

Refarming Committee Report Annual Report

The purpose of the Refarming Committee continues to be that of assisting in facilitating the re-deployment of more spectrum efficient radio systems in the bands below 500 MHz. Industry Canada released its policy for redeployment shortly before the last annual meeting. The policy mandates that there be an increase in efficiency of four times that of the current standard and is to be completed in two phases. Each phase, as suggested by the refarming committee, has dates, after which, only the more efficient equipment can be type approved. The policy also included dates after which existing systems would become non-standard in highly congested areas.



Subsequently to the release of the policy, Industry Canada also produced a set of draft band plans for the VHF and UHF bands. The SRSP 500 – Technical Requirements for Land Mobile and Fixed Radio Services Operating in the Bands 138-144 MHz and 148-174 MHz, which is being developed for the first time, incorporates the new redeployment requirements. The draft of SRSP 501 issue 4 – Technical Requirements for Land mobile and Fixed Radio Services Operating in the Bands 406-430 MHz and 450-470 MHz, proposes changes to the existing plan that will also incorporate the redeployment requirements. The drafts also propose other modifications to the rules not related to re-deployment.

The committee met four times this past year and focused primarily on the two draft SRSP's. Much of the work has been completed on these SRSP's. Ongoing issues being addressed by the committee include: determining the amount of spectrum set aside for simplex versus duplex; service area contour definitions; flexibility for existing users in selecting channel centres; and channel loading guidelines. Channel loading guidelines do not follow the previous guidelines and, therefore, have been square bracketed until the Channel Loading Guideline sub-committee of the M&PC has completed its work.

The committee is also reviewing one item of the Re-deployment Policy. The policy provides for a date of 2010 when systems compliant to the 12.5 kHz requirement, including new systems could become non-standard. There is concern that this date may not be appropriate and may have the effect of discouraging movement to new more efficient systems.

Thanks go to Industry Canada for the opportunity to review the SRSP's and to all the committee members who attended and gave their valuable input. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2000 in Ottawa.

Paul Frew
Chair, Refarming Committee
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