

ROSS PHILO  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER



December 2, 2008

Ms. Meredith Attwell Baker  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
United States Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC 20230-0001

Dear Ms. Baker:

Enclosed you will find the FY 2008 Progress Report on the President's Spectrum Policy Initiative from the United States Postal Service.

If you have questions or require further information on this report please contact Warren Schwartz at 919-501-9049 or via email at [warren.schwartz@usps.gov](mailto:warren.schwartz@usps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ross Philo".

Ross Philo

Enclosure

cc: Warren Schwartz

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# Presidential Spectrum Progress Report for FY-2008

## US Postal Service Accomplishments Toward Implementing the June 2004 Spectrum Reports

- The USPS has entered into a contract with Motorola to provide new technology that we have named, "Spectrum Efficient Devices" or SED's. The SED's are devices that utilize a technology that will allow for multiple communication paths within a traditional repeater pair. This eliminates the need for additional pairs of channel assignments, thereby reducing our need for spectrum as we deploy this technology throughout our infrastructure. We are planning to bring this technology to the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) later in the fiscal year in order to brief the NTIA and member agencies.
- The USPS Spectrum Management Office (SMO) is a member and participates in the following NTIA committees and sub-committee's:
  - Interagency Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC)
  - Frequency Assignment Sub-Committee (FAS)
  - Spectrum Planning Sub-Committee (SPS)
  - Emergency Planning Sub-Committee (EPS)
- The USPS has integrated spectrum management into strategic and capital planning processes. All acquisitions of devices/systems utilizing spectrum technology within the USPS go through an approval process within the Telecommunications Office and the Spectrum Management Office in close coordination with our Financial Office within the IT Value organization for capital planning.
- The USPS shares spectrum with other federal agencies where it is practical and workable. We also share spectrum assets with certain state and local agencies for joint tactical operations within specific geographic areas of the country.

- The USPS utilizes a large amount of commercial available spectrum mainly from Sprint/Nextel in the form of push to talk IDEN technology mainly used for wide area communications. We also utilize commercial VSAT services for many of our smaller facilities that connect to our data network. We also have deployed a large amount of Part 15 non licensed 802.11 technology for tracking and data reporting applications.
- The USPS also utilizes partnerships with other federal agencies that allow for increased spectrum sharing. This is especially prevalent within our internal facility communications systems.
- The USPS now is deploying SED's throughout our system in order to provide increased utilization of the spectrum by using TDMA technology as well as IP type devices. This new technology allows for communications to flow through our wide area network for inter facility communications as well as reducing the amount of needed spectrum. We are also reviewing new technology that will allow for multiple services within the same platform as the SED technology. For example, systems where GPS can be added in without additional spectrum required.
- The USPS SMO being a part of the Information Technology Group has developed more efficient systems in order to modernize spectrum management. Engineering issues such as harmonic interference and intermodulation distortion interference are completed within the SMO before assignment requests are sent to the NTIA.

## Improvements to Capital Planning and Investment Control Procedures Consistent with OMB Guidance

- The SMO constantly reviews for improved spectrum efficient technologies and/or commercial available spectrum during cost benefit analysis of applications and systems.
- Working with our IT Value Group we have implemented developmental tools to assist us into taking into account the economic value of spectrum when working on programs and projects that utilize RF technology.

## Development of Second Agency Specific Strategic Spectrum Plan

- The 2007 Specific Spectrum Plan for the USPS focused on the deployment of Part 15 devices where possible for tracking and data collection applications as well as a contract that provides SED's to replace wideband and some narrowband LMR systems within our facilities for internal communications. We are also utilizing commercial VSAT spectrum for smaller facilities to connect into our data network.

## Process to Evaluate Proposed Needs for Spectrum, including the most Spectrum Efficient Options and Effective Alternatives, to be reviewed by NTIA in connection with Spectrum Certifications

- The USPS SMO reviews, evaluates and provides the NTIA with the data necessary to develop the spectrum certifications. The present SED deployment is operating under a STA from the FAS. We are planning a presentation of the SED technology to the IRAC along with an application for emission quantification with the SPS early in FY-2009.

## Activities and Progress with respect to use of Spectrum for COOP and COG Operations

- The USPS utilizes Part 15 technology and commercial cellular aircards at COOP locations for data applications. Commercial cellular phones are used for voice applications.