METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

RADIO TECHNICAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA
Board Room, Metro Counties Government Center
June 24, 2015
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of May 27, 2015 Minutes

3. Agenda Items
    a. Radio/IPAWS Regional Funding Priorities FY2016 – Jill Rohret
    b. Amendments to Metro Standard 3.35.0 – NWS – Jill Rohret
    c. Regional Standard for Roaming/Requested Sites for Metro – Jon Eckel/John Gundersen
    d. Ramsey County Console Upgrade to MCC 7500s – Dave Pikal

4. Moves, Additions & Changes to the System
    a. Existing/Other Systems
    b. Update on Removal of Voting from Interoperability System

5. Committee Reports
    a. Metro Mobility System Usage Update—Chad LeVasseur/Dana Rude
    b. SMG Update
    c. Reports from SECB Committees—Jill Rohret

6. Other Business
    a. Regional Talkgroup Permissions Update – None

7. Adjourn

Ulie Seal, Chair

Members Present: Ulie Seal, Chair; Jeff Bjorklund; Chris Caulk; Jon Eckel; Clif Giese; Ron Jansen; Chad LeVasseur; Curt Myer; Rod Olson; Chuck Steier; Jake Thompson; Tim Walsh; and Chris Weldon.

Guests Present: Jill Rohret, Metropolitan Emergency Services Board; Martha Ziese, Metropolitan Emergency Services Board; Carrie Oster, Motorola; Rick Juth, ECN; and Dana Rude, Metro Mobility.

Call to Order: Ulie Seal called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes of the April 22, 2015 Meeting:
M/S/C – Chris Weldon moved to approve the April 22, 2015 meeting minutes. Clif Giese seconded. The motion carried.

COMT Certification for Bob Cooper:
M/S/C – Ron Jansen moved to approve certification for Bob Cooper. Jeff Bjorklund seconded. The motion carried.

Isanti County Console Upgrade to MCC 7500s: Chris Caulk stated that Isanti County would like to upgrade its current two Gold Elite consoles to MCC 7500 consoles. They would also like to add a position in their PSAP, for a total of three positions, plus a patching console. The County also plans to add an MCC 7100 in a laptop. They plan to go live in October, at which time the CEBs will be removed.

Ron Jansen asked about T1circuits.

Caulk responded that he did not know, but will get the answer for the group.

M/S/C- Ron Jansen moved to approve the Isanti console upgrade. Clif Giese seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion: Regional Standard for Roaming/Requested Sites: Jon Eckel presented the current draft of the standard, which has modifications from the original version. He wanted to leave the metro to work how it always has and make those in greater Minnesota receive permission. He did not want to increase paperwork for the metro area.

Rohret asked people to report on what talkgroups they are seeing on their subsystems. Washington County generally only sees roaming traffic, due to their geographic location.

Eckel said that Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine Counties all have requested sites on North Branch and have not received permission.

Jansen said that Dakota County sees traffic from Rice and Goodhue Counties' main talkgroups. He also sees a couple of operational channels, which he feels act as mains.

Thompson noted that one of the 12 CM TACs is requested on Anoka. He does not think it received permission to do so. It is curious that only one of the 12 is requested. He also noted that this draft only requires TOC permission; shouldn't the local subsystems have a say?

Eckel agreed that local input should be received first.

Jansen asked if the MESB would be required to track roaming approval.

Rohret responded no. She stated that even when agencies receive permission for BDAs, it is up to local subsystem owners to track them and correspond with the owners. She thinks this would be similar. She also stressed that this standard will need to apply to both metro users and greater Minnesota users.

Jansen asked how the DNR, FBI and EMS fit in. They are not on just one subsystem.

Seal stated that as loading increases permissions will give an idea of where the traffic is coming from. If talkgroups do not have permission to roam, then the TOC should take action.

Olson noted that we can't lock people off of all sites. Radio preferences can only do so much. Agreements for roaming need to be made, but the talkgroup affiliation table will still be needed.

Eckel stated that he has feedback from the group and he will rework the standard and bring it back.

