



*Wyoming's Statewide Public-Safety
Interoperable Radio Communications System*

Project Manager's Report to the PSCC

Date: March 13, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

The WyoLink Project has been busy since the last report in December.

FREQUENCY PLANNING

FCC application documents, based on the Final Frequency Plan, have been submitted and are currently being reviewed by the Frequency Coordinators. I received word this last week that APCO has completed their review of a number of the applications and forwarded them to the FCC for processing.

We encountered an issue with regard to the low-level sites. As the site data was based on "probable locations," tower information was not based final installation plans. Unfortunately, eight of the low-level sites required tower registration information due to their close proximity to airports. This was resolved by searching the FCC database of Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) data, and selecting an existing structure close to the proposed location. The location for the FCC license was then modified to match the existing tower.

I raise the ASR issue just as a reminder that additional frequency engineering may be required as low-level sites are finalized and installed. It is still prudent to license frequencies for the low-level sites, as that process sets retains spectrum for that need.

By the next PSCC meeting, WyoLink should have FCC licenses and have identified deficiencies for which Federal spectrum will be requested.

ZONE 1 VERSION UPGRADE

During the week of February 19, the WyoLink Master Site underwent an upgrade.

The process was "organized chaos." The entire system was shut down, leaving the radio sites in site-trunking. There were engineers and technicians everywhere. People were loading software, reconfiguring T1 bandwidth, and working their way through test procedures. The most helpful thing I did was staying out of the way.

By the end of the week, the system was returned operation as a Motorola Astro-25 version 7.2 system. Everything is functioning properly, and all acceptance tests were passed.

ZONE 2 INSTALLATION

The Casper Port-of Entry building is complete. Electrical service has been installed. Next week technicians will do the startup testing on the generator, HVAC, and UPS systems. WyoLink electronic equipment installation will begin shortly thereafter.

Quest Communications will be installing fiber-optic cable in the next six weeks. That fiber-optic connection will be the means for redundant zone-to-zone links to Cheyenne and will be the means for connecting dispatch centers. The configuration chosen for this installation is one that will lower the cost of T1 circuits to connect dispatch centers to the Casper or the Cheyenne zone controller.

Motorola Upgrade Operations engineers are scheduled to be at the Casper POE the week of May 7 to activate the zone-controller and integrate it into the WyoLink system.

RADIO SITE DEVELOPMENT

The status of WyoLink radio equipment installations has not changed since my last report. As you know, winter limits access to the radio sites.

The project team is finalizing work schedules, initiating the utility coordination process, and starting the site-design process. These tasks are laying the groundwork to development the 43 radio sites scheduled for this summer.

The time required for processing federal lease applications remains a project risk. The U.S. Forest Service has projected that processing the site leases for Salt Pass and Geneva Summit may take until October. This would preclude building those sites this year. I am watching this issue closely.

While the leases on other sites in Phase-4 are still in process, completion is anticipated before May. That will be sufficient for site construction and activation in 2007.

ENHANCEMENT SITES

In consideration of the time required to process site leasing, I am working to identify additional sites to improve WyoLink coverage. The intent here is to submit lease applications and allow up to one year for processing.

Medicine Mountain is no longer under consideration. It had been identified as a site to provide additional coverage in the Big Horn Mountains. Because of the sensitive Native site nearby, the USFS has a total moratorium on the construction of communications sites on that mountain. I am working with the Big Horn Ranger District to identify another location.

Likewise, Clayton Mountain, which was being considered to improved coverage on the west side of Park County, is off the list. In meeting with the District Ranger and his staff the difficulty of building on the site, the difficulty of providing electrical power, and that the site is only in a few feet from the boundary of a wilderness area, were identified as reasons to look elsewhere. The outcome of that meeting was that the USFS is willing to consider designating additional radio sites on the forest, a process that will involve revising the forest plan.

Commissioner Kennedy and I met with the landowner for Pinkham Mountain, U.S. Senator Wayne Allard. The meeting was very constructive. The Senator is quite willing to work with Wyoming to put a WyoLink site on the mountain. The project team needs to make another scouting trip to finalize the location before the lease paperwork can proceed. This site will provide coverage in the south end of the Snowy Range, from Woods Landing to Encampment. Connecting the site with microwave will require an additional site on Jelm Mountain, which is BLM land.

The landowner of the 3-Mile Hill site was contacted. Before meeting, she reviewed the WyoLink website. Based on what she read, she is supportive of the WyoLink Project. The necessary information was passed to WYDOT Right-of Way to begin the site acquisition process.

The site proposal for Signal Mountain has been completed, and the proposal for Pow Wow Point is being drafted. These will be forwarded to the respective agencies shortly to begin the review process.

PORTABLE COVERAGE ENHANCEMENTS

There has been a lot of discussion regarding providing additional coverage for portable radio use. At the request of the Governor, a proposal was prepared and vetted through the WYDOT Director regarding the addition of sites to improve portable radio coverage. The proposal is that local agencies identifying locations for additional sites, and provide the necessary building and tower. The Governor will support additional funding, through the WYDOT budget, for WyoLink to provide the radio electronics and connecting microwave to install the site.

A document entitled, "Portable Radio Coverage Enhancement Proposal," is in your packet. I understand it will be discussed later in the meeting.