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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 7, 2005

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STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN ON NEXTEL ACCEPTANCE OF 800 MHZ BAND RECONFIGURATION PLAN

Our unanimous decision last year to adopt a solution to the interference crisis faced by public safety licensees operating in the 800 MHz band was one of the major accomplishments of this Commission. The primary goal of that item remains – to protect the nation's police, fire and emergency medical personnel, who are on the front lines of our country's public safety efforts. Our decision put that priority front and center, right where it belongs. In this light, I am very pleased that Nextel has agreed to accept the terms and conditions of our 800 MHz Report and Order. Nextel was the primary proponent of 800 MHz band reconfiguration, and their active participation is critical to its success.

We now have all of the pieces in place to greatly minimize, and hopefully eliminate, the interference currently experienced by our nation's first responders who communicate on land mobile radio systems in the 800 MHz band. We've given Nextel and all of the affected licensees what they asked for – the regulatory tools to solve this problem both through rebanding and enhanced best practices. Let's all work together to eliminate this unacceptable and dangerous interference problem.