

## Chapter 12

# Emergency Readiness Planning

### 12.1 OVERVIEW

This plan addresses Federal spectrum use and management actions necessary to support an immediate response to emergency situations, e.g. mobilizing for, responding to, and recovering from all emergency situations, and the mechanisms by which the Federal Government will use and manage the radio spectrum relative to National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) radio communications for the Federal Government. The plan coupled with NTIAs Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan and other Federal departments and agencies COOP plans, support accomplishing NTIAs Primary Mission Essential Function (PMEF) of Federal spectrum management during emergency situations. The plan also serves as a baseline for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) or his/her designee to advise and assist the President in the administration of a system of radio spectrum priorities for those spectrum-dependent telecommunications resources of the Federal Government which support NS/EP functions.

Whenever possible, normal policies and procedures governing federal spectrum management contained elsewhere in this Manual should be followed. The procedures contained in this section relate to any emergency occasion, instance, or situation which require a federal response not covered by normal spectrum management policies and procedures. Specific NTIA policies for spectrum use and management in support of a response to emergency situations include:

- Continuing, insofar as possible, use of existing frequency assignments;
- Continuing to coordinate frequency assignments through NTIA Headquarters;
- Emphasizing the need to preplan the use and management of radio spectrum before emergencies arise;
- Ensuring that all agency communications are electromagnetically compatible with other users to reduce the possibility of interference;
- Providing for federal, military, and civil, spectrum needs determined by a competent authority;
- Assuring use of the radio spectrum conforms to national priorities established by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) as stated in the NTIA *Emergency Readiness Plan for the Use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum* (ERP), or by other competent authority;
- Providing, with minimal disruption to other services, radio spectrum resources as necessary to satisfy federal emergency response requirements; and
- Recommending adjustments to spectrum use when situations require.

### 12.2 NATIONAL SECURITY AND WAR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

1. Upon proclamation by the President of war, threat of war, state of public peril or disaster or other national emergency, or in order to preserve the neutrality of the United States, the President may exercise war emergency powers pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 606. The OSTP Director will execute these powers under 47 C.F.R. § 214.6. Under 47 C.F.R. § 202.1 (f), and subject to the overriding control of the OSTP Director under the President's war emergency powers, NTIA will continue to authorize and assign radio frequencies until otherwise directed.

2. The OSTP Director bears overall responsibility for the development and approval of radio spectrum priorities supporting the NS/EP telecommunications functions of the Federal Government. In 47 C.F.R. § 202.3 (c)(2) & (e)(1)(i), the OSTP Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce, National Security Emergency Preparedness Priority System for Government-Owned/Leased Spectrum-Dependent Telecommunications Systems (May 19, 1989), designated NTIA as the agency to develop this system of priorities. NTIA has developed the Telecommunication Service Priorities for Radio (TSP-R) accordingly. The ERP contains procedures for agencies to designate the appropriate TSP-R for their spectrum-dependent systems.

3. The ERP contains further guidance on spectrum use during these emergencies. NTIA prepares, maintains and disseminates the ERP, and ensures that it accurately reflects the projected NS/EP spectrum usage and priority requirements of federal departments and agencies.

### **12.3 SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (NON-WARTIME)**

1. In the case of an emergency where Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) activates procedures in accordance with the National Response Framework (NRF), NTIA will continue to perform its frequency management functions at its Headquarters, whether at the home office in Washington, DC or at its Continuity of Operations (COOP) sites. Thus, processing of all frequency assignment requests continues to follow current published procedures. NTIA may also deploy spectrum managers to the emergency area as necessary to perform a liaison representing NTIA.

2. In the event of Department of Defense (DOD) involvement, the Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) or Joint Task Force, will establish a Joint Spectrum Management Element (JSME) in accordance with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction 3320.01B, with DOD Joint Publication 6-01, Annex A to ACP 190 and other applicable procedures and guidelines. The JSME spectrum manager serves as the single point of contact for joint or single service task forces temporary or permanent spectrum requirements. The JSME forwards requirements through the appropriate military channels. In all instances, spectrum coordination will not be completed until the NTIA Office of Spectrum Management (OSM) Frequency Assignment Branch validates the spectrum use and authorizes a frequency assignment.

