

February 22, 1989

Press Statement
of
Commissioner James H. Quello

RE: Technical Compatibility Protocol Standards for Equipment
Operating in the 800 MHz Public Safety Bands.

I am pleased to see that we are addressing the issue of standards in the next generation of technology by issuing a Further Notice of Inquiry. In fact, I would prefer establishing an advisory committee to seek its recommendation for a minimum digital standard for public safety services and potential implementation schedule. I do believe that this is one area where standards are not only necessary, but also essential! I believe the record supports Commission action in developing a single analog trunking standard as well as looking ahead to digital technology. Just read the comments of the Chicago Police Department, City of Los Angeles, City of Dallas, Fairfax County, and others. All favor the development of a standard, especially for long-range planning. I recognize that Motorola and APCO oppose establishing a standard. I understand Motorola's opposition to a single standard; however, I fail to understand APCO's opposition especially in light of the number of public safety entities who commented in favor of a standard.

We have failed in the past to establish a minimum standard for analog trunked technology, and now, to facilitate interoperability we have to rely upon 5 conventional channels, that clearly are less spectrum efficient than existing trunked technology. Furthermore, those areas of the country most in need of interoperability will need more than 5 conventional channels, resulting in greater spectrum inefficiencies. Nevertheless, in order to keep the standards issue alive, I am reluctantly concurring with the this item with respect to existing analog standards and licensing of public safety services in the 6 MHz in question, since licensing is predicated upon approval of regional plans.

I strongly support a Further Notice of Inquiry in this docket to examine a standard for new technology in the public safety radio service. Such a standard is likely to result in efficient use of spectrum, facilitate long-range planning for public safety services, and establish a competitive public safety radio marketplace.

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