



800 MHz Emergency Communication System, Next Generation Meeting  
February 2, 2004  
Minutes

**Attendees:**

Greg Patterson – Governor’s Office  
Robert.Scoglietti – Budget Office  
Gene Donaldson – DelDOT  
Bill Carrow – Delaware State Police  
David Roberts – New Castle County  
Bill Streets – New Castle County  
James Sapp, Hockessin Fire Company  
Bob Furman – Division of Administrative Services  
James Cabbage, DVFA  
Dwayne Kelly, DivCOMM  
Chip McDaniel, DNREC  
Ed Smith, DNG  
Jeff Martin – RCC Consultants  
Byrant Baker – DTI  
Tony Lazzaro – DTI  
Dan Marsh – DTI  
Dawn Hill – DTI  
Elayne Starkey, DTI  
Colleen Gause, DTI

**Welcome – Greg Patterson**

The meeting opened at 2:05.

The goals for this meeting:

- Provide Specification Overview
- Distribute Specifications and Guide Files on CD-ROM
- Rehoboth Update

The main goal is to distribute the specs to the committee members to look over and return comments to Bryant Baker no later than close of business on Thursday, 2/5/04. The

comments are to be e-mailed referencing the page number and paragraph that applies to the comment(s). This is important if the committee is to meet the May 1, 2004 timeline for the recommendation to the Governor.

Guest, Chief James Sapp of Hockessin Volunteer Fire Department was introduced and will ask the committee to hear his comments later in the meeting.

### **Rehoboth Project Status – Bryant Baker**

- Contract Design Review completed
- Motorola proceeding with materiel purchase and engineering;
- City/State proceeding with FCC processes and tower lease revisions
- Coverage testing planned with fire and police.

The ultimate goal is to “go live” by Memorial Day 2004, then start coverage testing.

### **RFP Format – Bryant Baker**

- Specification Main body of RFP is standard boilerplate, bidder instructions, etc.
- Specification is Appendix A
- Subsequent appendices include photographs, as-built drawings, site data, etc.
- Recall this solicitation is to establish the required budget for the next 3 to 4 years, however “budgetary” is not used

### **RFP Status – Jeff Martin**

- Work in Progress:
- 98% of technical content is in there. Under development (awaiting comments):
  - OC-3 loops/OC-12 spurs
  - Final Wilmington configuration
  - Regional interoperability assumptions (for example, fire stations on the edge)
- The format of Appendix A is not unlike what the wireless industry has responded to previously (the detailed challenge of the functional requirements are what the vendors expect)
- Ongoing work:
  - Post-RFP activity dates (pre-bid, site visits, Q/A deadlines)
  - Evaluation criteria

### **Requirements-to-Specification – Jeff Martin**

- Excel spreadsheet maps major requirement areas to specification paragraphs
- Specification Highlights:
  - Building Categorization (identifies critical buildings)
  - Coverage Maps with Building Overlays
  - NCC and DeIDOT Considerations (important to review to obtain functional requirements)

### **Building Categorization – Jeff Martin**

- Found in Spec Section 10.1
- Cat 1:
  - High, life-safety risk (schools, hospitals, Fire Dept., Police, etc.)

- Occupants could develop complications
- High population density
- Central government controls
- Hazardous to emergency personnel
- Primary buildings for tower site selection

**Question:** Dave Roberts expressed concern that confidential information such as addresses of power plants, well heads, etc. would be given wide circulation in the RFP. Greg Patterson stated that this type of information would not be given out until such time that “certified bidders” required it.

- Cat 2: (not mandatory coverage, but desired coverage, keep these areas in mind when building tower sites)
  - Hotels/Motels
  - Apartment Complexes
  - Malls, large shopping centers
  - Secondary tower site selection; primary candidates for BDAs, VRSs
- Cat 3:
  - Strip shopping centers
  - “Big box” stores (Wal Mart for example)
  - Restaurants
  - Funeral Homes
  - Prisons (because they usually have their own system)
  - Close proximity to Cat 1 buildings
- Cat 4:
  - Residential single-family dwellings
  - Predictive analysis coverage testing (vendor is to consider tower site growth and identify all buildings and their coverage)
- Required buildings indexed, categorized in Appendix III (of RFP Appendix A)
- RF Coverage Plots in Appendix I
- Overlay of building locations on easel

**Question:** Dave Roberts asked for clarification of areas signified on the map. Jeff Martin explained the map is a preliminary design, to identify for the vendors what we suggest and believe to be what it will take to cover that area. The vendor will provide an exact design listing coverage. The red areas are 30 dB coverage or the most critical. Yellow is 20 dB consisting of medium industrial/commercial coverage. The purple is 10 dB or mostly residential and most likely VRS backup candidates.

