

The Administration's Spectrum Policy Initiative

Information Gathering Meeting
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
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Talking Points

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I am here today representing the IACP, MCC, NSA, and MCSA

Presidential Memorandum – Spectrum Policy Initiative - June 5, 2003

1. Spectrum Management is important.
2. A review of spectrum management, as directed by the President, is basically a good idea.
3. A review of spectrum by 15 Federal Agencies is a bad idea.
4. Your invitation to attend today said
“We would like to invite your organization to provide your membership's input with respect to the President's Executive Memorandum, on State and local public safety issues.”
While we appreciate the opportunity to give you our input at this meeting, input is not the same as participation. Currently our only input to the Administration's spectrum management review is through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Project SAFECOM, and through meetings like this.
5. For a review of spectrum management to be successful there must be meaningful participation not only from the Federal stakeholders but also the state and local stakeholders. It will require a different process than is currently underway.
6. Spectrum Management is a complex issue and to have a successful review it must include national public safety organizations representing the state and local public safety community. State and local public safety agencies own and

operate well over 90% of the public safety systems. The current process being conducted by a Federal Task Force is a classic case of the tail wagging the dog.

- a. State and local representatives must be included at the table with all of the participants for meaningful discussions.
 - b. The majority of the nation's public safety community is at the state and local level and not at the Federal level.
 - c. Other than a few traditional uniformed forces such as the U. S. Park Police and the U. S. Capitol Police there are few law enforcement First Responders at the Federal level.
7. You have a copy of a position statement that the national public safety organizations (APCO, IAFC, IMSA, IACP, MCC, NSA, MCSA and NPSTC) issued on October 10, 2003, that sets forth some of our collective concerns.
8. Historically there has never been any meaningful sharing of Federal spectrum with state and local agencies and we have no expectation that this will change. However, there is a long history of state and local agencies allowing Federal agencies to use state and local spectrum, primarily for Interoperability.
9. We have always had an excellent relationship with the NTIA Public Safety Division. However past attempts to work with Federal spectrum managers has always met with road blocks and a claim that state and locals cannot look at or use Federal spectrum because much of it is Classified.
10. We are aware that a current draft report of the Interagency Task Force:
- a. Expresses concerns relative to spectrum management from the Federal community but has no input or concerns from the national public safety organizations or state and local organizations such as the National Assn of Counties, the Conference of Mayors, the League of Cities or the National Governors Association.
 - b. Recommends the establishment of a new Office of Communications and Spectrum Policy (OCSP), the head of which would report directly to the President.
 - c. Recommends that the FCC would remain as it is, except for the transfer of management of public safety services to the OCSP.
 - d. It is our understanding that the only consistent message coming from the Task Force is a recommendation that the management of state and local public safety spectrum be transferred from the FCC to the newly proposed OCSP and says little about the management of other spectrum.

11. While we believe that there is always room for improvement in the management of public safety spectrum at the local, state and federal level we believe that the current thinking of the Task Force to consolidate all State, Local and Federal Spectrum Management under the Federal Executive Branch is not a good idea. We believe that improvement can be accomplished with greater cooperation and coordination between the FCC and NTIA as they currently exist.