

APCO REPORTS

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After bad experiences with delivery of the last couple issues of this publication, we have gone back to first class mailing for this and subsequent issues.

APCO's attention in mid to late March is focused on preparing for our "reply" comments in the FCC's Frequency Coordination proceeding (PR Docket 83-737); pressing as hard as we can to offset a high-powered publicity campaign financed with taxpayer's money (through the National Aeronautics & Space Administration) which is directed toward using the 821-825/866-870 MegaHertz land mobile reserve spectrum for a "first generation" common carrier Mobile Satellite Service, rather than for public safety communications (in connection with the FCC's land mobile reserve proceedings, General Docket Nos. 1231, 1233 and 1234); keeping up with our Frequency Data Research Program; and getting ready for April meetings in Washington of the Public Safety Communications Council and the Land Mobile Communications Council, and the two remaining Regional Conferences, April 15-17 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and May 21-23 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

FREQUENCY DATA RESEARCH PROGRAM: The APCO Frequency Data Research Program as of the end of February had returned more than \$1600 to the APCO Chapters, through the association's policies of returning 20% of the fees collected to the Chapters. The fees collected in February were roughly double those collected totally up to the end of January. The 573 chargeable FDR transactions by the APCO Frequency Advisory Committees logged through the National Office since the fee program began had resulted in billings of \$26,730, collections of \$9310, and outstanding receivables of \$17,420 as of the end of February. A full story of the progress of the program as of the end of March will be put together in early April and published in the May issue of the APCO BULLETIN.

One issue which continues to surface centers on the association's policy decision that the Frequency Data Research Form FDR-1, after completion by the APCO frequency advisor, be returned by APCO to the applicant, rather than to a company assisting the applicant in the frequency coordination and FCC licensing process. However, when the Form FDR-1 indicates that a person other than the applicant would like to be notified when the APCO process has been completed, we have begun sending such notifications to the person identified, at the time we send the completed FDR-1 to the applicant.

This issue, among others, is to be considered again during the APCO Frequency Coordinators' Workshop during the Annual National Conference August 26-29 in San Diego.

The article in the May issue of the BULLETIN will identify the numbers of the FDR-1 Forms completed by each of the APCO Frequency Advisors, as well as other specifics, such as revenues and costs of the FDR Program as of the end of March, and the major items of expense associated with the Program.

This information will also be included in National Office reports at the Regional Conferences in April and May.

FREQUENCY COORDINATION RULEMAKING: APCO's comments in the FCC's Frequency Coordination proceeding were filed with the FCC on schedule on March 11, consistent with the work of the specially constituted, regionally representative Task Force named by President Chuck English to accomplish this job. The key points of APCO's position were covered in the January and February issues of the APCO REPORTS, and APCO's comments will be printed in an edited version in the next (April) issue of the APCO BULLETIN.

The roster of Federal, State and Local governmental units which our Chapter Secretaries were good enough to provide the National Office to show the scope of agencies for which our members work was largely complete at the time we filed our March 11 comments, and several other Chapters have provided us the information since then. We will be adding to that roster in our "reply" comments in this critical proceeding (which are currently due at the FCC on April 25), and would appreciate receiving the information from the few Chapters we have not heard from. As of the writing of this issue of the APCO REPORTS, the Chapters we had not gotten information from are the Alabama, Idaho, Nebraska, Oregon, Tennessee, Wyoming and Alaska Chapters.

Voluminous comments were filed in the Frequency Coordination docket by other organizations, including many in support of APCO's position that we be designated the Coordinator for all of the public safety services, including the special emergency radio service, and a number at variance with our position.

Notable among those supporting APCO's position totally or in major respects were the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors; State, County and City emergency medical service agencies and councils; and other organizations representative of APCO's membership.

While APCO does have significant support for its proposals to be the "Coordinator" for all of the public safety services and the special emergency radio service, to allow the operation of a single, unified data base, we must have the recorded support at the FCC from other agencies or organizations which its members represent, and we ask that your organization file "reply" comments with the FCC in this proceeding if it did not file original comments, or to support APCO's position insofar as it differs from the position of others.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Municipal Signal Association have urged the FCC to issue joint certification to them as the Coordinator for the fire radio service, the special emergency radio service, and the local government radio service, with IMSA maintaining responsibility for the day-to-day management of the frequency coordination functions on a nationwide basis. The IAFC/IMSA proposal contemplates making arrangements with a commercial service bureau to provide centralized computer services to support the proposed service. The various State associations of Fire Chiefs and other organizations which have sought, and won, frequency coordination in the fire radio service for APCO -- and those which have passed resolutions looking toward the same end -- must step forward now in "reply" comments to express their convictions again.

The American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials' Special Committee on Communications asked that the FCC certify ASHTO as the Coordinator for the Highway Maintenance Radio Service and the Local Government Radio Service.

The Eastern States Public Safety Radio League asked to be certified as the Coordinator for New England for the police radio service, the local government radio service, and the special emergency radio service.

