

Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network

Policy # 01-2009

Adopted: 03/04/2009

Approved by: Terry Mabate

OFFICIAL POLICY: Pikes Peak Regional Communications Network Alternate System Access Fees Policy

DATE: March 4, 2009

PURPOSE: To establish exceptions to the levying of user radio access fees for certain traffic carried over PPRCN site facilities.

SCOPE: This policy applies to all PPRCN system access, whether by PPRCN Stakeholder Members, PPRCN Participant Users, or Non-PPRCN Participant Users.

DESCRIPTION:

This policy provides for alternatives to the standard PPRCN access fees levied for user radio access to PPRCN site infrastructure, which fees are employed by the PPRCN Agency Board to operate and maintain PPRCN infrastructure. This policy statement is supplemental to existing PPRCN Policy number 01-2002, entitled SYSTEM ACCESS (USER) FEES dated May 6, 2002 (and modified July 7, 2004).

BACKGROUND:

The PPRCN network, since it is a closed system, has since inception enabled only radios directly authorized by the PPRCN System Manager to access and operate on the PPRCN network. The PPRCN has enforced the practice of collecting annual system access fees per-radio from PPRCN member and participant users, and such practice will remain in effect. An amplifying and concept-simplifying principle has been iterated by the PPRCN Board thus: "... no one gets a free ride on the network."

The PPRCN Board, however, has recognized and endorsed a position wherein neighboring jurisdictions whose personnel simply bring their radios to aid in responding to local PPRCN incidents should not be asked to also pay system user access fees. Such individual radios that are programmed and used for mutual aid only may be, and have historically been, added by the PPRCN System Manager to the PPRCN system's authorized user radio database. This practice is consistent with CCNC / DTRS operating principles that allow system access for mutual aid primarily through the MAC (mutual aid communications) talkgroups.

The PPRCN is moving toward integrating the PPRCN network infrastructure into the Statewide DTRS in mid-2009. Anticipating future user reaction and examination of the rationale for operations and maintenance support being administered differently between PPRCN and CCNC partners historically, PPRCN has stipulated in the Statewide DTRS / CCNC Cooperation Agreement that CCNC will not be authorized to grant user access to PPRCN infrastructure which is not authorized by the PPRCN Board.

PPRCN access fees have historically supported not only site infrastructure, but user fees have also supported the PPRCN Zone Controller and its associated common

equipment. The maintenance and operation costs for this common equipment are at this time proposed to be covered by PPRCN as a cooperating partner within the Statewide DTRS, without requesting cost recovery from agencies and users that are not PPRCN members or PPRCN participants. The marginal cost to PPRCN of operating and maintaining PPRCN common equipment used in the Statewide DTRS is anticipated to be minimal. The cost for Zone Controller upgrades is indeterminate at this time, however, since the Statewide DTRS has not formalized a network upgrade plan with associated upgrade cost sharing guidelines.

POLICY:

This policy addresses a set of alternate options to the practice of levying standard user fees on every network authorized user radio under existing policy 01-2002. This statement covers three main classes of alternatives to the provisions contained within the existing PPRCN access fee policy. This policy is applicable to all PPRCN system users whether PPRCN members, PPRCN participants, or others.

The three system access classes are:

1. **Incidental System Access**: whether for mutual aid or for other temporary, transient, or ad hoc purpose, including travel through PPRCN infrastructure's coverage en route to other destinations, and not supporting regular agency operations within PPRCN radio coverage areas, user radios operated only in this manner will not be levied PPRCN user access fees;
2. **Mutual Aid Only System Access**: PPRCN network access fees will not be levied for radios programmed with only mutual aid talkgroup and conventional capabilities contained in the PPRCN C-Zone. This waiver is further intended to allow for the economical creation of caches of PPRCN member or participant radios programmed with only PPRCN C-Zone or Statewide MAC mutual aid network capabilities, i.e., radios that are only employed during incidents or emergencies;
3. **Regular System Access with Alternative Negotiated Compensation**: a provision allowing regular non-PPRCN participant agencies to arrange for negotiated significant and regular access to PPRCN infrastructure without the radio user or owner agency being asked to pay PPRCN per-radio access fees in the usual way.

Class 1 - Incidental System Access

The rationale for waiving the levying of user fees for the types of PPRCN system access described under class 1 is quite reasonable, given the reciprocal nature of cooperative system usage anticipated within the Statewide DTRS. The nature of incidental traffic should neither strain network resources nor represent operational support inequities arising from significant and regular usage of PPRCN site assets without user fee or other compensation.

Class 2 - Mutual Aid Only Access

The rationale for not levying user fees for PPRCN system access by mutual-aid-only user radios is consistent with historical PPRCN Board statements and CCNC / DTRS associate member (MAC talkgroup) provisions. See the current PPRCN C-Zone policy for the set of PPRCN resources considered to be mutual aid resources. The PPRCN is

not authorized in any case to levy user fees for radios programmed with only Statewide DTRS / CCNC MAC talkgroups.

Class 3 - Regular System Access with Alternative Negotiated Compensation

This represents a means of providing for equity among PPRCN participants with other CCNC participants which do not maintain PPRCN participation agreements, yet regularly use certain PPRCN site assets in their operations, and such radio access represents a significant use of these sites for carrying this traffic

Open system access to non-PPRCN agencies under this policy would be initially allowed without direct PPRCN compensation, given a prior assumption that all such user or agency traffic would be in fact incidental. Should more than incidental site affiliation and talkgroup access be found, PPRCN would request such users or agencies to propose some means of modifying procedures to effect incidental-only traffic level targets, or else to propose means of compensation for higher levels of traffic. Ideally such proposals would be generally commensurate with amounts that PPRCN members and participants pay for service, and that could generally be negotiated and agreed upon among all affected parties.

One example of alternate compensation might include the non-PPRCN agency or jurisdiction providing assets to PPRCN that would have an equivalent capitalized recurring value to PPRCN on the order of that value PPRCN participants pay for similar service levels.

For another example, the non-incidental non-PPRCN user, or agency, or jurisdiction might propose some service of recurring value to PPRCN in offsetting costs.

Complete documentation of the specific Alternative Compensation proposal would be presented to the PPRCN Board by the PPRCN System Manager with the aim of securing PPRCN Board approval and appropriate ratification of associated or supplemental agreements.

Additional Policy Stipulations – Emergency Button Alert Functionality

The PPRCN created policy number 03-2001 dated June 6, 2001 that in part reads: “The orange “Emergency Alert” button, located on the top of the Astro portable radios, and on the control face of mobile radios labeled “EMER”, is programmed to transmit an emergency notification and an identifier for that radio. This signal is sent to the appropriate Communications Center monitoring the 800 MHz Radio System for the radio in question, ... All PPRCN radios are programmed with an active Emergency Alert button.”

This emergency alert functional requirement is waived for all radios falling within classes 1, 2, and 3 listed previously, since these three classes represent non-standard PPRCN system usage, and as a practical matter data on whom to contact to respond to an emergency button’s operation will not be within the general capabilities of the communications centers that are listed in policy 03-2001.

Additional Policy Stipulations – Dispatch Affiliation with a PPRCN Member

In cases where any user agency has chosen to implement close operational affiliation with any of the PPRCN member dispatch functions by having such dispatch talkgroups programmed into their radios, whether the programmed communications center is either City or County related, such radios are not eligible for waiver of fees or the avoidance of the need to join as a PPRCN participant under class 1 or class 2 situations listed previously.