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Draft notes - Meeting of M&PC Committee to review SRSP-500, draft Issue 2; April 18, 2024

1 message

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To: M&PC Committee

Please send me any corrections to our quick notes below.

Thanks,
Dave

Meeting of M&PC Committee to review SRSP-500, draft Issue 2; April 18, 2024

- Meeting Chair, Martin McCulloch (Waterloo Police Service/CACP and RABC Public Safety Committee subcommittee Chair)
- ISED Representatives: Howard Wang, Ali Akbari, Michael Christensen and Josette Gallant
- Dave Farnes noted the first issue of the standard was published 20 years ago, which was the first version and attempt to apply some organization to the band
- Comments on draft issue 2 are due by June 14, 2024
- Howard noted there are many editorial changes to the standard and he provided an overview of the 6 main changes:
 - remove reference to the redeployment plan policy
 - updated the frequency range for maritime mobile service
 - added conditions to eventually adopt public safety VHF public safety interoperability channels
 - added conditions on the use of frequencies for weather radio systems
 - combined sections 4 and 5 from issue 1 into a new section dealing with the channel plan
 - modified definitions
- Martin asked why the reference to the redeployment was removed. ISED indicated that the policy is now out of date. Many licensees have converted to narrowband, however legacy (grandfathered) wideband systems remain. It is unknown how many, although Ali indicated the Department believes there are quite a few in operation. **Action: Ali and team to share what information ISED has regarding the number of legacy wideband systems in operation.** Martin wondered whether some operators failed to update the SMS to reflect a migration to narrowband.
- The committee reviewed the standard, section by section.

- Section 2.7 - Jean (Hydro Quebec/Electricity Canada) asked what happens if a licensee wishes to add sites to, or expand, a legacy system. Ali indicated that the Department has grandfathered legacy systems and won't force narrowbanding in rural areas. Enzo (Railway Association) noted that the systems used by railways typically begin in urban areas and extend out to rural areas. There is a worry about the availability of wideband equipment to support legacy systems, noting a ban on the sale of wideband equipment in the US. Josette indicated the Department has no plans to prohibit the sale of wideband equipment in Canada. Bob wondered whether new wideband equipment would be manufactured if there is a ban in the US. Enzo noted that the railway use of frequencies is self-regulated under agreement with ISED and wondered whether the Department has any fixed date for the migration from wideband systems. **Action: Ali/Howard will consult internally and respond to this question.**
- Section 2.10 - Martin believes the potential introduction of interoperability channels will be well received by the public safety community. He asked ISED to explain what feedback it requires from the community. Ali pointed to the editor's note in the draft: *Editor's Note: ISED would like to bring the RABC's attention to the two draft paragraphs above, and the potential introduction of VHF channels for national public safety interoperability, for comments and feedback. Specifically, ISED would appreciate feedback from the RABC and from public safety agencies on; the need for designating VHF channels for public safety interoperability, appropriate interoperability technical standards, if any, that ISED could require to support the adoption and use of these channels by public safety agencies for interoperability, conditions which ISED could introduce on the hierarchy of public safety agencies and eligibility for the use of these channels, and any other measures which ISED could introduced to ensure proper gradual adoption of this channel with minimal impact to existing assignments.* Ali also noted that the US is interested in having US interoperability channels available at the border and that Canada may seek to have its own interoperability channels available at the border.
- Section 5.3 - There is another Editor's note seeking feedback from RABC: *Editor's Note: ISED would appreciate feedback from the RABC on the current state of the land-mobile market and the ability of existing land-mobile ecosystems to operate with a spectrum efficiency of at least one voice channel in a 7.5 kHz channel spacing.* Etienne (Hydro Quebec) asked whether new wideband sites can be added to grandfathered systems. ISED responded that, strictly speaking, no they cannot, however the grandfathering conditions allow additions to systems on a case by case basis. This means that regional offices can issue licences on a non-standard basis. Enzo reported that US railways are looking to adopt WiMax (IEEE 802.16T) technology in this band; they are currently testing the technology. Could Canadian railways adopt Wi Max under SRSP-511. Michael indicated ISED is prescribing technology, but rather spectral efficiency. So railways are free to adopt technology that can meet the efficiency requirements. Michael also noted that the Channel Plan in the SRPS does not apply to railways since the industry (RAC) is self-regulating the use of frequencies by the railways.

Martin asked whether trunking systems are standard or non-standard? Michael replied that trunking systems are licensed as standard, and that due to the previous unstructured nature of the band, no trunking groups could be created.

- Section 7 - Abed asked about the difference between the power limit prescribed in RSS-119 vs the SRSP. Michael explained that, RSS documents are, unlike SRSPs, radio equipment specifications and as such, power levels specified in RSS documents are 'conducted power' ratings....power measured on the output of the transmitter directly. SRSPs account for feed line and antenna gains, therefore they are defined as erp levels, accounting for all system gains and losses. Abed also noted that many masks are used in the RSS and wondered whether the appropriate masks to consider could be referenced in the SRSP. Michael explained that would be too complicated and the Department would be worried about regulatory consistency between the two standards. Jean asked why the limit for mobile is 30 watts and indicated this may be too low for rural use? Ali explained the 30 watt limit was in the first edition of the standard so it has not been changed. ISED is open to consider a new limit, however RABC must explain the technical rationale for adopting a higher limit. Consideration should be given to Safety Code 6 too.
- Annex - there is an Editor's note to explain the changes to the channelling plan. ISED explained that the changes are to correct errors in the first issue of the SRSP.
- Bob congratulated the Department on proposing a new issue that finally organized the band. He asked whether the Department has a sense on how many non-standard systems exist? This is similar to the question posed by Martin at the beginning of the meeting. As noted above, ISED took an action to provide what information it has available regarding non-standard use.
- Next Meeting May 9 at 1 pm. Please provide contributions before the meeting so they can be reviewed. If you are proposing changes, please include rationale. Ideally contributions should be sent to Dave for circulation by the close of business on May 2.
- Meeting adjourned at 14:12.

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