3. The deployed NTIA spectrum liaison will manage the use of the Federal radio frequency spectrum, coordinate Federal radio frequency interoperability, coordinate Federal telecommunications assistance to local, state, tribal, territorial, and insular area governments and resolves radio frequency use conflicts in the Joint Field Office or disaster area. The NTIA Liaison will assist agencies, as necessary, in forwarding requests to their appropriate agency headquarters or, if necessary, to NTIA for assignment action. All frequency requests must be processed through NTIA Headquarters.

### **12.4 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS FOR WHICH AN IMMEDIATE DANGER EXISTS TO HUMAN LIFE OR PROPERTY**

1. In situations where immediate danger exists to human life or property, an agency may operate temporarily on any regularly assigned frequency in a manner other than that specified in the terms of an existing assignment. Emergency operations under such situations should continue only as long as necessary to ensure that the danger to human life or property no longer exists. Emergency operations under these circumstances shall be reevaluated on a regular basis until such time as normal/routine operations can be reestablished.

2. Interoperable communications for disaster/emergency response involving federal, state, local, and tribal entities shall be in conformance with Section 12.15 of this Manual. Additional information regarding interoperable communications can also be found in the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide promulgated by the Department of Homeland Security.

### **12.5 FREQUENCIES FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY**

1. Aircraft, ship, survival craft and mobile earth stations may use the following frequencies provided such use is in accordance with the ITU Radio Regulations Article 5, Chapter VII and Appendix 15:

- a. Frequencies designated for use by ships for radiotelephone distress and safety traffic.

2182 kHz <sup>1</sup>	4125 kHz	6215 kHz	8291 kHz
12290 kHz	16420 kHz	156.8 MHz (VHF FM Channel 16)	

b. Frequencies designated for use by ships using Digital Selective Calling for distress and safety calls.

2187.5 kHz <sup>1</sup>	4207.5 kHz	6312.0 kHz	8414.5 kHz
12577.0 kHz	16804.5 kHz	156.525 MHz (VHF Channel 70)	

c. Frequencies designated for use by ships for Distress, Urgent and Safety traffic using radiotelex or narrow band direct printing.

2174.5 kHz	4177.5 kHz	6268.0 kHz
8376.5 kHz	12520.0 kHz	16695.0 kHz

d. Frequencies designated for use by ship, aircraft and shore stations utilizing radiotelephony during coordinated search and rescue operations.

3023 kHz	5680 kHz	123.1 MHz
----------	----------	-----------

e. Frequencies designated by aircraft stations in addition to their normal air/ground communications channel(s) for distress, urgent, safety and calling purposes.

121.5 MHz	243.0 MHz
-----------	-----------

f. Frequencies designated by mobile earth stations for distress, urgent and safety communications.

1626.5-1645.5 MHz	1645.5-1646.5 MHz
-------------------	-------------------

2. Ship stations may use the frequencies 156.650 and 156.375 MHz for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore communications related to the safety of navigation in accordance with the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act (Public Law 92-63). (See ITU Radio Regulation Article 33, RR 33.52 and Section 8.2.29 of this Manual.)

3. Ship, survival craft and search and rescue aircraft stations may use the frequencies 161.975 and 162.025 MHz for automatic identification system purposes (see ITU Radio Regulation Article 5, Ap. 15 and 18).

4. The provisions of this Manual do not prevent mobile stations, or mobile earth stations, in distress from using any frequency at its disposal to attract attention, make known its position, and obtain help. (See ITU Radio Regulation Article 4, RR 4.9 and Article 30, RR 30.2)

5. To enhance protection of life and property, it is mandatory that each Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacon (EPIRB), Emergency Locating Transmitter or Personal Locator Beacon operating on 406.025 MHz be registered with NOAA. Agencies shall advise the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in writing of any change in registration information. Initial registration forms are provided by the equipment manufacturer. NOAA will provide registrants with confirmation of registration and change of registration postcards. NOAA's address is: NOAA, SARSAT Beacon Registration, NSOF,

---

<sup>1</sup> GMDSS is mandated for ships internationally by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Safety of Life at Sea Convention (SOLAS), however USCG no longer monitors these frequencies

E/SPO53, 1315 East West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910. As an alternative, agencies may make special arrangements for the registration of these devices directly with the NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) Operations Division.

