**700MHz Spectrum Designation**

On February 22, 2012, the U.S Congress enacted the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Recovery Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act) which:

* Directed the Commission to allocate the D-Block (758-763 MHz / 788-793 MHz) to public safety for use in a nationwide broadband network; and
* Formed the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce. FirstNet is charged with responsibilities for deploying and operating the nationwide public safety broadband network and will hold the license for both the existing public safety broadband spectrum (763-769 MHz/793-799 MHz) and the reallocated D Block.
* Allocated up to $7 billion dollars to FirstNet to construct this nationwide public safety broadband network.

The following figure depicts spectrum allocated for public safety in the 700 MHz band after enactment of the Spectrum Act.

**700 MHz Band Plan for Public Safety Services**



**Narrowband Segment (769-775/799-805 MHz)**

The Narrowband segment consists of 1920 6.25 kHz-wide channels operating as 960 pairs. Subject to compliance with spectrum usage efficiency requirements, licensees may combine two to four contiguous narrowband channels (6.25 kHz) to form 12.5 kHz and 25 kHz bandwidth channels. These channels are allocated into seven distinct groups and are governed by rules which are codified at 47 C.F.R. Part 90, Subpart R.

1. Narrowband Interoperability Channels: 128 6.25 kHz-wide channels (64 pairs) designated for interoperability use, including data Interoperability channels, calling Interoperability channels, and trunking Interoperability channels. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.531(b)(1). Administration of these channels occurs at the state level either by a State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) or an equivalent agency. Link: <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/700-MHz/interoperability.html>
2. General Use Channels: 1232 6.25 kHz-wide channels (616 pairs) designated for general use subject to Commission approved regional planning committee regional plans. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.531(b)(6).
3. General Use (Former Reserve Channels): 96 6.25 kHz-wide channels (48 pairs) designated in October 2014 for general use subject to Commission approved regional planning committee regional plans. Public safety incumbents relocating from the 470-512 MHz band (T-Band) in the urban areas specified in Sections 90.303 and 90.305 of the Commission’s rules have priority access to these channels. Outside the urban areas specified in Sections 90.303 and 90.305 of the Commission’s rules, no more than eight 12.5 kHz-wide channel pairs may be designated for temporary deployable mobile trunked infrastructure (F2BT) that could be transported into an incident area to assist with emergency response and recovery. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.531(b)(2).
4. State Channels: 384 channels (192 pairs) directly licensed to each state, territory, district and possession. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.531(b)(5).
5. Air-Ground Channels: 32 6.25 kHz-wide channels (16 pairs) reserved for air-ground communications to be used by low-altitude aircraft and ground based stations. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.531(b)(7).
6. Narrowband Low Power Channels: 36 channels 6.25 kHz-wide (18 pairs) designated for low power use for on-scene incident response purposes using mobiles and portables. These channels are subject to regional planning. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.531(b)(3).
7. Narrowband Low Power Itinerant: 12 6.25 kHz-wide channels (6 pairs) designated for low power use for on-scene incident response purposes using mobiles and portables. These channels are not subject to regional plans. See 47 C.F.R. § 90.531(b)(4).

Applications for the 700 MHz Public Safety General Use channels must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Regional Planning Committee within the area of proposed operation, prior to submission to a FCC certified public safety frequency coordinator. See <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/coord.html>. For more information on how to apply for and obtain RPC approval for 700 MHz General Use spectrum in your area, see <http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/700-MHz/regional-planning.html>. An interactive map of 700 MHz RPC regions is also available at <http://publicsafety.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/700-MHz/rpc-map.htm>.

**700 MHz Regional Planning**

The general use channels and some of the narrowband low power channels are subject to regional planning. There are 55 Regional Planning Committees (RPCs), whose task is to create a plan for General Use in their area is used and submit it to the FCC. The Regional Planning page includes information on regional maps and plans, regional planning committees, and the latest information on regional planning committee meetings. Link: <http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/public-safety-spectrum/700-MHz/regional-planning.html>