The Forestry, Conservation Communications Association asked to be certified as the Coordinator for the Forestry Conservation Radio Service. FCCA pointed out that it had transferred its local government radio service coordination responsibilities to APCO, because of the small number of Forestry Conservation systems within the local government service, and asked that the Commission certify a single Coordinator in the local government service. If the FCC decides to retain multiple coordination of the local government service, however, the association said, FCCA would have APCO continue any coordination effort on behalf of Forestry Conservation users. FCCA also said it would like to see a single public safety Coordinator certified for the 800 MegaHertz public safety frequencies.

The National Association of Business and Educational Radio, in addition to comments in other areas, pointed out that before the release of the FCC NPRM in PR Docket 83-737, NABER and APCO were considering filing a request to be designated "joint" coordinators for the special emergency frequencies, and "NABER still feels a cooperative effort between NABER and APCO would be the most effective means of coordination of these frequencies while preserving the representational status required for all eligibles in the service."

NABER said a survey during a test period in 1983 indicated that about half of the special emergency applications reaching the FCC were considered to be emergency in nature and thus most likely represented by APCO, while the other half were considered to be representative of the membership of NABER.

In asking that it be designated the Coordinator for the special emergency service, NABER said, it assures the Commission that NABER "does not and will not give any preferences to any applicant over any other applicant which is eligible in the service. Contrary to this position," NABER said, "APCO has consistently taken the position that those non-emergency eligibles in the special emergency service should not be considered on an equal basis with the public safety users of such frequencies." and NABER "does not believe it to be in the fair and equitable interest of at least 50% of the users of such frequencies to have to rely on APCO to make a non-biased frequency selection decision."

(APCO's comments point out that "to comply with the Commission's stated intent to have a single Coordinator for each service," APCO "strongly believes that it is the single most representative organization and the only logical or acceptable choice to assure coordinated operation with other public safety agencies." APCO asks that "the matter of eligibility in the special emergency service be discussed as a separate issue, and believes that significant changes are in order. Non-emergency operations should be moved to other portions of the spectrum and coordinated by others.")

Comp Comm, an engineering consulting firm, asked that it be certified as the Coordinator for the four 800 MHz frequency categories and the 900 MHz paging channels, pointing out that it would use engineering studies as the basis for frequency coordination, and would maintain an enhanced data base." "Assuming the applicant is available as required for all necessary telephone discussions and concurrences," the company said, it "will complete the process of selecting channels within four business days of receipt of a complete Form 574 and file the application with the Commission."

Comp Comm proposed the following fees for these frequency coordination services: \$100 for the first location of a proposed channel; \$50 for "additional locations, same geographic area, same channel); and \$30 for "additional channel(s), same location. If Comp Comm were to select the frequencies, the proposed fee would be \$200 for "first location of a proposed channel; \$50 for "additional locations, same geographical area, same channel"; and \$30 for "additional channel(s), same location." Comp Comm proposes to charge \$25 per hour for "resolution of incomplete Form 574's."

The Comp Comm offering is based on its proposal that "private land mobile frequency coordinators should be organized by blocks of frequencies rather than by radio service."

Teletech, Inc., another firm which provides commercial frequency coordination services, said it opposes the NPRM's proposal to designate single frequency coordinators for each service, and favors, instead, competition in the frequency coordination service market. Teletech said the NPRM will require each and every certified Coordinator to base its frequency coordinations on master frequency file information made available to the public by a third party contractor, and argued that this requirement should be expanded to provide for routine submission of pending frequency coordination information by all coordinators to the contractor. This, it said, would ensure that all information required for accurate and efficient coordination is made publicly available.

An unsigned set of comments from the State of Colorado said the public safety services and the special emergency service should, "for frequency coordination purposes, be considered to be a single unit having a single frequency coordination committee or coordinator for the State of Colorado," and asked the FCC to "recognize a single Public Safety Frequency Coordination Committee or Coordinator for each state." The filing said the State "does not have sufficient information to comment on the following items of concern: responsibility of the local committee; authority of the local committee; fees to be charged; justification of the fee; responsibility for the data bases; accuracy of the data bases; and legal liabilities."

Another point of view was offered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which in addition to asking that the AASHTO Special Committee on Communications be designated the Coordinator for the highway maintenance radio service, suggested that the FCC "provide a data terminal off of the FCC data bank at the national AASHTO Office in Washington, D.C. at no additional cost to AASHTO."

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL: APCO First Vice President Joe Nasser and APCO Executive Director Bob Tall, meanwhile, made a scheduled March 6 presentation to the National Research Council's Committee on National Security Telecommunications Policy Planning Environment in Washington, describing APCO's views on the current status of State and local government radio systems in the United States, and how this resource can best be used to augment other available resources in coping with local and/or national emergency situations. The National Research Council is the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering to serve government and other organizations.

APCO's recommendations for stimulating the integration of State and local communications systems within themselves and with Federal systems were these:

-Take the steps to ensure that the State and local systems are adequate within themselves to handle their responsibilities on a day-to-day basis: (a) with available, up-to-date technology; (b) with adequate, contiguous radio frequency spectrum; (c) with self-administered spectrum management authority; (d) with enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone systems; (e) with computer-aided, consolidated dispatch centers; (f) with excess capacity to accommodate Federal priorities without disruption to State and local operation.

