

From: [Nordholm, Gail \[DOT\]](#)
To: [Nordholm, Gail \[DOT\]](#)
Subject: FCC Narrowbanding Mandate
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 11:12:00 AM

TO: County Engineers and City Representatives

CC: District Local Systems Engineers; Service Bureau; James Bogner, Iowa SWIC; Bob Younie, Office of Materials; and Office of Local Systems

FROM: Office of Local Systems

SUBJECT: FCC Narrowbanding Mandate

DATE: November 16, 2010

The following is being sent on behalf of Jim Bogner, Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC). If you have any questions, **please do not reply to this note**. Instead, you may contact Mr. Bogner as shown below.

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In 1992, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) developed a plan to free up more radio channels for those operating in the VHF and UHF radio spectrum bands. This memo serves as a reminder that the FCC has mandated that all public safety and governmental users who operate radio equipment in the 150-174 and 421-512 MHz frequency range must meet new FCC Narrowbanding Requirements, effective January 1, 2013.

In 2004, Governor Vilsack commissioned an Iowa Communications Task Force to examine the state of public safety communications in Iowa and to make recommendations to him to improve interoperability in Iowa. Many of the Task Force's recommendations were formalized into legislation, House File 353. This established the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB), codified under Iowa Chapter 80.29 and 80.29. This board is made up of nine local public safety interests appointed by the governor and six members representing state agencies.

The following link provides a letter to Iowa Public Safety and Government Radio

System Operators, signed by ISICSB Chair Todd Misel, Vice-Chair Dina McKenna, and Coordinator Jim Bogner:
http://www.iowadot.gov/local_systems/mailing/2010/november/2010_nov_fcc_narrowbanding_letter.pdf

For more information on the narrowbanding mandate, please click on the ISICSB website at:
<http://isicsb.iowa.gov/>

Sincerely,

Jim Bogner,
Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator
215 East 7th Street, Room 225
Des Moines, IA 50319-1902
Work: 515-725-6108

Some of the documents referenced above are in Adobe Acrobat's Portable Document Format (PDF). If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software, you can download it free of charge at:
<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

Mailings are available at the Office of Local Systems Weekly Mailings web page at: http://www.iowadot.gov/local_systems/mailing/main_mailing.htm



Todd A. Misel, Chair
Dina McKenna, Vice-Chair

November 2, 2010

John R. Benson
Homeland Security &
Emergency Management

Tom Berger
Fire Department

Tom Boeckmann
Department of Health

Michael Dreke
Department of Corrections

Mark T. Frese
Fire Department

Wendi Hess
Communications Manager

Ted Kamatchus
Iowa Sheriff

Jeremy Logan
Police Department

Dina McKenna
Iowa Sheriff

Ron Miller
At-Large

Todd Misel
Department of Public Safety

Sandy Morris
Communications Manager

Jason Sandholdt
Department of Natural
Resources

Roxanne Warnell
Police Department

Robert A. Younie
Department of Transportation

Jim Bogner
Iowa SWIC

Legislative Members
Senator Tom Hancock
Senator Shawn Hamerlinck
Representative Kerry Burt
Representative Dave Tjepkes

Dear Iowa Public Safety and Government Radio System Operators

Attn: Operators using the 150-174 and 421-512 MHz Radio Spectrum

Subject: **Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Radio Equipment
Mandated Narrowband Deadline of 12/31/2012**

This letter is a reminder that the FCC has **mandated** that all public safety and governmental users who operate radio equipment in the 150-174 and 421-512 MHz frequency range **must meet the new FCC Narrowband Requirements, effective 1/1/2013**. This means that if you are presently operating radio equipment in the older wideband mode in these VHF and UHF bands, your equipment must be replaced or modified to operate in the narrowband mode by 12/31/2012.

In 1992, the FCC developed a plan to free up more radio channels for those operating in the VHF and UHF radio spectrum bands by using radio equipment that would operate in channels occupying one-half the space formerly used. Subsequently, they issued several orders, e.g., FCC's Third Order, 04-292, Released December 23, 2004, setting 1/1/2013 as the final date that narrowband operation in affected VHF and UHF channels **must occur**. The FCC reminded licensees, frequency coordinators, and equipment manufacturers again of this mandate and deadline in Public Notice DA 09-2589, released on December 11, 2009, affirming that **all operators be fully compliant with this narrowband mandate by 1/1/2013** or licensees could face fines up to \$10,000 per day or loss of license for illegal operations after the deadline.

Typically, radio equipment manufactured from about 2000 on is capable of being modified to operate in a narrowband mode to be compliant with the above order. Older equipment may not be able to be modified, and will have to be replaced if you still wish to operate in the above VHF and UHF bands.

The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Board (ISICSB) has placed several links and documents on its web site (www.isicsb.iowa.gov)

as a resource for those affected by this FCC mandate. Additionally, the Iowa statewide interoperability vision and master plan is posted on our web site, and should be considered when narrowbanding to ensure future interoperability throughout Iowa, and more efficiently use tax dollars as we progress towards our goal of statewide interoperability.

So what do you need to do NOW, if you have not already started your narrowbanding conversion?

- Conduct a thorough equipment inventory and then check your manufacturer's web site or contact you're your service provider, technician, or manufacturer to determine what equipment can be modified and what must be replaced, or other solutions, preferably P25 compliant;
- If you have not done so already, identify the costs and funding for this mandate NOW as you only have 1+ budget cycles left before the deadline; the FCC has repeatedly said that with the lengthy notice issued, they will not extend the mandate deadline.
- Plan your narrowband conversion with your neighboring agencies to minimize interoperability and possible reduced coverage interruptions. The ISICSB web site contains the Iowa State Patrol's narrowbanding schedule for 2011 and 2012 as well as the Iowa statewide master plan for future interoperability.
- The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) have developed a "Standard Channel Nomenclature for the Public Safety Interoperability Channels" (www.apcointl.org). It is suggested that at the time of your conversion, you consider renaming your channels consistent with this standard to avoid confusion in referencing channels from one user to the next.

The FCC has published a short Power Point presentation that reviews the general information on this narrowbanding mandate. I have included the link below for your review and information:

[http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/docs/public-safety-spectrum/General Information on VHF-UHF Narrowbanding.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/docs/public-safety-spectrum/General%20Information%20on%20VHF-UHF%20Narrowbanding.pdf) .

REMEMBER, this FCC mandate is NOT optional.

We hope this information from the ISICSB helps your successful migration to narrowbanding, should the FCC mandate affect your radio operations.

Sincerely,



Todd A. Misel
Chair, ISICSB



Dina McKenna
Vice-Chair, ISICSB



Jim Bogner
Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator