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ALL AREA CODES ARE 415

March 14, 2012

NERA Executive Committee
95 Rowland Way
Novato, CA 94945

Re: Reallocation of Public Safety Spectrum and Funding Opportunities

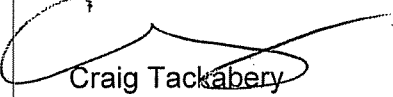
Dear Directors,

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, the President signed into law H.R. 3630, the "Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012," which extends through December 31, 2012: (1) a reduction in employment tax rates for employees and the self-employed; (2) an initial eligibility for emergency unemployment compensation and 100 percent Federal funding for extended unemployment insurance benefits; and (3) a Medicare physician payment update delaying a rate reduction for physician services. Also extends assistance for needy families through September 30, 2012.

An excerpt from the bill is attached. This legislation provides both challenges and opportunities. Not later than 9 years after the date of enactment, or February 21, 2021, the T-Band spectrum currently in use by MERA must be reallocated. The legislation also provides that the Assistant Secretary can use auction proceeds from a competitive bidding process for new licenses in this spectrum to make grants to recover relocation costs for the relocation of public safety entities from the T-Band spectrum. Agencies will have two years after the competitive bidding date to relocate. This is an opportunity to actively participate in the rulemaking for the upcoming grants.

In addition, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) recently released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants (SAFECOM Guidance). More information is provided in the second attachment. This is an opportunity to secure funding for MERA equipment.

Very truly yours,


Craig Tackabery
NERA Operations Officer

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TITLE VI—PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM AUCTIONS

Subtitle A—Reallocation of Public Safety Spectrum

SEC. 6101. REALLOCATION OF D BLOCK TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall reallocate the 700 MHz D block spectrum for use by public safety entities in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b) **SPECTRUM ALLOCATION.**—Section 337(a) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 337(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “24” in paragraph (1) and inserting “34”;
and

(2) by striking “36” in paragraph (2) and inserting “26”.

SEC. 6102. FLEXIBLE USE OF NARROWBAND SPECTRUM.

The Commission may allow the narrowband spectrum to be used in a flexible manner, including usage for public safety broadband communications, subject to such technical and interference protection measures as the Commission may require.

SEC. 6103. 470–512 MHZ PUBLIC SAFETY SPECTRUM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 9 years after the date of enactment of this title, the Commission shall—

(1) reallocate the spectrum in the 470–512 MHz band (referred to in this section as the “T-Band spectrum”) currently used by public safety eligibles as identified in section 90.303 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations; and

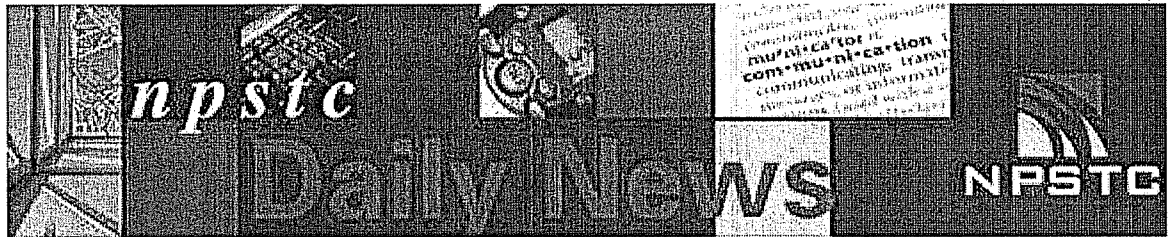
(2) begin a system of competitive bidding under section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) to grant new initial licenses for the use of the spectrum described in paragraph (1).

(b) **AUCTION PROCEEDS.**—Proceeds (including deposits and upfront payments from successful bidders) from the competitive bidding system described in subsection (a)(2) shall be available H. R. 3630—51

to the Assistant Secretary to make grants in such sums as necessary to cover relocation costs for the relocation of public safety entities from the T-Band spectrum.

(c) **RELOCATION.**—Relocation shall be completed not later than 2 years after the date on which the system of competitive bidding described in subsection (a)(2) is completed.