Radio/IPAWS Regional Funding Priorities FY2016-2017

Rohret said that funding priorities need to be determined for FY2016-2017. She thinks that on the radio side, we can move beyond 7.19 funding since there is now a dedicated grant fund for that. We also need to consider IPAWS. She asked the 911 TOC to talk about their IPAWS needs. She reminded the committee that there will be a 50% local match on equipment; she thinks software qualifies as equipment.

Seal said that he felt certain that the needs will come out of the 911 TOC. He asked if all of the counties on the TOC are COGs. Most counties have become COGs through their PSAPs. Only counties and cities of the first class can be COGs. There are only 14 counties left in the state who are not already COGs or who have not applied to be a COG.

Rohret stated that Dean Tilley had suggested funding a portable tower, which could be used to replace an ARMER site, like when water towers are being refurbished. It would be nice to have a second one, in addition to the one owned by Hennepin County.

Chris Weldon, Clif Giese and Jeff Bjorklund thought it was a good idea. Curt Meyer and Rod Olson said they would try to get pricing information; there may be other, cheaper towers available.

Jansen asked who the owner would be. What about liability, maintenance, support, upgrades? He suggested additional GTR training classes.

Rohret said that one class is being held this summer and funds for an additional class are included in the 2014 SECB grant, so it will occur before June 30, 2016. Is a third class needed?

Eckel asked if there was a class for IP simulcast. That would be something that is needed.

Rohret summarized the priorities to date: training related to the 7.19 upgrade (IP simulcast); dispatcher scenario training; TICP maintenance; IPAWS; and a portable tower. This will be discussed again in June.

Moves, Additions & Changes to the System: Weldon reported that Scott County's MCC 7500 installation is almost done.

Jansen stated that the DCC's MCC 7500 consoles are up and running. The Sperry water tower will be dismantled at end of month and a new site will be built adjacent to the current site.

Rohret reminded him that Dakota County will need to get approval from the Statewide Emergency Communications Board.

Jansen gave an update on the removal of voting from the metro interoperability system. The Metro Owners Group (MOG) met today and formalized the removal. A protocol will be developed and brought to the Radio TOC for approval.

Metro Mobility Update: Dana Rude stated that the first of the MCC 7100s were installed last Wednesday. Training for dispatch is this Saturday. The next installation will be the third week in June at First Transit in Roseville.

Metro Mobility is working with Trapeze Scheduling System to develop an interface for the radios, similar to what Metro Transit does. It sounds promising.

SMG/MOG Update: Jansen said that the first metro owners' group meeting was today. They will formalize protocol to remove the voting from the interoperability system. They discussed the 7.15 upgrade; the system lock-down will be on April 1, 2016. There was a discussion of issue tracking, upgrade issues versus non-upgrade issues. They discussed issues with MCC 7500s and microwaves. They discussed the pending amendments to State Standard 1.11.1 and many other items. They briefly discussed the 7.19 grant; there will be a meeting with all affected system owners regarding the grant in the future.

SECB Committee Reports: Rohret stated that the SECB Finance Committee is recommending the allocation of the SECB grant funds of which the metro would receive $347,000. Marshall County is seeking $19,500 to fund its participation plan. The OTC action items are approval of console upgrades for St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, the City of LaCrosse's Limited Interoperability Participation Plan, amendments to Lake County's Participation Plan and a variance for St. Louis County. The Interoperability Committee discussed ISSI, and is recommending approval of its installation so long as it is funded like the Genesis system is funded. The Steering Committee is discussing by-laws changes. The State has issued a RFI for FirstNet, looking at public/private partnerships.

Other Business: Rohret stated she hopes to have the Radio Coordinator position filled by September.

Adjournment:
M/S/C – Jeff Bjorklund moved to adjourn. Jon Eckel seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17.

METROPOLITAN

EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD

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MEMO

To: Radio TOC Members
Fr: Jill Rohret
Date: June 17, 2015
RE: Regional Funding Priorities, FY 2016

The following list represents the funding priorities discussed at the May 2015 MESB Radio TOC meeting.

- Motorola IP Simulcast Training (Course ACS715217)
- Metro Region Dispatcher Scenario Training
- TIC Plan Maintenance
- IPAWS Software
- Portable Tower

The Radio TOC needs to finalize this list of funding priorities at its June 2015 meeting.

