



Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network

404 West Fontanero Street
Building 234
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

January 29, 2008

«Agency»
«Street»
«City», «ST» «Zip»

Reference: PPRCN Integration into the Statewide DTRS, and User Radio Programming

Gentlemen:

As you may have heard, the Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network is in the latter part of discussions with the Consolidated Communications Network of Colorado (CCNC) about integrating the assets of the PPRCN network within the Colorado Statewide Digital Trunked Radio System (DTRS) this year. The part of this plan that will directly affect PPRCN users includes the need to re-program all PPRCN user radios, enabling them to operate on the Statewide DTRS network.

The PPRCN system has remained for many years, a virtual unconnected island, so to speak, relative to being able to operate within the Statewide DTRS. We have been steadily working toward creating this opportunity during most of that time. Indeed, a main part of the \$6M 2004 US Department of Justice COPS grant justification for our upgrading the PPRCN network to the nationwide P25 standard, was to facilitate our joining the statewide network.

The main advantages to local governments and agencies to be gained from PPRCN's cooperating in the Statewide DTRS are:

- To enhance our interoperable communications during emergency incidents in our region, enabling first responders and other agencies coming from outside the current PPRCN coverage area to bring their already-programmed mobile and portable radios to instantly communicate over our local PPRCN repeater sites.
- To provide a capability using new travel talkgroups for PPRCN system users to remain in contact with local communications dispatch centers while traveling statewide.
- To enable seamless day-to-day communication with close neighboring jurisdiction's emergency assets, for example those of Pueblo County, Douglas County, Elbert County, and others, whether radio users are responding for our neighbors' incidents or for our own.

There are other advantages, as well.

At the most recent PPRCN Board meeting on January 7, 2009 the PPRCN Board passed a resolution signifying their intent and desire to cooperate in the Statewide DTRS. If you would like a copy of that resolution, please request one from me.

In preparation for this migration, changes to your radios' talkgroup lists are needed. These lists are imbedded within computer files called "radio templates." Creating templates can and should be arranged through your radio service provider. Your radio must either be made capable of communicating on both the current PPRCN system ID and the Statewide DTRS system ID prior to system cutover time, or it will remain largely inoperable until it is reprogrammed.

The costs you should expect to incur will include labor for creation or modification of your radio templates. If all of your radios are programmed the same, only one template would usually be needed. Template creation may be part of your agreement with your radio service provider.

We are intending that the labor to perform the first and second programming (or "touch") of each radio will be provided at no cost to the user other than their investment of time and logistics in bringing radios to programming locations. We are planning to employ our local service technicians in concert with volunteer technicians from other CCNC local governments, certified and trained technicians whose agencies already communicate using the Statewide DTRS.

The template creation and programming services will need to be performed with adequate time prior to network cutover so your chosen service provider can reasonably perform the programming. In all, we will need to program just over five thousand PPRCN-related user radios, both portable and mobile. This volume alone will present scheduling and logistical challenges for service providers and programmers. Arrangements made as early as possible would certainly be appreciated by service providers. Thoughtful cooperation may help avoid otherwise needless interruption in your radios' connectivity to the network.

The current timeline calls for cutover to full Statewide DTRS operation on July 17, 2009. Each of the radios that you want to remain operational both before and after the cutover must have both the PPRCN and DTRS system IDs programmed into them.

For most portable radios, the set of the 16 rotary switch positions in the radio's A-zone should probably contain your current PPRCN-only talkgroups. Their equivalents in the new PPRCN talkgroups on the DTRS should be reflected in the same numbered 16 rotary switch positions in the radio's B-zone. If done like this you would select A1 through A16 before network cutover, and B1 through B16 after the cutover. Variations can certainly be arranged with your radio service provider. If your talkgroup list needs and radio capabilities are more complicated, you should take care that all complexities are clear to your radio users.

I encourage you to contact your radio service provider without delay. You may contact the City of Colorado Springs Radio Communications group at 385-6700 if you would like to employ, or already employ them as your radio service provider. If you use a different service provider, they are probably aware of this proposed PPRCN move to integrate into the Statewide DTRS. If they are not aware of the plans, please direct them to my phone number or my e-mail address listed below and I will furnish the needed information.

After cutover, the radios will have to be normalized by again programming them according to a new template which contains only the new combined PPRCN / Statewide DTRS talkgroup set – a second touch. The schedule for this will not necessarily be as time-critical since it is really only a clean-up of the radio's operation in most cases.

I am happy to answer questions for you regarding this network cutover, and will attempt to keep all PPRCN users apprised of relevant developments and schedules.

Sincerely,



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