

APCO REPORTS

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Volume 2, Number 7

January, 1986

At the end of the month of January, 1986 APCO was awaiting word from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as to whether its response to a FEMA Request for Proposals would result in a contract with the agency; a successful Gulf States Regional Conference was winding up; the FCC was in the process of initiating a new Notice of Proposed Rulemaking of great interest to APCO members; and Regional and National Conference activity was continuing to build.

FEMA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Without counting its chickens before they were hatched, APCO was somewhat optimistically awaiting word, expected in February, that its proposals to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in response to a FEMA Request for Proposals in connection with an initiative entitled "National Security Emergency Preparedness Telecommunications Section J-10" would result in a contract award to the Association under which APCO would be a partner in Federal/State/Local planning efforts to improve the nation's emergency response capabilities.

APCO's proposals were submitted to FEMA on January 27, 1986, under a tight timetable specified by the Agency. The APCO proposals were put together by a team appointed by President Dick Miller, headed by President-Elect Joe Nasser. Because of the shortness of time available to prepare the APCO proposals, the APCO National Board of Officers approved the filing of the proposals subject to withdrawal before award of the contract in the event the APCO National Executive Committee disapproved of the Board action.

(This issue of the APCO Reports was delayed pending the approval by the Executive Committee of the Board's action. The vote of the Executive Committee was overwhelmingly in support of the Board's action, as only one negative ballot was cast.)

APCO was informed on February 10 that its proposals had been found to be "technically acceptable" by FEMA, and was invited to "sharpen" its proposals in preparation for a final selection of a bidder for the contract. APCO was invited to make any revisions it desired in its Contract Pricing Proposal. The FEMA contract is to be a negotiated contract, covering a one-year study effort, with reports due at intervals during that period.

The FEMA move in issuing the contract followed extensive discussion of the general subject of the study over the past year. APCO submitted its proposals in line with the "Memorandum of Understanding" between APCO and FEMA signed last May at the APCO East Coast Regional Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, and following the keynote address of FEMA Associate Director Samuel Speck at the APCO Annual National Conference last August in San Diego, California.

(Since the Cost Pricing Proposal is critical in the award of the FEMA contract, it would be inopportune to discuss it or the details of APCO's plan of approach in this

issue of the APCO Reports.)

The "Description/Specifications/Work Statement" in the FEMA RFP, however, spells out the background of the initiative, the objectives, and the work which FEMA is generally calling for. This statement follows:

1. Background

Dedicated, reliable, and survivable inter- and intragovernmental emergency communications capabilities are critical to Federal, State and local government officials for responding to and managing emergencies and maintaining their continuity of government.

In order to assure the in-place availability of emergency communications for all magnitudes of emergencies, whether they be local, State, multistate, regional or nationwide, there must be a high degree of assurance that the telecommunications resources at all levels of government sustain a high level of interoperability, where appropriate, and consistent with the law and regulation.

The ability to coordinate and concentrate necessary elements of telecommunications resources in times of major disasters or national emergency is directly dependent upon the efficiency and adequacy of telecommunications resources to meet user requirements and the compatibility of telecommunications systems to interconnect Federal, State and local governmental entities under emergency conditions.

In order to assure effective networking among various government levels, it is necessary to identify those telecommunications resources currently in place at the various levels of government. The operational requirements of various levels of government for interfacing, and the interfacing compatibilities that exist based on the identification of operational requirements must be accounted for. Measures must be taken to correct interfacing deficiencies and a plan should be prepared to execute these corrective measures. Previously, the above initiatives have not been undertaken in a multigovernment cooperative effort, therefore, there has been little information upon which to draw in order to seek solutions to the problem of multigovernment level telecommunications resources interface incompatibilities.

2. Objectives

- a. Through the employment of random sampling and survey techniques, validate the accuracy of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Nongovernment Master File.
- b. Establish a field specific format of the FCC Nongovernment Master File and the National Telecommunications Information Administration file for the development of a Federal, State and local government data base, to be established by the Federal Government (FEMA).
- c. Determine the interoperation needs of Federal agencies with State and local agencies in a national emergency.
- d. Determine the interoperation capabilities of the requirements in 2c above.
- e. Determine the corrective actions necessary to improve deficiencies in interoperative capabilities between Federal and State/local governments.
- f. To establish a plan to place into action Federal, State, and local telecommunication resources under a national threat environment, taking

into consideration interoperability constraints and operational requirements.

3. Work

In order to accomplish the contract objectives, the contractor shall perform the following tasks:

- a. Task A - Perform a validation of the accuracy of selected records and fields of the FCC Nongovernment Master File. The sample jurisdictional population shall be randomly selected, but will consist of one jurisdiction in each of the 50 States. Additionally, the number of records to be sampled in each jurisdiction will be 20. Compile results into a report identifying the accuracy level of the sampled records as a whole and a matrixed presentation of the accuracy level of the fields of the records. The report shall contain analysis of findings, a detailed "walk-through" of the matrixed data, and a conclusion of the impact of the findings, as it relates to the application of the FCC Nongovernment Master File in a national security environment, based on the accuracy level found.