## **12.6 FREQUENCIES FOR COORDINATING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS**

1. The carrier frequencies 3023 and 5680 kHz (ITU Radio Regulation Article 31, Ap. 15 and 27) may be used by mobile stations for intercommunication between mobile stations engaged in coordinated search and rescue operations, including communication between the mobile stations and participating land stations, provided such use is in accordance with the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations. Federal mobile stations shall use J3E emission, upper sideband only, when all stations participating in a search and rescue operation are capable of using that emission. Emissions A1A, A3E or H3E may also be used if necessary.

2. The frequency 123.1 MHz, using class A3E emission, may be used by stations of the aeronautical mobile service and by other mobile and land stations engaged in coordinated search and rescue operations.

3. The frequency 156.3 MHz may be used for communications between ship stations and aircraft stations, using G3E emission, engaged in coordinated search and rescue (SAR) operations. When control of the scene of a SAR incident is under a U.S. Coast Guard coast station, 156.3 MHz may be used by ship stations to communicate with that coast station.

## **12.7 FREQUENCIES FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OPERATIONS**

The frequency 157.075 MHz, 16K0F3E emission, may be used by mobile stations, and for portable-type operations, for communications required to coordinate marine environmental protection operations, e.g., communications pursuant to the Joint Canada-United States Marine Contingency Plan for Spills of Oil and Other Noxious Substances. All use of this frequency under this authority shall be in accordance with plans formulated by competent environment-protection authorities and shall be under the operational control of the designated on-scene commander/coordinator or deputy on-scene commander/coordinator.

## **12.8 EMERGENCY USE OF NON-FEDERAL FREQUENCIES**

In emergency situations, a federal radio station may utilize any frequency authorized to a non-federal radio station, under Part 90 of the FCC Rules and Regulations, when such use is necessary for communications with the authorized non-federal stations and is directly related to the emergency at hand. Such use is subject to the following conditions:

- The non-federal licensee has given verbal or written concurrence;
- Operations are conducted in accordance with the FCC Rules and Regulations;
- Use is restricted to the service area and station authorization of the licensee;
- All operations are under the direct control of the licensee and shall be immediately terminated when directed by the licensee;
- Operations do not exceed 60 days; and,
- The federal agency shall provide, through the agency's FAS representative to the FCC as soon as practicable, a written report of each such use.

## **12.9 FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK; NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK**

1. Public Law 112-96, February 22, 2012 established the First Responder Network Authority within the NTIA to plan for and oversee the development, deployment and operation of the Nationwide Public

Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The FirstNet Authority holds the sole, nationwide license for Long Term Evolution Band-14 (788 – 798MHz - 758 – 768MHz) through Part 90 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

2. Operation of the NPSBN is essential to Federal and civil authorities conducting National Security/Emergency Preparedness operations day-to-day as well as during planned and unplanned events in support of the National Security Posture and Public Health, Safety and Maintenance of Law and Order. Federal departments and agencies wishing to access Band-14 spectrum will only do so through a subscription service or as part of an overall support to FirstNet subscribers at all levels of government within the operational area. Agencies should avoid procurement of transportable Advanced Wireless Service (AWS), Cellular, and Personal Communications Services (PCS) Systems including Cell-on-Wheels (COW), Cell on Light Truck (COLT) or other transportable or deployable systems operating in Band-14.d.

3. Wideband, spectrum-dependent systems used by Federal departments and agencies must avoid causing interference to the operation of the NPSBN as an NS/EP, public safety network when used within the US, USA, USP, Statewide or other area assignments.

