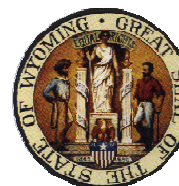


Public Safety Communications Commission



U.S. Department of Interior MOU

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We would like to thank you for your interest in Wyoming's PSCC. We welcome any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have to this publication. You may direct them to Bob Symons at 307.777.5065 or by email at bsymon@state.wy.us

On December 12, 2006 the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission and the U.S. Department of the Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The basis of this MOU is to allow the Department of the Interior to use the WyoLink trunked radio system and to allow for the sharing of National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) radio frequencies that are assigned to the Department of the Interior.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has significant lands in Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The DOI has indicated a need to be able to communicate within its agencies that operate within Wyoming and with state and local agencies. WyoLink is seeking radio frequencies to develop a frequency plan that will provide radio channels for the current use and future expansion of WyoLink.

The Public Safety Communications Commission would like to thank the Department of the Interior and Christopher Lewis, US DOI Office of the Chief Information Officer, for the development and signing of this important Memorandum of Understanding that will be of benefit to the State of Wyoming and the Department of the Interior.



W. Hord Tipton – Department of the Interior, Chief Information Officer (left) and Steve DeCecco, PSCC Chairman sign the memorandum of Understanding between the PSCC and the DOI with Earl Atwood, PSCC Executive Director observing.

<http://pscc.wyoming.gov>

Colonel Sam Powell

Colonel Sam Powell—Administrator, Wyoming Highway Patrol

It is my distinct pleasure to provide a few comments for the latest PSCC Newsletter. We are in the midst of exciting times for public safety communications in Wyoming, and I am proud to be a small part of it.

I represent the Wyoming Department of Transportation on the Public Safety Communication Commission, and have been privileged to serve in that capacity since the inception of the Commission from its previous role as the SALECS commission. Between the mission represented by state troopers and WYDOT maintenance forces, WYOLINK represents a huge benefit and step forward.

I started my law enforcement career over 30 years ago as a rookie Wyoming Highway Patrolman in Gillette. We had a low band radio with two channels. We were dispatched primarily from the Gillette P.D., with other base stations in Sheridan and Casper. I remember many nights when the “skip” from other radios in California and Minnesota was clearer than my own dispatch. During a particularly bad storm (which seemed like the time we would have the worst reception) I was forced to request a wrecker from a State Patrol dispatcher in Minnesota who made a long distance call to my dispatcher in Sheridan to facilitate the request. We’ve certainly come a long way from those days.

I am excited about the ability to provide interoperable communications on scale never before imagined with our conventional systems. As most long term radio users acknowledge, we have always found ways around problems and made communication possible, even during the most difficult situations. I believe WYOLINK is the next logical step in that evolution.

The ability to deliver data across a statewide wireless network is a necessity for the Patrol. This will enable the implementation of Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) in the patrol vehicle, which will make us much more efficient and ultimately enable our attainment of our public safety mission. The world of law enforcement is changing fast and our obligation to the citizens of this great state is to stay abreast of changing technology to serve their needs and demands. I envision a day when a snow plow driver can receive up to the minute information about road or weather conditions during a major storm from a mobile computer mounted in their vehicle. They will then have the ability to communicate with a select but critical group of co-workers to strategize about how to deal with the crisis.

WyoLink and the potential for trunked communications will be a huge benefit for all public safety entities in our state. Obviously, there are many hurdles to overcome as we build this system out and answer the challenges for this new system. I believe the organization of the Public Safety Communications Commission and the various working groups within the Commission are well structured and suited to address these concerns. The primary benefit is the working knowledge and background of all the committee members and the application of those skills to make this the best communication system it can be. However, the Public Safety Communications Commission and WyoLink can not operate in a vacuum. We represent your concerns, but we need to hear them to take action. I would encourage all interested stakeholders to attend Commission and working group meetings and make your voice heard.

Thank you for the opportunity to lend my comments to this critical topic. These are indeed exciting times to be a part of something special for the future of public safety communications in Wyoming.



Upcoming Events

Calendar posted @ <http://pscc.wyoming.gov>

4/30/07 * 5/29/07 * 6/25/07 Project Team Meetings 10 am–12 pm

@ WyDOT Planning Building, 2nd Floor Training Room

This is a monthly meeting held by the WyoLink Project Manager and Motorola. The meeting gives an overview of the progress over the past month, what is taking place in the near future, and any problems or concerns that need to be addressed with WyoLink.

6/21/07—PSCC Public Informational Meeting—Green River

6/22/07 - PSCC Meeting— Green River

This is the quarterly general business meeting of the PSCC. Each committee gives a standing report; any concerns or problems are discussed and action taken, if needed. A progress report on the WyoLink project is also presented.

