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FCC'S NETWORK RELIABILITY AND INTEROPERABILITY COUNCIL HOLDS FIRST MEETING UNDER NEW CHARTER

Council to Focus on Homeland Security, Network Reliability and Broadband Deployment

Washington, D.C. – The FCC's Network Reliability and Interoperability Council (NRIC) today conducted the first meeting under its renewed charter. NRIC VII has been specifically chartered to provide the FCC with recommendations to ensure the reliability and evolution of emergency services networks. NRIC VII will also continue important work in the areas of homeland security, network reliability and broadband deployment.

“NRIC has addressed a variety of critical issues effectively, from network reliability to Y2K to homeland security. This record of accomplishment gives me tremendous pride and confidence as we charge this seventh Council with solving new problems,” said FCC Chairman Michael Powell. “In this time of heightened national concern for public safety it is only proper for us to focus a large portion of NRIC's energy on the reliability and security of our Nation's emergency services communications networks.”

NRIC is a 56-member Council originally established by the FCC in 1992 to bring together leaders from the telecommunications, ISP, satellite and cable industries as well as experts from academic, consumer, and other organizations to explore and recommend measures to enhance the security and reliability of the nation's telecommunications networks. Timothy Donahue, President and Chief Executive Officer of Nextel Communications Inc. serves as Chairman of NRIC VII.

During today's initial meeting an overview was presented of NRIC VII's various objectives. Specifically, during its two-year charter NRIC VII will make recommendations concerning the following topics:

Emergency Communications Networks Including E911

Through a series of reports, the Council will recommend ways to improve emergency communications networks and related network architectures, and facilitate the provision of emergency services through new technologies. The Council will address topics such as: near and long term issues for emergency/911 services; the effectiveness of E911 and public safety best practices that have been developed; and emergency communication issues beyond E911.

Homeland Security Best Practices

The Council will present a final report that describes, in detail, any additions, deletions, or modifications that should be made to the Homeland Security Best Practices that were adopted by the preceding Council.

Best Practices for Wireless and Public Data Network Services

Building on the work of previous Councils, as appropriate, NRIC VII will continue to develop Best Practices and refine or modify, as appropriate, Best Practices developed by previous Councils aimed at improving the reliability of wireless networks, wireline networks, and public data networks.

Broadband

The Council will present recommendations to increase the deployment of high-speed residential Internet access service. The Council will include Best Practices and service features that are, and will be, technology-neutral. The Council's recommendations shall be prepared in such a way as: (1) to ensure service compatibility; (2) to facilitate application innovation; and (3) to improve the security, reliability and interoperability of both residential user systems and service provider systems

For further details on NRIC VII's charter visit the Council's website at: www.nric.org

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