## **12.10 COORDINATION AND USE OF EMERGENCY NETWORKS**

1. FEMA National Emergency Coordination Net (NECN): After coordination with the FEMA program manager for FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), federal high frequency (HF) radio stations are authorized to communicate with stations operating on the NECN when necessary for coordination in relation to NS/EP response efforts including tests and exercises. NECN provides pre-designated and ad hoc frequencies to support NS/EP response efforts. These frequencies are a virtual "meeting place" where responders from different agencies can make contact to coordinate their activities, exchange operational information, and receive support (such as relay, phone patch, information lookup, and third-party message handling) from the FEMA radio operators or other stations on the Net.

a. The NECN provides the following:

(1) Communications support to federal agencies that need to contact FEMA during NS/EP response efforts;

(2) Interoperability communications support between federal agencies and state emergency operations centers via the FEMA HF radios installed there during NS/EP response efforts;

(3) High-power HF stations with emergency generator backup power, staffed by federal or state employees; and,

(4) Capability for secure voice and data communications (These communications are exercised quarterly).

b. The NECN maintains a watch for expected traffic from stations directly involved in an emergency response or those stations communicating with stations directly involved in an emergency response.

c. Agencies should contact the FEMA FNARS program manager to arrange for access to the NECN:

FNARS Program Manager

DHS/FEMA MWEOC

19844 Blue Ridge Mountain Road

Mount Weather, VA 20135

Telephone: 540-542-2249

2. The SHARED RESOURCES (SHARES) High Frequency Radio Program: The IRAC, in coordination with the federal departments and agencies that made up what was formed (known as the National Communications System), established the SHARES HF Radio Program<sup>2</sup>. Federal agencies may use SHARES as a means of passing message traffic when their own networks are not available. Agencies participating in SHARES will accept SHARES traffic at their own discretion. Each agency determines if

---

<sup>2</sup> See IRAC Document 24902/1, A Concept of Operations for a Shared Resources High Frequency Network ("SHARES").

emergency message traffic (including test and exercise traffic) can be handled, and if it can, the best means of delivery, given the agency's requirements.

a. Participation in SHARES requires a common understanding and acceptance of procedures. These procedures are contained in the SHARES manual.

b. Frequency assignments made available by participating agencies for use in SHARES must have a US, USA, USP, or area assignment in the GMF, with Record Notes S296 and S381. Additionally, the Circuit Remarks field must contain \*NTS,M002, IRAC 24902 which defines the SHARES Radio Program concept of operation. Operations under these assignments by agencies other than the one to which the assignment is issued are limited to SHARES operations and tests. Participating agencies in SHARES are authorized to make test transmissions on a non-interference basis to the agency holding the frequency assignment.

3. Use of 5167.5 kHz in the State of Alaska: U.S. Government stations may use the frequency 5168.9 kHz (carrier reference frequency 5167.5 kHz) with maximum power of 150 watts Peak Envelope Power (PEP) for emergency communications in the State of Alaska. Airborne stations are not authorized to use this frequency. Stations operating on this frequency shall be located within the State of Alaska or within 92 kilometers of its boundaries.

4. Federal Communications with Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service Stations: Federal radio stations are authorized to communicate with stations in the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) in accordance with FCC rules covered in 47 C.F.R. § 97.407.

## **12.11 USE OF AMATEUR RADIO HIGH FREQUENCY EQUIPMENT FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

Use of Amateur High Frequency (HF) radio equipment meeting the standards for unwanted emissions specified in 47 CFR, Section 97.307 is permitted on Federal SHARES or Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) network frequencies when authorized by the National Coordinating Center for Communications (NCC) or Department of Defense, respectively, as part of either the SHARES or MARS networks. The use of such equipment will be limited to national security or emergency preparedness events as well as DOD sponsored MARS operations.

## **12.12 DEPLOYMENT OF SPECTRUM DEPENDENT SYSTEMS**

1. For systems with US, USA, USP, statewide and other similar area assignments in the GMF that have no specific coordinates, agencies shall notify NTIA that the agency intends to use the assignment in the affected emergency area. This includes all spectrum-dependent systems being deployed into the emergency area, or any existing area assignment within the emergency area that requires additional frequency authorizations.