### **NCC and Del DOT considerations – Richard Reynolds**

- Microwave/Fiber Backbone
  - ◆ New sites included in the specification
  - ◆ Backbone bandwidth budget assumed for DelDOT, NCC requirements (build up the bandwidth and consider future needs)
  - ◆ OC-3 rings with OC-12 backbone design
- In consideration for future equipment:

- ◆ Spare shelter space
- ◆ Tower spacing
- ◆ HVAC capacity
- ◆ Generator/UPS capacity

**Question:** Bill Streets - What kind of downtime can we expect? Jeff Martin: That is unknown at this time. Vendors must minimize impact on safety systems. The committee will have the opportunity to review the downtime in the design phase.

### **Reviewing Requirements – Greg Patterson**

- Due Date/Time: 2/5 at 5pm to bryant.baker@state.de.us;
- Required information:
  - ◆ Add paragraph number or page number to reference for comment
  - ◆ General comments also welcomed
  - ◆ Suggest how to incorporate your comment into the specification
- Conflicting comments: will resolve via email or phone, but cannot do after 5pm on 2/5...
- Limited distribution. **DO NOT** distribute outside of this Committee without prior approval from the Governor's Office. (for security reasons, it is extremely important that information not be released outside the committee)

### **Summary – Greg Patterson**

Greg announced that the Governor has put 12 million in the FY05 budget for 800 MHz., and that a full bid or a sole source, Motorola, is still to be determined.

**Chief Sapp** was reintroduced and expressed his concern about losing communications at a recent fire scene. This was a large, old stone building, and in excess of thirteen pieces of apparatus and fifty firefighters were involved. He was finally able to switch to another channel to restore communication with the fire fighting team. But switching channels carries its own risk, because the firefighters cannot see that a channel has been changed in smoke filled areas. Bottom Line: He should not have to change channels on his radio to communicate with all on the scene. He would like to see the "dead spot" in the Red Clay Basin resolved.

**Chief Sapp** asked if the new tower site near the state line would give him communications into Pennsylvania. **Jeff Martin** replied that the RFP covers all of the state plus 3 miles over the state borders. FCC regulations do not allow more. The chief stated that his fire company has purchased analog radios so that they may communicate with Chester County.

**Chief Sapp** questioned why a tower may be in physical sight, but he cannot communicate. **Jeff Martin** responded that in such a case there is a functional or programming problem that should be reported and then addressed.

**Chief Sapp** would like to know the timeline for fixing problems in coverage. **Jeff Martin** said that this is a four-year project. The vendor will suggest a timeline and point out any

regulations that would affect implementation, and give recommendations on what to do about it.

**Question:** James Cabbage wants to know if the bid will come back to the committee with one total cost. Jeff Martin replied that the vendor will give a project by project cost over four years.

**Question:** James Cabbage asked who decides what towers get added and in what order. He stated that the public will want to know the cost and what the upgrade will mean to them. Greg Patterson said that this committee would decide which projects are installed/upgraded first.

**Chief Sapp** explained that he would find it difficult to understand if Hockessin was not considered in the first upgrade

**Question:** Gene Donaldson asked if the microwave portion would be itemized. Richard Reynolds said yes.

**Question:** Gene Donaldson asked if we had an engineering estimate. Jeff Martin replied that the whole project is in the 45 million-dollar range.

Elayne Starkey asked if Chief Sapp was satisfied that the committee heard and understood all his concerns. Chief Sapp said that he was and thanked the committee for their time.

**Gene Donaldson** – We the RFP is out and the bid comes back, will the microwave portion come back in pieces?

**Richard Reynolds** – Yes

**Gene Donaldson** – What is the selection criteria?

**Bryant Baker** – We are working on that.

**Gene Donaldson** – Do we have an engineers estimate on this project?

**Jeff Martin** – Yes, we do, it is around 45 million.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 4th, 2004, in the same meeting place, the Governor's conference room at Tatnall.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35