

NPSTC Governing Board Members Oppose Reallocation of Public Safety 700 MHz Broadband Spectrum

Twelve of the 13 public safety associations participating in a National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) Governing Board meeting today opposed reallocating the current Public Safety 700 MHz Broadband spectrum.

The member associations of NPSTC reviewed the alternative proposal from the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) regarding public safety broadband communications. The NENA proposal includes a suggestion to auction the 700 MHz broadband spectrum, allocated by Congress to public safety in 1997, and currently licensed to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust, and to auction the adjacent 700 MHz D Block Spectrum.

The following is the text of the position adopted:

The member associations of NPSTC have reviewed the alternative proposal from the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) regarding public safety broadband communications. The NENA proposal includes a suggestion to auction the 700 MHz broadband spectrum, allocated by Congress to public safety in 1997, and currently licensed to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust, and to auction the adjacent 700 MHz D Block spectrum.

NPSTC does not support the proposal to reallocate the 10 MHz of public safety 700 MHz broadband block to commercial use, as it would give back scarce public safety spectrum. Doing so would also undermine progress made during recent meetings among numerous major public safety organizations to further address matters related to the development of a nationwide interoperable broadband network.

NPSTC encourages NENA to abandon the promotion of its proposal to remove current spectrum from public safety and instead to support current efforts by the majority of the national public safety organizations that would increase spectrum for public safety. These efforts encourage Congress to enact legislation to direct the Federal Communications Commission to allocate the 700 MHz D Block spectrum to public safety and add it to the Public Safety Broadband License.

The following member associations of NPSTC supported the position:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
American Radio Relay League
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International
Forestry Conservation Communications Association
International Association of Chiefs of Police
International Association of Emergency Managers
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Municipal Signal Association
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Association of State Foresters
National Sheriffs' Association

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) opposed the position. The National Association of State Technology Directors (NASTD) and the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) were absent from the meeting.

Adopted by the NPSTC Governing Board, September 15, 2009 .