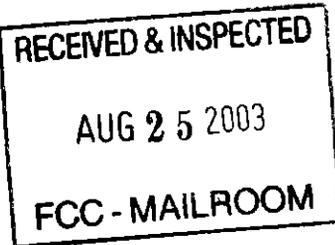


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August 13, 2003



BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS

Ms Marlene H Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Docket 02-55**

Dear Ms Dortch,

Bay County Emergency Services would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceedings regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems

Our Department manages the 800 MHz SmartNet Trunked Radio System for Bay County We have over 1800 users on the system, which consist of Law Enforcement, Fire rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Animal Control, Public Works, Utilities and Traffic Engineering We are also in the process with co-sharing in our county with the State Of Florida's Technology Office with respect to their statewide Law Enforcement Mutual Aid system

We feel that the 800 MHz band could experience unprecedented harmful interference due to congestion and interaction with commercial cellular radio systems across the country The problem may get worse and will continue to worsen short of significant action by the FCC working with commercial and public safety system operators.

We support the 800 MHz Consensus Plan The plan was developed by a coalition of public safety and private wireless organizations to address the serious, growing problem of interference to 800 MHz radio systems. It will eliminate most interference to critical systems and addresses the root cause of interference, rather than just fixing it after the fact. The plan provides funding for implementation and it will provide additional 800 MHz band channels for public safety

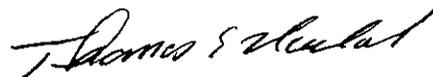
Based on the workshops we have attended over the past year, the "Balanced Approach" is inferior to the Consensus plan Problems we see with the balanced approach are that it's reactive to interference problems, and does little to prevent interference from occurring in the first place Some of the interference mitigation steps could lead to an increase in interference as well

We believe the Balance Approach recommends specific channel swapping with Nextel as a possible remedy and the responsibility for correcting interference may fall on public safety licenses. Motorola's proposed equipment improvements are only a partial answer. The improvements only address interference caused by Intermodulation, not by out of band emissions. Only the newest Motorola radios can be upgraded, others would need to be replaced. Motorola's equipment improvements are only effective for public safety systems that already meet certain minimum levels of performance. Systems not meeting these levels would need to increase power levels and/or transmitter sites at a considerable expense.

The Balanced approach does not include any viable plan to pay the cost of its implementation. I believe under the Consensus Plan, Nextel has pledged \$850 million dollars to pay cost of frequency shifts, though the FCC may decide to impose an unlimited financial obligation on Nextel to pay all reasonable costs.

Whatever the case may be, our concern and interest is to protect Bay County's investment and the integrity of our 800 MHz radio system to ensure public safety needs are met.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bay County Emergency Services



Thomas E. Nudo Sr.  
Communications Manager