2. Agencies should coordinate planned deployment of any emitters prior to entry into the emergency area. Upon entry into the emergency area, users will coordinate with their agency's spectrum management personnel, including any deployed personnel supporting the NRF. Any requests for frequency authorizations are to be forwarded to NTIA Headquarters for approval. Except as covered by Section 12.4, agencies shall, prior to operation, coordinate and receive approval by NTIA for all radio use intended for operation in the emergency area. Should an existing/incumbent system in the affected area no longer be operational, NTIA may authorize reuse of assigned frequencies or frequency allotments to support new operations. The reuse of these assigned frequencies or frequency allotments will be coordinated for use on a temporary basis or until such time as the original user is prepared to re-establish operations under the parameters of the original authorization. Should the emergency area fall within the area of responsibility of a DOD Area Frequency Coordinator (AFC) and requirements include spectrum covered under Section 8.3.25, the user will coordinate with the DCO prior to requesting authorization through NTIA.

## **12.13 STATUS REPORTING PROCEDURES**

Based on circumstances of a specific event, NTIA will direct the IRAC agencies to report information relative to spectrum-dependent systems within a disaster/emergency area. Non-member agencies will report through their point of contact in the OSM Frequency Assignment Branch. IRAC members and non-member agencies will keep NTIA informed regarding any changes to that status throughout the response/recovery period so that the appropriate adjustments can be made to the national-level databases.

## **12.14 ESTABLISHING INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN FEDERAL ENTITIES AND NON-FEDERAL PUBLIC SAFETY ENTITIES**

1. Interoperability may be established between federal entities and non-federal public safety licensees via a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU must be agreed to by the federal and non-federal public safety entities.

2. One method of achieving interoperability involves the use of a passive cross patch switch that is installed on the non-federal public safety entity's transmitter. It is important to note that the attachment of any device to the FCC licensed transmitter has the potential to alter the operating characteristics of the transmitter. However, if the cross patch switch is passive and does not alter the transmitting characteristics of the licensed non-federal public safety entity's transmitter, no modified FCC issued license is necessary to permit operation of the non-federal public safety entity's transmitter with the passive cross patch switch.

## **12.15 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PRIORITY FOR RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS**

1. Executive Order 13618, dated July 6, 2012, specifies in Section 5.3 (f) that: "The Secretary of Commerce shall administer a system of radio spectrum priorities for Federal Government spectrum-dependent telecommunication resources and certify or approve such radio spectrum priorities, including the resolution of conflicts in or among such radio spectrum priorities during a crisis or emergency." NTIA, with advice from the EPS, will certify or approve NS/EP spectrum dependent systems and assign the appropriate TSP-R (spectrum use priority), resolve conflicts in or among TSP-Rs during a crisis or emergency. The TSP-R definitions that are listed in this chapter are compatible with the Department of Homeland Security Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) System for NS/EP.

2. The TSP-R establishes a consistent frame of reference for departments and agencies in assessing the relative importance of their spectrum-use requirements based on the established priorities of the missions they support in a national security and emergency preparedness situation. The Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management, may weigh such TSP-Rs against the priorities established by the Executive Office of the President should conflicting or competing demands for spectrum-use arise. Thus, the TSP-Rs collectively serve as a baseline for the Associate Administrator, Office of Spectrum Management (OSM) to advise and assist the President in the administration of a system of spectrum-use priorities for those spectrum-dependent telecommunications resources of the Federal Government that support NS/EP functions. In addition, they delineate specific priorities for radio spectrum use by the Federal Government under all conditions of crisis or emergency.

3. A designation of a TSP-R in department and agency emergency spectrum management plans does not replace or substitute requirements specified in the NTIA Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management pertaining to authorized frequency assignments.

4. This system of telecommunications service priorities for radiocommunications is consistent with the DHS TSP system as delineated in the Office of Emergency Communications Telecommunications Service Priority Operations Guide, December 2016.

5. A TSP-R shall be assigned for each radio communication system that a department or agency determines will support an NS/EP function. The IRAC, EPS shall review each TSP-R requested by a department or agency, attempt to resolve any conflict with competing spectrum-dependent systems in

accordance with appropriate directives, and recommend an appropriate TSP-R. The IRAC and ultimately the Associate Administrator(OSM) will adjudicate all unresolved conflicts.