-Establish the mechanism for a single Federal Agency to take the lead in working with representatives of the State and local systems to integrate Federal needs into the State and local systems on a day-to-day basis as specific needs arise, and on a widespread or national basis in the event of major emergency.

The APCO spokesmen pointed out that "the technology is available today", and that "APCO has the expertise" to do the job.

Specific Federal Agency actions necessary to bring about the results, they said, are: (1) FCC blessing of the APCO-proposed long-range, comprehensive plan in PR Docket No. 84-232, and ultimate allocation of adequate, contiguous spectrum; (2) Federal Emergency Management Agency or other Federal Agency funding support to carry out the plan; (3) FCC allocation of the 821-825/866-870 MegaHertz band to the public safety services in General Docket Nos. 84-1233 and 84-1233 and 84-1234 for near-term relief; (4) FCC certification of APCO as the single Coordinator for the public safety and special emergency radio services; (5) Federal Agency assistance in APCO's development and maintenance of a comprehensive public safety radio data base, and reliance on that data base for Federal-State-Local integration; (6) Federal Agency support for the more rapid installation of enhanced 9-1-1 systems; and (7) Continued Federal Agency willingness to participate in APCO-sponsored seminars and conferences to discuss matters of mutual concern.

A full story on APCO's briefing to the National Research Council Committee will be printed in the next (April) issue of the APCO BULLETIN.

FCC FEES: The often-advanced proposal that the FCC impose fees for its licensing and other "services" to carry some of the freight of the agency's operating costs was offered again early in March when the Commission appeared before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and related agencies to explain the Administration's Fiscal Year 1986 budget request. FY 86 begins October 1, 1985.

FCC Chairman Mark Fowler said the fee schedules proposed would bring back into the Treasury more than half of the FY 86 budget request of \$92,300,000. An FCC fee schedule had actually been in operation some years back, until the courts found problems with it and called for a halt, plus refund of the money collected. Later proposals which the Commission felt were within its authority failed enactment by Congress.

The fees proposed this year are higher than previously. A private land mobile radio service license fee would be \$30, for instance, while a private microwave station license fee would be \$60. The FCC has not actually issued any proposals to implement the fee schedule, but normal rulemaking might not be necessary if Congress were to direct the Commission to implement the schedule as part of its authorization bill.

FCC sources confirm that week that public safety and other local governmental entities will be provided exemptions from the fee schedule, as has been the case in the past. However, all the FCC staff is not in agreement on this point.

LAND MOBILE RESERVE SPECTRUM: Salt Lake City Chief of Police E.L. "Bud" Willoughby, representing the Major City Chiefs of Police, and APCO Executive Director Bob Tall, visited with several key members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in Washington in mid-March to explain the necessity that the FCC allocate the 821-825/866-870 MegaHertz section of the land mobile radio "reserve" spectrum to public safety communications, rather than to a new common carrier Mobile Satellite Service, as the FCC has proposed in General Docket No. 84-1234.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police had passed a resolution at the IACP annual conference in Salt Lake City last fall asking the FCC to take this action, and the Major City Chiefs organization, among others, have joined in the

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effort, while simultaneously supporting APCO's plea to the Commission for a comprehensive, long-range plan. Our reasoning was spelled out in the January issue of the APCO REPORTS, as well as in background papers widely distributed to APCO Chapter officials.

The FCC has again extended the deadline for comments in this proceeding, to April 22, and APCO Regulatory Review Chairman Art McDole (Monterey County, California, phone 408-422-9981) is taking the lead in putting together APCO's comments. It is essential that the public safety organizations throughout the country mount a strong show of support for our position, since the National Aeronautics & Space Administration is spending vast amounts of money in a publicity campaign to induce public safety people to support the common carrier Mobile Satellite Service.

With respect to the State and Local governmental activity, the NASA booklet being distributed widely talks about the need for a Mobile Satellite Service to serve 27% of the Local government activity which is located outside the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, which it points out may not be served by cellular telephone systems. We have to show clearly that public safety communications will not be served, except indirectly, by cellular systems anyway, and that we need the 821-825/866-870 MHz band for the major cities as well as the 27% activity outside those cities.

The NASA booklet speaks of a "First Generation System" using the 800 MHz frequencies being proposed for the satellite service, and clearly indicates that subsequent operations will use frequencies higher in the spectrum. The public safety people must show that to allocate the frequencies to Mobile Satellite would be taking away the possibility of immediate public safety use of the frequencies by currently available state-of-the-art technology, and divert this spectrum for an interim system which even the Satellite proponents admit will not be the answer.

The NASA booklet contemplates a commercial operation which would have a payoff "rate of return" of from 20% to 40% on venture capital by some chosen new business operation. The public safety people must show that we need the frequencies to save lives and protect property.

APCO is not against the concept of a Mobile Satellite Service; we are against it using the 800 MHz frequencies which are the only frequencies we can use to expand the 800 MHz systems.

Please call the National Office if you need further information to file comments with the FCC. Remember, the comment deadline is April 22.