METRO REGION
800 MHz Trunked Regional Public Safety Radio System
Standards, Protocols, Procedures

Document/ Section: Sub-Section: Procedure Title:	**3. Interoperability Guidelines** **METRO 3.35.0** **National Weather Service** **ARMER Radio Operations**	Radio TOC Recommendation Date: 3/30/11
Date Established: Replaces Document Dated: Date Revised:	**2/3/2010** **4/3/2013** **6/17/2015**	MESB Approval - Signature: 4/13/11 Date:

1. Purpose and Objective:
To define the ARMER talkgroups and establish policy and procedures of radios to be used by the National Weather Service (NWS) Chanhassen office (Chanhassen Weather) and establish a Warning Point Net during severe weather events.

2. Technical Background:
- **Capabilities –**

To provide talkgroups that are readily available tools for the use by Chanhassen Weather to communicate with numerous Warning Points (PSAP, Dispatch Center, EOC or other designated location) across the nine county metro region and optionally other counties within the Chanhassen Weather County Warning Area (CWA) during severe weather events or other emergency incidents where the weather service's aid may be requested. The Statewide ~~Radio~~ Emergency Communications Board has authorized a dedicated talkgroup for Chanhassen Weather, named US-NWS CHN. This is the resource Chanhassen Weather will use to distribute weather event information. PSAPs may choose to add this resource to their consoles. Chanhassen Weather is authorized to use the statewide resources of STAC1-12 and the metro region resources of ME TAC5-8 for the Warning Point Net. The statewide talkgroup SEMTAC is also programmed in the radios for communications with State and Local Emergency Managers as directed by HSEM.

- **Constraints –**

Chanhassen Weather has been issued one hand held portable and two control station transceivers. These units will primarily be used to monitor selected talkgroups when invited to do so by a Warning Point or Emergency Manager as a result of severe weather or other emergency incident. This Standard does not limit the use of other ARMER resources and/or radios for other authorized purposes by Chanhassen Weather.

3. Operational Context:
For activations within the nine county metropolitan region, Chanhassen Weather will normally contact the Metro Warning Point (Minnesota State Patrol - Metro Communications Center) in the event of a severe weather watch and/or warning. The Metro Warning Point will determine the

appropriate resource for the event and will patch that resource to the US-NWS CHN talkgroup. In the event of some other type of emergency incident that would require assistance from Chanhassen Weather, the agency requesting the assistance would contact Chanhassen Weather directly via a land line or via US-NWS CHN and create the appropriate patch between resources to be used for the incident.

4. Recommended Procedure:

- Normal Activation – Metro Warning Point

Chanhassen Weather will normally initiate weather announcements, via NAWAS to the Metro Warning Point and MNJIS to notify of affected areas. The Metro Warning Point will determine to what resource US-NWS CHN will be patched and will create the patch. The Metro Warning Point will hail the affected Local Warning Points using METCOM and ask them to move to ~~ME TAC 8 (7, 6, 5)~~ STAC 12 (11, 10, 9, etc.) for weather information from the National Weather Service. *Non ARMER Warning Points will be notified via MIMS CV.* The Metro Warning Point will follow up via a land line if an affected Local Warning Point does not reply over the radio system. The Metro Warning Point will take roll and read the announcement on ~~ME TAC 8 (7, 6, 5)~~ STAC12 (11, 10, 9, etc.) and advise the Local Warning Points to ~~move to~~ remain on the talkgroup resource for continuing information from the National Weather Service. The Metro Warning Point will be responsible to update the use of STAC12 (11, 10, 9, etc) on the status board. STAC12 (11, 10, 9, etc) will be used for any information exchange between the affected centers and the National Weather Service; such as watches turning to warnings or sightings of tornados. This communication should be limited to updates to/from Warning Points **only.** This is not for individual field spotters. As the threat expires for each Warning Point's area, the center can choose to leave STAC12 (11, 10, 9, etc) on their own. Any new weather threats that occur after existing threats have expired will be handled in the same manner described above. Once all weather threats have passed, the Metro Warning Point will clear the associated resource from the status board.

