

EMERGENCY SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY JUSTIFICATION

To Whom It May Concern:

The County of Allen in the State of Indiana respectfully requests herein an Emergency Special Temporary Authority in order to relocate one of our two 800 MHz radio systems currently located at 410 N. Int. Butler & Hilligas in Fort Wayne. The specific radio system we need to relocate is licensed under Call Sign WNLX275; a fully constructed and operational 13-channel non-NPSPAC system. It is currently co-located with our fully constructed and operational 18-channel trunked NPSPAC system licensed under call sign WPPX487.

The purpose of this request is to eliminate a single point of operation for the County of Allen's 800 MHz public safety radio systems that serve the City of Fort Wayne by implementing a new geographically central site prior to the start of the 2007 tornado season. In 2006, there was a complete power failure at the existing site caused by an electrical storm that caused both systems to be knocked out and leaving the City and the County without radio communications for several hours. Because these systems are used by our critical emergency infrastructure such as the County Sheriff's office, the City's Fire and Police departments, as well as the Public Works and Highway Departments, any loss of communication can place any of these departments, as well as the general public in grave danger of life and death situations. Because of the loss of communications following this storm and the confusion that ensued thereafter, it was determined that steps had to be taken to eliminate the possibility of this ever happening again by moving one of the systems to a different location.

Therefore, immediately following the systems' outages, the County began looking for a new site to move one of the systems to so that we are never faced with another similar situation. One month after the incident, lease negotiation began for the new site, which was concluded in late fall of 2006. Funding was secured in November of 2006 and a purchase order was issued to our radio equipment vendor. Preparation of the site had to be done and is anticipated to be completed within this next week, but the equipment can not be moved until we have a granted STA, as we will need to turn the system on as soon as it is relocated.

As stated above, the need for the emergency STA is intensified by the onset of the 2007 spring and summer tornado season, which is rapidly approaching. Although tornadoes can occur throughout the year and within any state, there are regions that experience increased tornadic activities at particular times of the year. Indiana falls within the upper section of an area of the country called "tornado alley" that covers the central USA from central Texas, northward to northern Iowa, and from central Kansas and Nebraska east to Western Ohio. This area of the country is ideally positioned for the formation of super-cell thunderstorms and has many violent tornadoes each year and especially during the spring through late summer months. The NOAA data for Allen County from 1/1/1970 to 10/31/2006 shows that the County has had 70 thunderstorms with wind speeds greater than 50 knots (equivalent to 57.6 miles per hour), which uproots trees and causes considerable structural damage, and 16 actual tornadoes that touched down and caused from moderate to severe damage within the County. No one would dispute that tornadoes create emergency situations for the citizens of any state and that they can cause massive property damage and loss of life at any time of the day or night, sometimes giving residents little or no time to react to local warning systems. Therefore, it is imperative that both 800 MHz systems be in good working order at all times, and especially during this upcoming season. Likewise, it is extremely important that the non-NPSPAC system be relocated and back in operation before the storm system begins, so there is less possibility of being knocked out at the same time as the other system, as they were last year.

Other reasons for moving quickly to get the equipment set up at the new site is because the building rooftop that we are relocating to is also a peregrine falcon nesting site and as soon as there are eggs in the nest this spring, we will not be allowed on the roof to work. Lastly, a permanent license modification request will be submitted to the FCC for approval within the next 30-60 days, depending upon how long it takes the Frequency Coordinator to complete their coordination process and file the application. For this reason, it is imperative that the County be allowed to relocate and resume operations with full communication capability from the new location, as quickly as possible, to avoid as much system outage as possible.

The County feels they have several valid and serious reasons for submitting this emergency STA and, therefore, respectfully requests an affirmative decision from the Commission for a STA period of 180 days or until the grant of our permanent license. Thank you in advance for your positive consideration to this request.