From: Charles V. Bryson [<mailto:cbryson@rcc.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 6:30 PM
To: NPSTC-PARTICIPANTS@yahoogroups.com; NPSTC-INTEROP-COM@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Outreach News



1. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is pleased to announce the release of the *Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants (SAFECOM Guidance)*. This document is updated annually to provide guidance for State, local, tribal, and territorial grantees on eligible activities and equipment standards that may be applicable to Federal grants that fund emergency communications projects. This year's *SAFECOM Guidance* has been restructured to serve as a more useful reference manual in planning emergency communications projects, identifying available grant funding, and offering additional resources to consider before applying.

As in previous years, OEC coordinated with State and local stakeholders and our Federal agency partners to develop recommended emergency communications priorities, technical standards, resources for finding grant funding, and grant management best practices.

New this year, the *SAFECOM Guidance* includes a list of emergency communications priorities. Grantees are strongly encouraged to target grant funding toward the following priorities:

- Priority 1: Leadership and Governance
- Priority 2: Statewide Planning for Emergency Communications
- Priority 3: Emergency Communications Training and Exercises
- Priority 4: Other Integral Emergency Communications Activities
- Priority 5: Standards-Based Equipment

- Priority 6: Planning for Investments in Broadband and Other Advanced Technologies

Understanding that grantees are operating in a constrained fiscal environment, OEC encourages State and local grantees to coordinate with their State Administrative Agency (SAA) to share emergency communications proposals, and to identify new and unexpended funding for emergency communications priorities. Further, grantees should coordinate projects with their Statewide Interoperability Coordinator to ensure projects support their Statewide Interoperability Plan and comply with the interoperability standards outlined in the *SAFECOM Guidance*. Lastly, grantees should work with other eligible entities to partner on projects that enhance regional interoperability, promote asset-sharing, and reduce duplication in funding.

OEC hopes that State and local stakeholders will find this guidance useful in preparing their applications for FY 2012 DHS preparedness grants. The full *SAFECOM Guidance* may be found on the [SAFECOM](#) website. Specific questions regarding the *SAFECOM Guidance* should be directed to OEC at OEC@hq.dhs.gov.

OEC would also like to bring to your attention two additional documents released by DHS in February. The first document is a memo regarding the "[Expenditure of Certain DHS/FEMA Grant Funding](#)."

DHS will be implementing a number of measures to provide grantees with additional flexibility to accelerate the expenditure of remaining FEMA grant funds for FY 2007 – 2011. As explained in the memo, DHS will allow additional flexibility in the reprogramming of unexpended FEMA grant funds from those fiscal years, potentially to include support for emergency communications priorities such as Statewide Interoperability Coordinators, narrowbanding, and activities to address gaps in Statewide Interoperability Plans, and NECP Goal 2 Compliance and Performance Reports. The memo also provides information on expanded use of funds for maintenance and operations, personnel, and equipment. Emergency communications stakeholders are encouraged to review the memo carefully to understand the requirements associated with the reprioritization of funds, as well as

for alignment to the National Preparedness Goal. Please coordinate with your SAA on any proposed changes, and remember that all reprogramming requests should be approved in writing by FEMA.

The second document is the *FY 2013 National Preparedness Grant Program Vision Document*. The document outlines a significant shift in homeland security funding methods and priorities, including the streamlining of existing programs into a single grant program – the National Preparedness Grant Program – beginning in FY 2013. While many elements of the Vision must be approved by Congress to be implemented, this document provides a preview of upcoming debates over the future of national-level grants policy.

- 2012 SAFECOM Guidance FINAL.pdf
2. Last week, APCO held an excellent webinar discussing aspects of Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Cut legislation that provided the D Block to public safety. The presentation and slide deck are now available under the Advocacy section of the APCO website: <http://apcointl.org/advocacy/take-action/resources.html>.
 3. Public Safety 700MHz Broadband Demonstration Network – PSCR IWCE
<http://www.pscr.gov/about_pscr/highlights/iwce_2012/t113-olbrich.pdf>
 4. In the news:

When Is It OK to Block Wireless Service? FCC Wants to Know
<<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2401094,00.asp>>
FCC Deals a Setback to Dish's Wireless Network Plans

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203753704577257873788617682.html?mod=dist_smartbrief>
Public safety broadband network: Boon or boondoggle?
<<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/bay-area/2012/03/public-safety-broadband-network-boon-or-boondoggle>>
APCO Hires Jeff Cohen as Chief Counsel for Law and Policy

<http://www.radioresourcemag.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=8006>

Public Safety now has the D block, funding, and a new governance organization. < <http://tinyurl.com/74osucp>>

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