of use of this channel in their area and the potential of it causing interference to primary users in the band both during and after re-banding.

Communications service organizations whose business customers are operating on 853.4875 are encouraged to help their customers to move to another frequency, where applicable.

The National Association of Regional Planning Committees encourages parties to remain cognizant of the past and future use of this channel during 800 MHz re-banding.

National Association of Regional Planning Committee, a Mutual Benefit Corporation

October 13, 2005