

Vital Metrics Corporation

October 31, 2001

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Engineering and Technology
Experimental Licensing Branch
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ref.: File No. 0270-EX-PL-1999; Call Sign WB2XEH

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

This annual Progress Report by Vital Metrics Corporation (i.e. the licensee) is in accord with special condition (3) of the referenced *Experimental Radio Station Construction Permit and License*.

PURPOSE: The intended purpose for the licensed transmitter stations is in a vessel traffic management system demonstration along the U.S. portion of the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

BACKGROUND: The vessel traffic management system will be a joint effort among the U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, the Canadian Saint Lawrence Seaway Authority, and the two national Coast Guard services. Similar licenses for the transmission of VHF radiofrequencies have been gained for the Canadian portion of the waterway. Funds to accomplish the project are to be provided by the U.S. and Canadian governments.

PROGRESS: Technical developments necessary for the two-way data traffic between vessels and shore stations were developed and are being used in the Panama Canal. Carry-on units, similar to those that will be used by vessel pilots along the Saint Lawrence Seaway, also have been tested in the Panama Canal. The nature and volume of vessel traffic and the length and breadth of the water areas in the Saint Lawrence Seaway system, however, are significantly different from the Panama Canal and operational methods needed for vessel traffic management must be developed separately. Engineers have conducted extensive, onsite surveys along the Seaway to confirm planned signal coverage for the demonstration project.

STATUS: None of the eleven (11) licensed transmitters (i.e., 10 fixed site and one mobile) are yet in operation nor have any been in operation since the license was granted. Transmitter units for the fixed sites have been procured for test and evaluation. System development will continue until December 2001. System deployment will begin in March 2002. System demonstration should begin during the mid-2002 Seaway shipping season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. H. Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

George H. Quinn
President