WyoLink Project Report

The project's development is divided into four geographic phases. Phase 1 – Pilot has been implemented and upgrade to the Smart Zone Astro 25 Version 7.2. The upgrade was factory staged in December and installed in February. Version 7.2 uses less hardware and more software and provides more features that will become available after completion of the WyoLink core project. All Phase 2, 3 and 4 radio sites will be built out as Version 7.2 sites. For a map of the construction phases, see the coverage area and maps page of the WyoLink website at <http://wyolink.state.wy.us/coverageArea.asp>.

Activating Phase 2 and Phase 3 sites awaits the following: (1) WYDOT completion of upgrades to radio buildings and radio towers; (2) Receipt of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) frequency licenses; (3) Installation and calibration of radio equipment. This work is scheduled for the 2007 construction season.

To remedy delay and mitigation risk and after consultation with the PSCC, WYDOT executed a change-order with Motorola to construct the 16 Phase 4 radio sites. This change order will include the site development; radio equipment buildings and towers, installation of all microwave and radio equipment. The project budget is sufficient to address the change without seeking additional funding. The site construction work is scheduled for completion during the 2007 construction season. Installation of radio equipment will occur during the site construction process, with WyoLink activated at those sites by the end of 2007.

Motorola has completed the Frequency Engineering Plan and delivered it to the WyoLink project. WyDOT is currently applying to the FCC for the frequencies identified in the engineering plan. The Engineering Plan includes the frequencies for the 57-site core WyoLink system and 24 low-level sites, located in each county. Some risks remain, the FCC could deny the required waivers and some of the selected frequencies could be disallowed during the application review process. These risks are manageable, as there is precedence for the requested waivers and quality engineering was used to minimize interference in the selection of frequencies

PSCC Members

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Steve DeCecco
Game and Fish

Vice-Chairman

Bill Westerfield
State Parks and Cultural Resources

Secretary

Jerry Kennedy
County Government

Lanny Applegate
State Fire Marshal

Russ Christiansen
Emergency Medical Services

Bob Dean
Dept. of Health

Kebin Haller
DCI

Mark Harshman
Fire Chief's

Billy Janes
Police Chief's

Mark Joiner
Federal

Neil Kourbelas
Municipalities

Kim Lee
Homeland Security

Danny Glick
Sheriff's

Doug Noseep
Tribal

Col. Sam Powell
Wyoming Department of Transportation

Jimmy Siler
Livestock

Bob Wyatt
Public at Large

Executive Director

Earl Atwood

Staff Support

Bob Symons

PSCC Rules and WyoLink Handbook

On December 29, 2006 the Wyoming Public Safety Radio Communications Rules were filed with the Wyoming Secretary of State. The filing of these rules completes the rule-making process pursuant to the Wyoming Procedure Act. Chapter 1 of the rules provide for the general provisions – authority, purpose of the rules and definitions. Chapter 2 – Administrative Procedures provides for the development of policies and procedures for the guidance and control of the WyoLink and other State of Wyoming owned statewide radio communication systems and participation determination. Included in the Chapter 2 are the references to the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The Appeals Procedures in Chapter 3 provide for the fair and efficient method to hear appeals of a determination of suspension or revocation of a participating agency's operating privileges. The rules as files are accessible on the rules pages of the PSCC website at: http://pscc.state.wy.us/c_rules.html

Chapter 2, Section 1 of the Rules provides for the development of policies and procedures to provide guidance and control over the management and operation of WyoLink. The PSCC, at its March 13, 2007 meeting passed the WyoLink Handbook as presented by the Interoperability Executive Committee. The handbook provides information on understanding radio terms, radio information, failure modes, Operational protocols, talkgroups, system access, relationship management/dispute resolution and subscriber and system support. The WyoLink Handbook is available on the PSCC and WyoLink websites in "pdf" and "word" formats at: http://pscc.wyoming.gov/c_minutes.html or <http://wyolink.state.wy.us/join.asp>

Dispatch Center Grants

Grant applications have been received from thirty seven (37) dispatch centers for grants to help provide connectivity between the dispatch center and WyoLink. The first round of grants was limited to a maximum of \$150,000 per dispatch center. A total of \$5,472,496 of grant funds has been awarded by the PSCC Administration and Funding Work Group. The budget for the grant program is \$6,450,000 and the PSCC is currently working on a process for awarding the remaining \$977,504 in grant funds. The WYDOT budget includes funding for the actual installation and monthly costs for the T-1 telephone connection lines between the dispatch center and zone controllers.

PSCC Newsletter

The goal of the PSCC Newsletter is to disseminate information to all agencies and individuals interested in the PSCC. To reduce printing and postage costs all issues will be in electronic format. If you would like to continue receiving the PSCC newsletter please visit <http://pscc.wyoming.gov> and click on E-mail/Newsletter sign up. This will be a quarterly, electronic publication distributed after every Commission meeting.

PSCC Mission:

The mission of the Wyoming Public Safety Communications Commission is to develop recommendations for policy and guidelines, identify technology and standards, and coordinate intergovernmental resources to facilitate statewide interoperability with emphasis on public safety.