



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF NEXTEL OF 800 MHz INTERFERENCE SOLUTION

Today is a major milestone – a very important day -- and I am grateful that it has arrived. As I said last summer, the Commission took a bold action in the interest of homeland security, because lives depended on it, and our police and firefighters deserve nothing less. This has, indeed, been the most difficult, complex, and challenging issue I have faced in seven years at the Commission. It is gratifying on so many levels to see the plan coming to life.

We've come quite far since adopting the plan several months ago: the committee to choose the Transition Administrator was formed, they evaluated applicants and chose an Administrator, and the Administrator has formulated a plan for the transition and submitted it to the Commission. We should see the long-term band reconfiguration solution start rolling out within a few months.

The commitment that Nextel made today is major. We should measure its significance in more than just dollars. Nextel made a choice in the best interests of its shareholders and in the best interest of the American people. I applaud Nextel for exercising well its custodianship of the public spectrum and for its leadership in advancing a solution to this difficult problem.

While Nextel's effort has been key, this success was earned by the work of so many people. I deeply appreciate how the public safety community worked with us as full partners in finding a comprehensive solution, and I know that they will continue to be as we move forward. I am enormously proud of the Wireless Bureau staff who have dedicated so much of their lives over the course of years now to get us here. And of course, I thank my fellow Commissioners for their unanimous support and their staffs. Thank you all for what you have done to get us to this point and, more important, for your commitment to see this through.

I am confident that we have set in motion a real solution. I can think of no better mark to leave than protecting the lives of the men and women who wear the shield, and it has been a privilege.