Interoperability In Virginia

Panel Name: **Lessons Learned and Next Steps for 800 MHz Rebanding**

Speakers:

David Warner, Virginia Information Technologies Agency
Doug Onhaizer, Virginia Beach Communications and IT Administrator
Jack Anderson presenting for Duff Barney, RCC/Fairfax

General Comments:

Fairfax and Virginia Beach recommend hiring outside counsel to support the mediation process of 800 MHz re-banding.

Virginia Beach recognized that a limiting factor in the process is the ability for the community to discuss the specifics of their re-banding deal with others. They can only share high-level information. The same limiting factor applies to all agencies in the process of re-banding. It would be helpful if they could openly share detailed lessons learned.

Question and Answer Session:

Q: When you completed negotiation with Nextel, did your money go up or down?

A: Money wasn't impacted. We did unique negotiations. Sprint/NEXTEL questions were focused around MOUs and agreements. The Sprint/NEXTEL concerns were about regional issues. We had a lot of discussions justifying and demonstrating that we had real regional negotiation. The Planning Funding Agreement (PFA) was signed without having the regional piece worked out; therefore, we had to submit an amendment.

Q: You mentioned that the Special Temporary Authority (STA) sites were not funded? Were they determined to be necessary for the transition? The FCC Report & Order states there are no cost, so how could they deny paying for this?

A: Yes, they were necessary. This was part of our mediation. We got to the point of signing, and then we addressed the three SDA sites. Our mediator went

back to request ruling from the FCC. We were told there is not a FCC ruling associated with it.

STA sites were not originally considered. You could take to FCC to seek a ruling: we chose not to.

Q: Regarding NPSPAC frequencies, how did you take North Carolina into consideration?

A: We did not include that consideration. We will reband relative to our sites. We did frequency coordination so that we would not impact other agencies, but did not include North Carolina in the planning process because they're in Wave 3.

Q: How can you assure what's done in your region doesn't create interference after Wave 3? You have reband, but there are jurisdictions in Wave 3 which have the potential to cause interference after they reband. We're looking for assurance that if we do move, we don't have a problem later. You may still incur interference because of the timeframe difference between Wave 1 and 3. How can you be completely assured? Both Co-channel and adjacent channel interference is a concern.

A: That is a valid point. When we negotiate, the Transition Administrator (TA) looks at that and coordinates to makes sure that moving down does not interfere with others. The TA has to push frequency change to FCC to ensure that it's clear. They double check.

The Virginia Commonwealth has rebanded 3 systems without any interference problems. The northern end is in negotiations and our foot print overlaps with Pennsylvania. Sprint/NEXTEL will not determine if there is a problem.

Virginia Beach is considering doing a baseline before reconfiguring. Afterwards, we can compare against the original baseline. I am concerned that when we drop our channels down and reconfigure, and I do have problems, that there's no cost associated to fix problem.