

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Experimental Special Temporary Authorization) OET File No. 0603-EX-ST-2015
Granted to Verizon Wireless)

OBJECTION FILED BY THE TOPAZ REGIONAL WIRELESS COOPERATIVE

The TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC) operates and maintains an 800 MHz Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Project 25-compliant (P25) trunked radio network serving the City of Apache Junction, Town of Gilbert, City of Mesa, Superstition Fire & Medical District, Rio Verde Fire District, and Town of Queen Creek in the east valley of the Phoenix, Arizona metropolitan area. The City of Mesa is the Administrative Manager for the TRWC, and the licensee for the 800 MHz frequencies used by the P25 network.

The TRWC is filing this informal objection to the Experimental Temporary Authorization granted to Verizon Wireless (VAW) LLC (Verizon) for testing of Long Term Evolution (LTE) transmissions by Verizon between 869-894 MHz at Effective Radiated Powers (ERPs) exceeding the current limit of 500-watts. The reason for this objection is stated by Verizon itself in its Application for Special Temporary Authority and on the Experimental Special Temporary Authorization granted by the Commission, which state the Purpose of Operation is “to evaluate the potential impact to service performance upon adjacent-band Public Safety mobile devices.”

The TRWC objects to the notion that causing a “potential impact to service performance” for Public Safety communications is acceptable. While Verizon states in its Special Temporary Authority application that “should any issues arise during testing immediate steps will be taken to mitigate the interference,” such interference could endanger the life of a police officer, firefighter, or citizen before it can be “mitigated.” The TRWC network is a live Public Safety system, considered mission critical by the users (law enforcement and fire & medical services), not a laboratory for Verizon’s use to test LTE transmissions that exceed current regulatory limits.

Due to the potential for this testing by Verizon to cause interference to Public Safety communications, the TRWC is objecting to the granting of an Experimental Special Temporary Authority to Verizon for this purpose.

Respectfully Submitted,

TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative

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