- Optional Procedure for Emergency Activation During Sudden Severe and/or Near-Severe Weather Incidents With or Without a National Weather Service Issued Warning

In the event of a sudden onset or report of severe or near-severe weather incident occurring in the absence of a National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center issued watch, and when the Warning Point Net has not yet been activated, a Local Warning Point MAY elect to immediately activate the Warning Point Net on STAC12 (11, 10, 9, etc). Upon such activation the Local Warning Point activating the net shall make an announcement on METCOM that the net has been activated and update the status board.
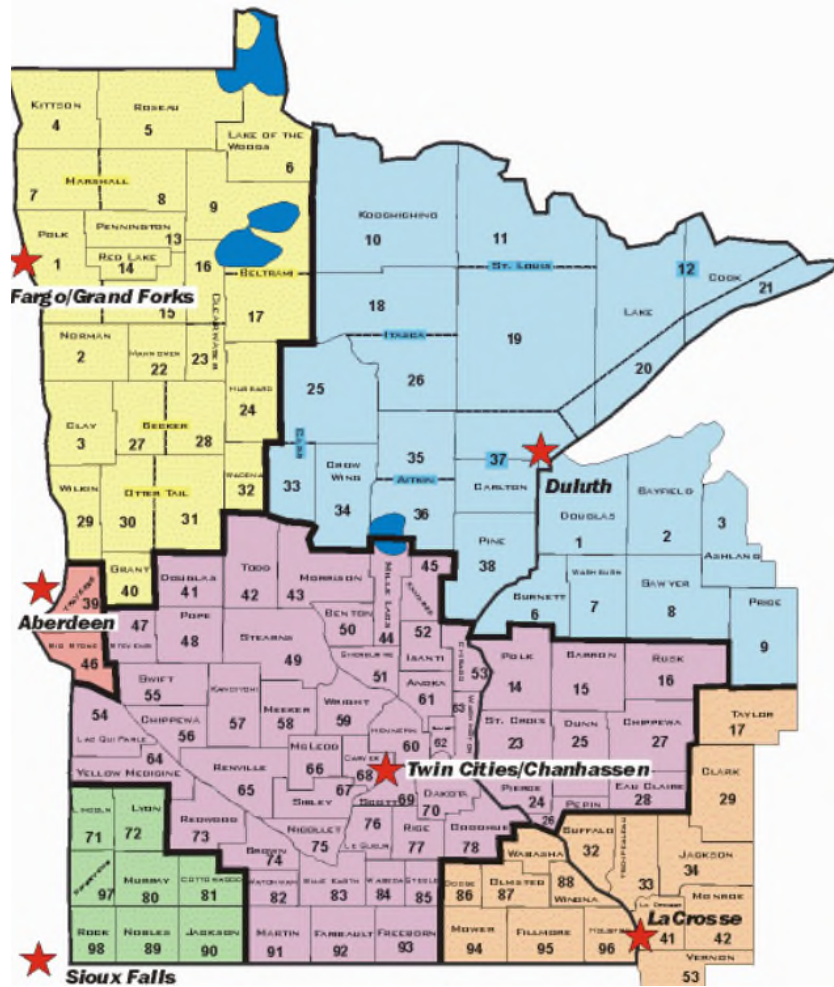
- Activation in Outside the Metro Region