6. Federal Government spectrum-dependent radiocommunications systems, assigned a TSP-R are considered critical and require continual uninterrupted operation. Radio communication systems supporting national security emergency preparedness qualify for a TSP-R by directly supporting or resulting from at least one of the following:

a. A National Command Authorities declared state of crisis (i.e., the President exercises the authorities assigned under Section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S. C. 606)), during a crisis, an emergency, or a complex catastrophe, where such situations place a severe demand on spectrum resources that there is a need to prioritize the assignment of radio frequencies:

b. Response to an enemy or terrorist action, civil disturbance, natural disaster, or any other unpredictable occurrence that has damaged facilities whose anticipated operation is critical to NS/EP or the management of other ongoing crises:

c. Certification by the head or director of a Federal Government agency, commander of a unified/specified command, chief of a military service, or commander of a major military command, that the radiocommunication system is so critical to protection of life and property that it requires continued uninterrupted operation.

7. The TSP-R reflects a department or agency's determination of the importance of a particular portion of the radio spectrum used in support of its national security and emergency preparedness functions. The TSP-R is not an index of absolute priority among potentially competing users because the missions or functions supported by a radiocommunication system may change under varying circumstances. When an actual or potential conflict in radio spectrum-use occurs, the entities directly involved should attempt to resolve the conflict with the assistance from the FAS as required. Ultimately, the OSM Associate Administrator is responsible for resolving conflicts for competing spectrum. The Associate Administrator will take into account the respective mission or functional priorities supported by the entities in conflict, and if needed seek the advice of the IRAC.

## **12.16 ADMINISTRATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PRIORITY FOR RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

1. The Associate Administrator (OSM) is charged with the administration of a system of radio spectrum priorities for those spectrum dependent telecommunications resources belonging to and operated by the Federal Government. The EPS will assist the OSM Associate Administrator by reviewing all NTIA certified spectrum-dependent systems that support NS/EP functions by assigning an appropriate TSP-R. The assigned TSP-R for each Federal Government spectrum-dependent systems supporting an NS/EP system will be reviewed and certified by the OSM Associate Administrator.

2. TSP-R Conflicts. A TSP-R conflict occurs when two or more NS/EP systems, that operate in overlapping spectrum at the same location, have the same TSP-R, or when there is a disagreement between IRAC member agencies regarding the priority assigned to a particular NS/EP spectrum-dependent system.

3. Resolution of TSP-R Conflicts. Conflicts regarding the assignment of a TSP-R made by the EPS that cannot be resolved at the subcommittee level will be forwarded to the IRAC for resolution. The IRAC will consider the assigned TSP-R, the function of the NS/EP system, and attempt to resolve the conflict. The IRAC will forward any unresolved conflicts to the NTIA OSM Deputy Associate Administrator for Spectrum Management, who resolves them or refers them to the OSM Associate Administrator and if necessary to the NTIA Administrator for decision. The OSM Associate Administrator will notify the agency of the final resolution.

## **12.17 NS/EP TSP-R PRIORITY LEVELS, SUBCATEGORIES, AND CRITERIA**

1. Essential Priority 1 (E-1) NS/EP TSP-R subcategories and criteria are:



**a. National Security Leadership.** This subcategory will be strictly limited to only those radiocommunication systems essential to national survival. Systems in this subcategory are those for which a service interruption of even a few minutes would have serious adverse impact upon the supported NS/EP function.

**b. Criteria:** To qualify under this subcategory, a radiocommunication system must be at least one of the following:

- (1) Subcategory E-1 (I): Critical orderwire, or control systems supporting other NS/EP functions;
- (2) Subcategory E-1 (II): Presidential radiocommunications critical to continuity of government and national leadership during crisis situations;
- (3) Subcategory E-1 (III): National Command Authority radiocommunications for military command and control critical to national survival;
- (4) Subcategory E-1 (IV): Intelligence radiocommunications critical to warning of potentially catastrophic attack;
- (5) Subcategory E-1 (V): Radiocommunications supporting the conduct of diplomatic negotiations critical to arresting or limiting hostilities.