The contractor shall perform the random selection of the sample population using scientifically acceptable statistical techniques. The selection will be made from the Bureau of Census records of State and local jurisdictions. Project Officer will approve the final selection to assure randomness.

The contractor shall provide the Project (O) with the record format and actual documents to be provided the surveyees, as well as the cover letters for dispatching.

All computer services required to process the results of the survey will be the responsibility of the contractor.

- b. Task B - Review the Federal agencies' requirements for telecommunications interoperability with selected State and local government agencies in time of a national emergency and identify those Federal telecommunications systems that have an interoperability capability with the State and local telecommunications system. The two major data base resources to be used in this interoperability capability analysis will be the FCC Nongovernment Master File and the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) Master File. Prepare a report on the above.
- c. Task C - Based on analysis in Task B above, identify those Federal systems and State and local Telecommunications resources that do not have the capability to interoperate and recommend solutions to bring about the required interoperability capability. Prepare a report on the above.

GULF COAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE: The Gulf Coast Regional Conference of APCO, held January 28-31 in Mobile, Alabama, quickly stamped its seal of approval on the Board of Officers action in submitting the response to the FEMA RFP, as it unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing that "the preparation of APCO's bid required a strong and dedicated work effort on the part of the APCO Officer/Staff

team which submitted the response", and noting that the Board of Officers "demonstrated strong and intelligent leadership initiative in approving the filing of the APCO response, subject to a validation vote by the APCO National Executive Committee." The resolution "endorsed" and "commended" the action of the Board and the National Office Staff "in this worthwhile and important endeavor."

Another significant step taken during the Gulf Coast Regional Conference was the establishment by the Chapters in the Region of a continuing "APCO Gulf Coast Regional Consortium Chairman" position, designed to provide a traveling repository for Regional records and to fill a void felt by the Region to exist within the current provisions of the APCO National Constitution & Bylaws. Elected as the first Gulf Coast Regional Consortium Chairman was George Murray, of the Georgia State Patrol, who currently serves as President of the Georgia Chapter of APCO.

One of the reasons discussed for establishment of the position was to better ensure that the Regional Conferences be rotated among the Chapters in the Region. Of the seven Regional Conferences held since 1979, three have been in Florida; one has been in Georgia (1987's is also scheduled for Atlanta, Georgia); one has been in Texas; one has been in Louisiana; and one (this year's) has been in Alabama. The Gulf Coast Region also includes the states of Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, along with Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The first APCO member to publicly announce candidacy for the election to the office of APCO National Second Vice President during the Annual National Conference in Milwaukee in August also stepped forward during the Gulf Coast Regional Conference, as Roanne Rubin, 9-1-1 Coordinator for Seminole County, Florida, told the Conference attendees that she has the necessary authorizations from her County officials and plans to seek the Office. Ms. Rubin, who moved from the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, area to Florida a year ago, is serving as APCO's National 9-1-1 Emergency Number Committee Chairperson, after having held office in the Minnesota Chapter.

A National Board of Officers meeting preceding and during the Gulf Coast Regional resulted in a number of directives to the National Office Staff to move forward with APCO Programs, and draft minutes of the meeting have been circulated to the National Executive Committee in preparation for action during its upcoming March 5 scheduled meeting during the Western States Regional Conference in Sparks, Nevada.

Among other things, the Board reviewed planning for the upcoming Annual National Conference in Milwaukee (August 18-21) and took notice of the fact that contracts have already been signed for 177 exhibit booths at the Conference, leaving only 37 more booths to be sold. A total of 184 booths were sold for the 1985 National Conference in San Diego, California. The booths-sold figures do not include the space which will be devoted to APCO in-house exhibit space, such as for APCO Conference and other Committee activities, or those offered on a complimentary basis to such organizations as the Federal Communications Commission.

Following a report from APCO Counsel John Lane on the status of regulatory proceedings of interest to APCO members, the Board of Officers directed an increase in efforts to attempt to counteract stepped-up lobbying activities of those seeking to persuade the FCC to allocate the 821-825 and 866-870 megahertz bands for a commercial common carrier communications satellite service rather than for public safety communications.

SYNTHESIZED EQUIPMENT: The FCC took action at the end of January which would be responsive to one of the resolutions passed by the APCO Quorum at San Diego last August as it adopted a new "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" in PR Docket No. 86-37 looking toward prohibiting the use in the private land mobile radio services of transmitters having external frequency controls.