State Patrol Warning Points in Rochester will follow other regions' NWS standards and/or the Statewide NWS standard, State 3.35.0, to facilitate communication regarding weather event information between NWS Offices and Greater Minnesota PSAPs.
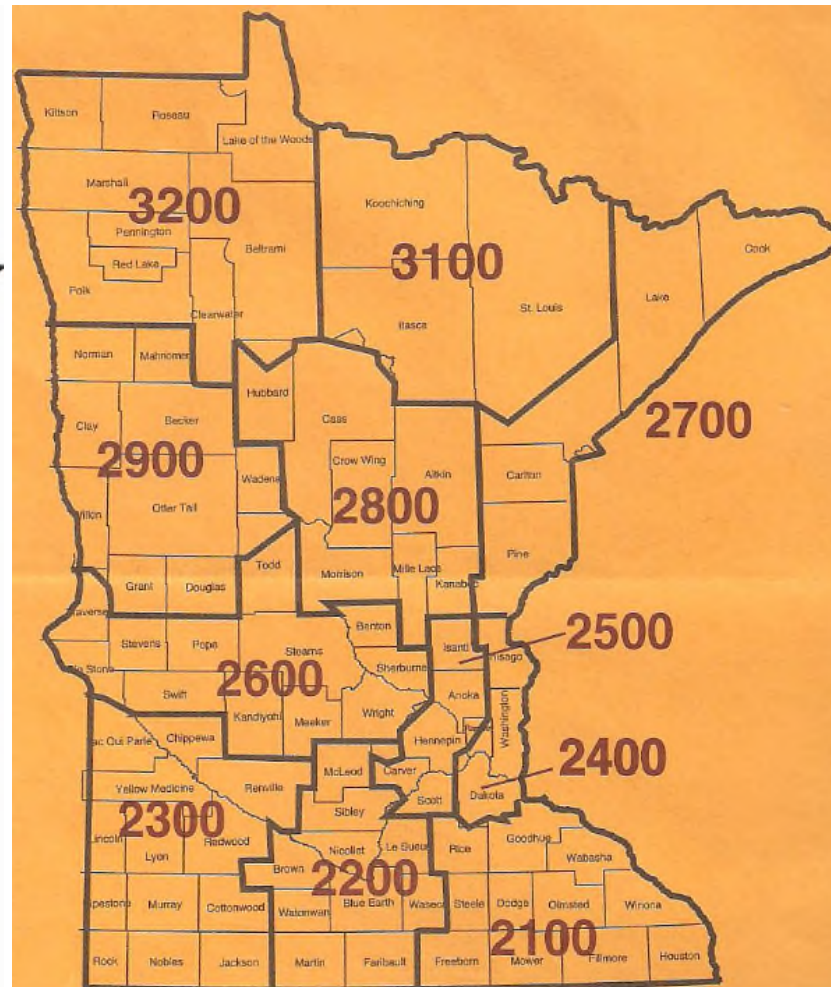
5. Management:

State Patrol Warning Points shall manage assignment and usage of talkgroups and conventional channel resources for normal Warning Point Net activations. Dispatch center managers and supervisors on the metro area ARMER system shall ensure that this procedure for usage and assignment of ME TAC or STAC talkgroups be adhered to. HSEM shall manage use of SEMTAC for severe weather operations.
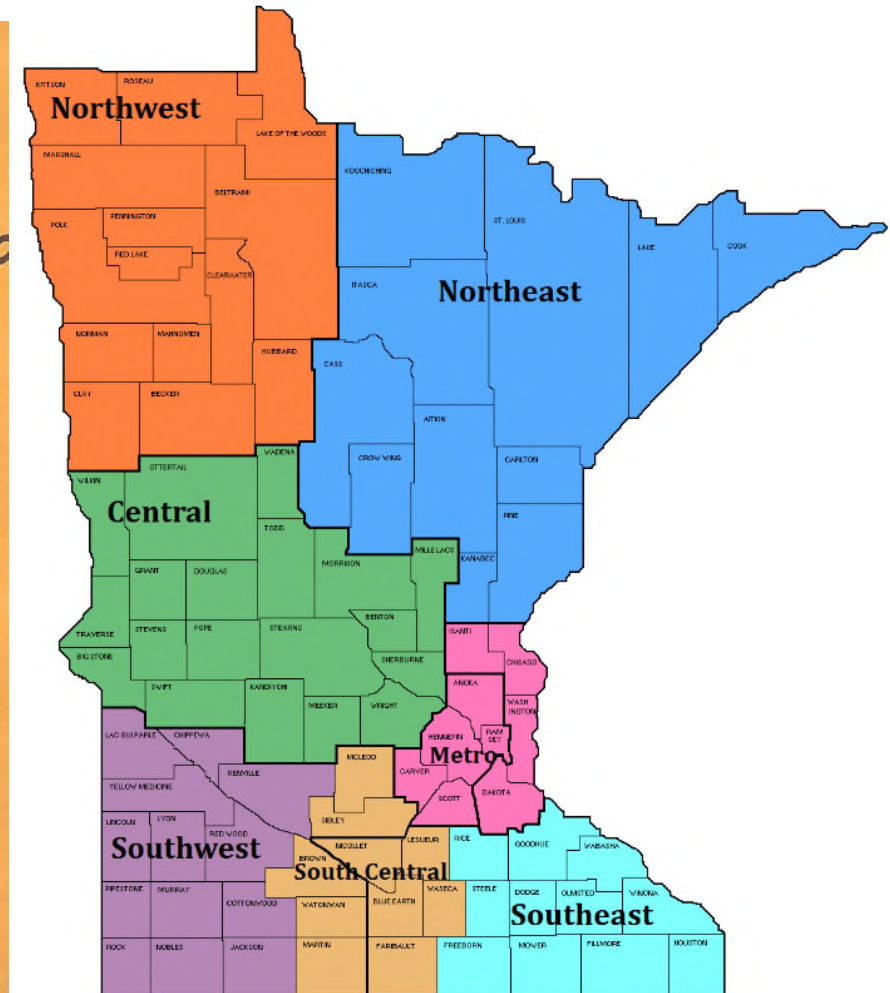
NWS CWA MAP

