

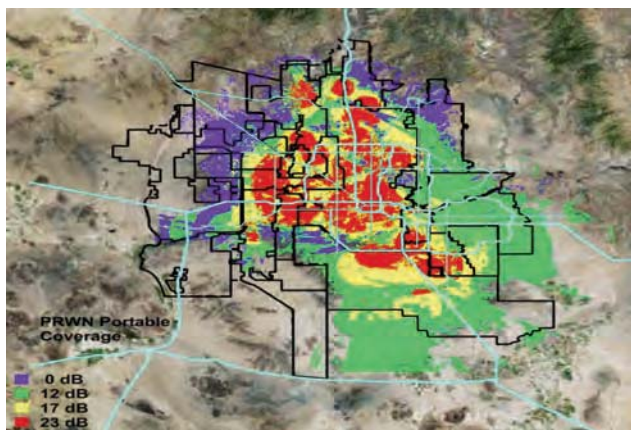


DELAY OF FCC DEADLINE FOR 700 MHZ NARROWBANDING

Request: Postpone the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) January 2017 deadline for 700 MHz narrowbanding.

Background:

FCC public safety narrowbanding is a federal requirement that applies to all public safety radio systems in the VHF, UHF and 700 MHz bands. Narrowbanding will create many more channels than currently are available for licensing to public safety organizations. Per the FCC, on Jan. 1, 2017, all 700 MHz public safety radio systems in the 'General Use and State License' allocations must cease operating on narrowband radio transmitters with efficiency of 12.5 kHz per channel and must migrate to ultra-narrowband technology with efficiency of 6.25 kHz per channel.



Issue: FCC January 2017 Deadline for 700 MHz Narrowbanding:

The Regional Wireless Cooperative (RWC) is a 19-member, multi-jurisdictional joint venture that manages and operates a regional public safety radio communications network. In 2005, a Project 25 (P25) 800 MHz trunked radio system was built to replace the existing VHF communications system in order to seamlessly serve the interoperable communication needs of first responders and other municipal radio users in and around the Phoenix metropolitan area.

The RWC is diligently working with its regional public safety partners to promote interoperability between various public safety radio communications systems, to develop a system-of-

systems approach to link systems together for improved interoperability and to direct operability across a wide geographic area. This geographic footprint encompasses 11,000 square miles, including the Phoenix metropolitan area, with future connectivity to the major population centers of Tucson, Yuma and Flagstaff. The impact of the FCC's 2017 deadline to narrowband 700 MHz on the RWC and its member agencies will create a significant financial hardship that will be difficult, if not impossible, to meet: more than \$43 million for infrastructure and \$79 million for member subscriber units (radios).



Furthermore, in a system of this size, a conversion to comply with the FCC's 2017 mandate to narrowband 700 MHz requires several years of planning and coordination. This narrowbanding rule requires that a majority of existing system infrastructure and subscriber handheld units are not just converted, but replaced. Even when considered on a system-by-system basis, the impacts to each system are large, but when the number of interoperability users is also considered, the changes to one system may significantly impact users in many other allied agencies.

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