2. Essential Priority 2 (E-2) NS/EP TSP-R subcategories and criteria are:

**a. National Security Posture and U.S. Population Attack Warning.** This subcategory covers those minimum additional radiocommunication systems essential to maintaining an optimum defense, diplomatic, continuity-of-government posture. Such situations are those ranging from national emergencies to international crises, including nuclear attack. Systems in this subcategory are those for which an interruption ranging from a few minutes to one day would have serious adverse impact upon the supported NS/EP function.

**b. Criteria:** To qualify under this subcategory, a radiocommunication system must support at least one of the following NS/EP functions:

- (1) Subcategory E-2(I): Threat assessment and attack warning;
- (2) Subcategory E-2(II): Conduct of diplomacy;
- (3) Subcategory E-2(III): Collection, processing, and dissemination of intelligence;
- (4) Subcategory E-2(IV): Command and control of military forces;
- (5) Subcategory E-2(V): Military mobilization;
- (6) Subcategory E-2(VI): Continuity of the Federal Government before, during, and after crisis situations;
- (7) Subcategory E-2(VII): Continuity of state and local government functions supporting the Federal Government during and after national emergencies;
- (8) Subcategory E-2(VIII): Recovery of critical national functions after crisis situations;
- (9) Subcategory E-2(IX): National space operations.

3. Essential Priority 3 (E-3) NS/EP TSP-R subcategories and criteria are:

**a. Public Health, Safety and Maintenance of Law and Order.** This subcategory covers the minimum number of radiocommunication systems necessary for giving civil alert to the U.S. population and maintaining law and order and the health and safety of the U.S. population in times of any national, regional or serious local emergency. These systems and services are those for which an interruption ranging from a few minutes to one day would have serious adverse impact upon the supported NS/EP functions.

**b. Criteria:** To qualify under this subcategory, a radiocommunication system must support at least one of the following NS/EP functions:

- (1) Subcategory E-3(I): Population warning (other than attack warning);
- (2) Subcategory E-3(II): Law enforcement;
- (3) Subcategory E-3(III): Continuity of critical state and local government functions (other than support of the Federal Government during and after national emergencies);
- (4) Subcategory E-3(IV): Hospitals and distribution of medical supplies;
- (5) Subcategory E-3(V): Critical logistic functions and public utility services;
- (6) Subcategory E-3(VI): Civil air traffic control;
- (7) Subcategory E-3(VII): Military assistance to civil authorities;

- (8) Subcategory E-3(VIII): Defense and protection of critical industrial facilities;
  - (9) Subcategory E-3(IX): Critical weather services;
  - (10) Subcategory E-3(X): Transportation to accomplish the foregoing NS/EP functions.
4. Essential Priority 4 (E-4) NS/EP TSP-R subcategories and criteria are:

**a. Public Welfare and Maintenance of National Economic Posture.** This subcategory covers the minimum number of radiocommunication systems necessary for maintaining the public welfare and national economic posture during any national or regional emergency. These systems and services are those for which a service interruption ranging from a few minutes to one day would have serious adverse impact upon the supported NS/EP function.

**b. Criteria:** To qualify under this subcategory, a radiocommunication system must support NS/EP functions relative to at least one of the following national critical infrastructures:

- (1) Subcategory E-4(I): Distribution of food or other essential supplies;
- (2) Subcategory E-4(II): Maintenance of national monetary, credit, and financial systems;
- (3) Subcategory E-4(III): Maintenance of price, wage, rent, and salary stabilization, and consumer rationing programs;
- (4) Subcategory E-4(IV): Control of production and distribution of strategic materials and energy supplies;
- (5) Subcategory E-4(V): Prevention and control of environmental hazards or damage;
- (6) Subcategory E-4(VI): Transportation to accomplish the foregoing NS/EP functions;

5. Essential Priority 5 (E-5) NS/EP TSP-R subcategories and criteria are:

**a. National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) Support Posture.** Unlicensed devices under certain emergency situations may require protection when linked to Federal Government system carrying a TSP-R. This subcategory covers those radiocommunication systems involved in supporting NS/EP functions necessary to accomplish a national security or war emergency but do not qualify for a higher priority. These spectrum dependent systems are those for which an interruption of one day or longer would have serious adverse impact upon the supported NS/EP function.