STATE PATROL DISTRICT MAP

REGIONAL RADIO BOARD MAP

METRO REGION
800 MHz Trunked Regional Public Safety Radio System
Standards, Protocols, Procedures

Document Section:	**2—Configuration & Allocation**	TOC Recommended
Sub-Section:	**2.7**	Date: January 19, 2001
Procedure Title:	**Radio Site Access Permission SUBSYSTEM ROAMING**	
Date Established:	**1/19/01**	MRB Approval - Signature:
Replaces Document Dated:	**9/15/04**	
Date Revised:	**6/16/15**	Date: 02/02/01

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1. Purpose or Objective

The network infrastructure and subscriber units are configured to permit managed access to various "sites" throughout various parts of the system. This managed site access provides the ability for users to achieve wide area coverage where necessary for mission critical operations, enhanced in-building portable coverage and a degree of system level backup in the event of certain types of major network failures. ROAMING FOR NON-ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS IS SUBJECT TO BEING RESTRICTED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AN ACCEPTABLE GRADE OF SERVICE FOR MISSION CRITICAL OPERATIONS. Roaming inside of the Metro Region requires the local subsystem administrators consent and the approval of the MESB Radio TOC. Roaming from regions or systems outside of the Metro Region, into the Metro Region systems, other than regional or statewide talkgroups, must be approved by the local subsystem administrator and the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB) Radio Technical Operations Committee (TOC).

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2. Technical Background:

Infrastructure programming settings that control site access for talk/multigroups

There are settings in the system infrastructure to control the "***Site Access Denial Type***" parameter, which controls how site access is handled for the radio users of the system. Radio users & talkgroups have independent access lists programmed into the system infrastructure which enables the site access for each respectively, however how the access is permitted depends on the "Site Access Denial Type" settings:

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Deleted: TalkGroups

Individual Only: Indicates the radio is rejected if the individual radio user does not
                              have access to the site.

TalkGroup Only: Indicates the radio is rejected if its current selected talkgroup does not
                              have access to the site.

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Both: Indicates the radio is rejected if neither the talkgroup nor the radio has access to the site. "Logical OR"

Either: Indicates the radio is rejected if either the talkgroup or the radio does not have access to the site. "Logical AND"

Infrastructure programming settings that control site access for Interconnect/Private Call
The site access privileges for Private & Interconnect Calls are based on the site access settings for the "Radio User", they are not based on the system "Site Access Denial Type" settings, and are independent of talkgroup site access settings.

Radio programming settings that control site access
The subscribers' radios themselves contain "Site Preference" selections in the RSS programming.

Radios can be programmed with multiple unique personalities, which will allow unique Site Preference Selections for each talkgroup in the radio.

Least Preferred: The site will be avoided unless it is the only usable site for operation.

No Preference: The site is given no preference. If the site is not listed here, the radio automatically assigns it no preference.

*Preferred: The site will be used over all non-preferred sites with similar signal strength.

*Always Preferred: The site will be used over all non-preferred sites with similar signal strength even if the site loses communication with the Zone Controller & enters site trunking.

*Note   *Always Preferred & Preferred are operationally identical, if the radio sites have communication with the system and are operating in wide area mode.*

▪ **Constraints**
Using the "Both" site access denial setting to facilitate unique individual needs will allow those individuals full access to all of their talk groups at sites that they have "Radio User" permission for.

Using the "Either" site access denial setting to facilitate unique individual needs may block those individuals from site access, even in emergency conditions.

