

Tri-County Communications, Inc.

110 Broad Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13904

6 Keith Street
Oneonta, NY 13820

Phone: 888-358-9160 ◆◆◆ Fax: 607-722-3367

FCC Releases Second Report and Order (R&O) and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM)

In the Matter of Promotion of Spectrum Efficient Technologies on Certain Part 90 Frequencies.
(WT Docket No. 99-87; RM-9332)

Decisions made mandating the transition to narrowband technologies in the VHF and UHF refarming bands include:

- 1) Beginning six months after publication of this 2nd R&O in the Federal Register, prohibit any applications for new operations using 25kHz channels, for any system operating in the 150-174mHz or 421-512mHz refarming bands.
- 2) Beginning six months after publication of this 2nd R&O in the Federal Register, prohibit incumbent 25kHz Part 90 licenses in the 150-174mHz and 421-512mHz bands from making modifications to their systems that expand their respective authorized interference contours as a result thereof.
- 3) Beginning January 1, 2005, prohibit the certification of any equipment capable of operating at one voice path per 25kHz of spectrum, i.e., multi-mode equipment that includes a 25kHz mode.
- 4) Beginning January 1, 2008, prohibit the manufacture and importation of any 25kHz equipment (including multi-mode equipment that can operate on a 25kHz bandwidth).
- 5) Beginning January 1, 2013, require non-public safety licensees using channels in these bands to deploy technology that achieves the equivalent of one voice path per 12.5kHz of spectrum.
- 6) Beginning January 1, 2018, require public safety licensees using channels in these bands to deploy technology that achieves the equivalent of one voice path per 12.5kHz of spectrum.

The 2nd FNPRM seeks **comment on additional** issues related to promoting spectrum efficiency in the private land mobile radio services (PLMRS). The 2nd FNPRM seeks comment on whether the equipment certification provision in the current rules is sufficient to promote migration to one voice path per 6.25kHz bandwidth, or equivalent technology, or whether migration to 6.25kHz bandwidth or equivalent technology should be mandatory.

These rules are certain to be challenged by the filing of Petitions for reconsideration. We recommend regular viewing of the FCC website for further updates.

To view the complete Report & Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making copy either of these links and paste into your browser:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-34A1.doc
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