**b. Criteria:** To qualify under this subcategory, a radiocommunication system must support at least one of the following NS/EP functions.

- (1) Subcategory E-5(I): Training or mobilization of military personnel;
- (2) Subcategory E-5(II): Logistical support of military forces, national security, or critical national infrastructures.

## 12.18 LIMITATIONS

1. Priority levels will be assigned only to the minimum number of telecommunications services required to support an NS/EP function. Priority levels will not normally be assigned to back-up services on a continuing basis, absent additional justification (e.g., a service user specifies a requirement for physically diverse routing or contracts for additional continuity-of-service features).

2. Priority levels will not normally be assigned to experimental, back-up or redundant systems on a continuing basis without justification.

## 12.19 SUBMITTING AGENCIES RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All Federal Government telecommunications spectrum-dependent systems or subsystems supporting a NS/EP function will submit those systems to the Spectrum Planning Subcommittee (SPS) for review. A telecommunication subsystem, for the purpose of this procedure, is a combination of facilities, stations, or circuits intended to provide telecommunication support to a broader functional telecommunication entity. A statement on the agency cover letter requesting the review as to whether the proposed system or subsystem, if it becomes operational, will support an NS/EP function is required. Requests for spectrum support will contain information sufficient to enable NTIA and the SPS to evaluate systems for spectrum

supportability. The information necessary to support the system review process is contained in Sections 10.8.1 through 10.8.8. Agencies will ensure that all systems supporting a NS/EP function have the NS/EP field checked in their Equipment Location – Certification Information Database (EL-CID) submission.

2. Federal agency system(s) at Stage 2 (Experimental) and Stage 3 (Developmental) that are marked for NS/EP use, will receive an ERP number and placed on an EPS Agenda, but will be noted. Once a system(s) has received Stage 4 (Operational) approval by the SPS and the certification is signed by the OSM Deputy Associate Administrator for Spectrum, the system(s) are placed on the next EPS agenda for an application for TSP-R to be submitted.

3. Federal agencies shall provide sufficient data to allow determination of operation/mission and appropriate TSP-R. Multi-band or multi-use systems may require multiple TSP-R assignments for the radio communication system.

4. Submit all applications electronically to NTIA, IRAC Support Division, via classified systems in a format compatible with the OSM data dictionary (OSMDD).

## **12.20 EMERGENCY PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. The EPS TSP-R review is a procedure to develop a recommendation on behalf of the IRAC for the Associate Administrator for the (OSM) regarding the appropriateness of the department or agency selected TSP-R.

2. Following the NTIA certification of spectrum support of a system or subsystem, the EPS shall:

a. Take note of the (TSP-R) for radio communications as determined by a department or agency for each of its systems supporting NS/EP functions approved under the provisions of this chapter.

b. Consider the operation/mission, the telecommunication system or subsystem and the priority designated by the department or agency in relation to the NS/EP function. Consideration of a department or agency designated TSP-R is intended only to ensure consistency of TSP-R criteria interpretation.

c. Forward any disagreements with a department or agency designated TSP-R to the IRAC for resolution.

d. Prepare a recommendation for approval to the Associate Administrator (OSM) for each system or subsystem reviewed by the EPS stating that the department or agency designated TSP-R meets the TSP-R criteria.

## **12.21 NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION**

The Associate Administrator (OSM) will:

a. Review all unresolved disagreements with a department or agency designated TSP-R forwarded by the IRAC.

b. Determine the best means of reconciliation and notify the the department or agency of this determination then note the decision in the NTIA Emergency Readiness Plan for Use of the Radio Spectrum (ERP).

c. Review the information submitted by the EPS and if appropriate certify the assigned TSP-R associated with the NS/EP system or subsystem.

d. Annotate the NTIA ERP.

**(Last Page in Chapter 12)**