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3. Operational Context:

Normally, only those talk groups in Priority 3 (Mutual Aid) or above will be permitted access at ALL sites.

Talkgroups would generally be permitted access at all those sites necessary to support the "normal day to day" business operations of the users of that talkgroup.

If it is necessary that a talkgroup have redundancy protection in the event of a site failure, the attempt shall be made to use 1 adjacent or overlapping non- owned site for the talkgroups protection. Factors determining the best protection site include coverage of the site, or even function of the talkgroups per site.

Custom talkgroup site access configuration profiles can be created consistent with this standard.

Dispatchers would be able to use the Wide Area, "Roaming," "Common" or "Pool" talk groups described in *Infrastructure Configuration* (below) for patching to their local area talk groups to facilitate temporary wide area access for emergent events.

4. Recommended Protocol/ Standard:

Subscriber Unit Configuration:

In the Subscriber Radio RSS Programming, the radio would normally be enabled for all sites of the system, the operational site access would then be managed at the system level.

While there may be some variation due to user operating profiles, the user's home site will normally be selected as "ALWAYS PREFERRED." The user's secondary site(s) will normally be selected as "NO PREFERENCE" as shall be other sites owned by that user (i.e. regional edge sites for regional users, Hennepin West for Hennepin users, etc.) and the regional dominant site for non-regional users. All other sites will normally be selected as "LEAST PREFERRED" (i.e. local subsystem sites for regional users, regional edge sites for local users, etc.).

Radios with no site preference tables, or with all sites set to the default "NO PREFERENCE" will not be allowed on the system because they will indiscriminately roam among all sites where the selected talk group is allowed. Roaming inside of the Metro Region requires the local subsystem administrators consent and the approval of the MESB Radio TOC. Roaming requests from any user or regions outside of the Metro Region and their site preference tables must be approved by the affected Metro Region local system

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administrators and the MESB Radio TOC, before their radios are allowed on any Metro Region area systems.

Infrastructure Configuration: Radio user profiles themselves would generally not have special site access permissions granted. Site access for wide area operations will primarily be managed at the talk group level. System Managers may accomplish this by designating site access throughout the system to a limited number of special wide area talk groups. These special talk groups would not be main dispatch or tactical talk groups with high volumes of radio traffic, but may be special Wide Area, "Roaming," "Common" or "Pool" talk groups.

The "Site Access Denial Type" for the system is set to "TALKGROUP," meaning that a radio will receive an out of range indicator on a selected talk group at a site if both the talkgroup and the radio user privileges are denied at the site. The use of "Critical User" and "Critical Site" in the system is generally discouraged and must be authorized by the MESB Radio TOC.

5. Recommended Procedure:
The defined standard would be implemented & maintained by system administrators.

6. Management
The MESB Radio TOC is responsible for oversight and ensuring that the standard is followed. (See *Section 1 – Management.*)

Deleted: he System Managers GroupMESB Radio TOC shall approve all roaming requests from any user or regions outside of the Metro RegionMESB areas and their site preference tables before their radios areis allowed on any Metro RegionMESB area activated on the systems.	
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Jill Rohert

Metropolitan Emergency Services Board

2099 University Ave W

St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Jill,

Ramsey County needs to receive approval from the MESBTOC and SECB OTC to update our Participation Plan that was dated 14-10-2004. We are in the process of replacing our nineteen (19) Motorola Gold Elite consoles with twenty (20) Motorola MCC7500 in our PSAP dispatch center. Once we have switched over to the new MCC7500, we will be able to free up approximately 1507 radio IDs that are currently assigned to our consoles. Three (3) CCGW's will be utilized with twenty one (21) ports will be used, and we will have three (3) spare ports for future needs. We will be returning 1507ID's. This will happen this year 2015. Equipment is set to be arriving the first part of July. We will be holding onto 1 CEB for a temporary logging solution.

I would like the approval to increase our "Approved Radio Quantity" from 6900 to 7000 for future growth. I would also like to increase our "Approved Talkgroup Quantity" from 256 to 286 to cover the 10 we are over today and give room for future growth.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ramsey County
Dave Pikal, Technology Manager
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651-266-7733

Excellence • Respect • Diversity

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