At the San Diego Conference, APCO adopted a resolution proposed by the Georgia Chapter which would encourage two-way radio manufacturers to "design and manufacture equipment that may not be easily retuned onto unauthorized frequencies without special devices" and encourage two-way radio technicians "to verify authorization prior to programming synthesized radios onto a given frequency."

While APCO did not formally petition for FCC rulemaking on the subject, it asked FCC Chairman Mark Fowler to join in an educational effort to encourage steps that could lead to the stamping out of the interference problems caused by the use of the easily retunable equipment, and the National Association of Business & Educational Radio followed up with a request for stronger action than had been asked by APCO.

In its initial announcement of the new NPRM, the Commission pointed out that its proposal "specifically calls for amending Section 90.203 of the rules to exclude from type-acceptance under Part 90, any transmitter (above 25 megahertz) with external frequency controls that would permit the selection of unauthorized frequencies."

The Commission said its concern "is that such equipment enables operators to select unauthorized frequencies too easily," and it "fears that even occasional, inadvertent use of unauthorized channels by a large number of land mobile users would cause harmful interference not only to other land mobile operations, but also to marine, aviation or government radio operations in the same or adjacent frequency bands."

The proposed rule amendment, the agency said, would "require manufacturers of land mobile radios to exclude or design any external frequency controls so that operators will be unable to select authorized frequencies," and would "prohibit the manufacture and sale of transmitters that are not designed in this fashion on the adoption of the Report and Order in this matter."

The Commission invited "all interested parties, especially equipment manufacturers, to file comments on this proposal." The full text of the new NPRM was not immediately available, and the comment deadline was not known when this issue of the APCO Reports went into the mail. FCC staff contact for further information is Thomas L. Johnson, phone 202-632-6497, in Washington.

ATLANTIC CHAPTER RESOLUTIONS: The Atlantic Chapter of APCO has submitted three proposed resolutions to lead off this year's round of such offerings. One, which proposes to amend the National APCO Constitution & Bylaws "to provide an Oversight Committee representative of the frequency coordination body of APCO", is published in the February issue of the APCO BULLETIN.

In its discussion of its resolution, which is to be "Resolution #1" considered by the APCO Quorum in August in Milwaukee, the Chapter says:

"The Frequency Coordination System of this Association has undergone significant changes in the past several years. The Board of Officers has often had to make decisions concerning the future of coordination. These decisions were made without benefit of the concurrence of the Frequency Advisory Committee. Due to the size and scope of the

existing Frequency Advisory Committee, it is not reasonable to poll each member. The Coordination Oversight Committee represents a small workable group to which the Board can turn for guidance. Being an elected committee, the members would be representative of their Region. Decisions and opinions of this committee can be considered as a representation of the entire Frequency Advisory Committee.

"This Committee should be considered a permanent part of the Association as the expansion of the APCO role in coordination seems to be an ongoing process. Proper representation of the frequency coordinator in the decision process can best be assured by the permanency of this committee.

"The frequency coordinators must live and work under the regulations and procedures provided by the Association. They should have a representation input into the determination of these procedures."

A second resolution from the Atlantic Chapter, which does not require action at the Milwaukee Conference, asks the APCO National Board of Officers "to initiate a request for (FCC) rulemaking to establish an intersystem channel in the to-be allocated, compatible 800 megahertz reserve spectrum."

The resolution points out that "The use of 800 mhz is prevalent in (the Atlantic Chapter area) in that the States of New Jersey and Connecticut, along with numerous County and Municipal agencies in these states and New York and Massachusetts, particularly, but not limited to, the City of New York, New York/New Jersey Port Authority, Counties of Nassau and Suffolk, N. Y., Newark and Jersey City, N.J., have implemented or are planning to implement 800 mhz systems," and the FCC "has set the precedent of reserving specific channels for intersystem communications and present intersystem channels are not compatible with 800 mhz."

The Chapter asks that APCO "set aside one conventional 800 mhz pair out of the reserve pool which will carry the limitation 'for intersystem communication only'."

The National Board of Officers and the National Executive Committee will consider the resolution during the Western States Regional Conference in Sparks, Nevada.

The third resolution offered by the Chapter is one which "objects to a universal nationwide State Police Telephone Number," and asks that "National APCO take a strong position against the Universal Nationwide State Police Telephone Number, and to reinstate APCO's solid support for "one nation, one number...9-1-1."

The resolution observes that "a toll free 'Universal Nationwide State Police Telephone Number' (800-525-5555), is available and is being marketed by AT&T which will permit persons to telephone State Police Communications Centers, which can respond directly to highway emergencies or transfer the call to appropriate EMS and other emergency response units, or transfer the call to the appropriate 9-1-1 PSAP, as needed."

The Chapter urges that "the single 3 digit number 9-1-1 is in the best interest of all public safety providers, including the State Police agencies throughout the nation."