**Saint Louis COUNTY**

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**Policy 17-15**                                          **October 12, 2017**

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**SLATER Uniform 800 MHz Interoperability Radio Zones**

I.      PURPOSE:

The purpose of this standard is to establish policy and procedures for the implementation of six (6) 800 MHz uniform interoperability zones in all subscriber radios throughout the SLATER system. This policy will guarantee standardized Countywide interoperable communications capabilities for all SLATER disciplines.

This uniformity will provide dispatch centers, Incident Commanders, the ability to develop and adapt incident radio communications plans quickly and effectively without having to rely on reprogramming radios, swapping radios, or establishing patches in the field.

A process is also established for documenting any variances from the minimum required statewide uniform interoperability radio zones for limited function radios.

II.     TECHNICAL BACKGROUND:

A.      Capabilities

Public safety digital radios are typically programmed with multiple zones, each zone holding at least 16 channels/talkgroups.   Zones can be organized based on a variety of factors, such as day-to-day operations, task force/special event operations, local mutual aid, regional mutual aid, statewide mutual aid, etc.

B.      Constraints

Certain low tier radios, typically not used for public safety first responders, have limited capacity, including a maximum of three zones with 16 channels each. Other older radios have limitations on the number of characters that can be

displayed in a zone/channel name display. Older radio consoles have a relatively low number of resources that can be mapped to an operator position.

The six (6) 800 MHz uniform interoperability zones guarantee fully compatible communications among agencies that typically do not communicate with each other on a regular day-to-day basis.  This standard does not prohibit "unbundling" of the individual interoperability channels and talkgroups for creation of hybrid zones, provided the radio contains the required uniform zones.   A transitional period may need to provide to deal with complications of moving from the current lack of uniformity to a fully integrated interoperability configuration.

III.     POLICY:

A.     All new subscriber agencies joining SLATER shall equip their radios with the six (6) 800 MHz uniform interoperability zones.

B.     Existing subscriber agencies shall retrofit their radios with the six (6) 800 MHz uniform interoperability zones the next time they reprogram their radios.

C.     Integrated SLATER dispatch consoles (MCC7500, etc.) shall have the SLR I/O in the console configuration available for patching ISSI.

D.     The standardized zone and channel/talkgroup names listed below shall be used in all radios.  Dispatch consoles as applicable by that county's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

IV.     PROCEDURE

A.     Procedures for assignment and use of individual interoperability channels and talkgroups shall be in accordance with the appropriate County Radio Board or Commission SOP or Best Practices Guide.

B.     Dispatch centers and radio users should refer to the six (6) 800 MHz uniform interoperability zones as the "MOSWIN I/O" and "County I/O" zones.

C.     User agencies should regularly provide reinforcement training to ensure that all users are fully competent in locating and using these zones.

| | STLCO | SCCO | JEFFCO | SLATER I/O | MOSWIN HOME | REG C MOSWIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SLC CW CALL | SCC-CALL | JEFFCO OEM 1 | SLR-IO1 | MO IO CALL | REG C IO CALL |
| 2 | SLC CW IO 2 | SCC-IO2 | JEFFCO OEM 2 | SLR-IO2 | MO IO 1 | REG C IO 1 |
| 3 | SLC CW IO 3 | SCC-IO3 | JEFFCO OEM 3 | SLR-IO3 | MO IO 2 | REG C IO 2 |
| 4 | SLC CW IO 4 | SCC-IO4 | JEFFCO OEM 4 | SLR-IO4 | MO IO 3 | REG C IO 3 |
| 5 | SLC CW IO 5 | SCC-IO5 | JEFFCO IO 5 | SLR-IO5 | MO IO 4 | REG C IO 4 |
| 6 | SLC CW IO 6 | SCC-IO6 | JEFFCO IO 6 | SLR-IO6 | MO EVENT 1 | REG C EVENT 1 |
| 7 | SLC CW IO 7 | SCC-IO7 | JEFFCO IO 7 | SLR-IO7 | MO EVENT 2 | REG C EVENT 2 |
| 8 | SLC CW IO 8 | SCC-IO8 | JEFFCO IO 8 | SLR-IO8 | MO EVENT 3 | REG C EVENT 3 |
| 9 | SLC CW IO 9 | SCC-IO9 | JEFFCO IO 9 | SLR-IO9 | MO EVENT 4 | REG C EVENT 4 |
| 10 | SLC CW IO 10 | SCC-IO10 | JEFFCO IO 10 | SLR-IO10 | MO EVENT 6 | REG C EVENT 6 |
| 11 | SLC CW IO 11 | SCC-IO11 | JEFFCO IO 11 | SLR-IO11 | TBD | |
| 12 | SLC CW IO 12 | SCC-IO12 | JEFFCO IO 12 | SLR-IO12 | TBD | |
| 13 | SLC CW IO 13 | SCC-IO13 | JEFFCO IO 13 | OPEN | TBD | |
| 14 | SLC CW IO 14 | 7TAC53D | JEFFCO IO 14 | 7TAC53D | TBD | |
| 15 | SLC CW IO 15 | 7TAC52D | JEFFCO IO 15 | 7TAC52D | TBD | |
| 16 | SLC CW IO 16 | 7TAC51D | JEFFCO IO 16 | 7TAC51D | TBD | |

V.     MANAGEMENT

A.     Variances

Variances to the requirement of equipping subscriber radios with the six (6) Uniform Interoperability Zones, or to equip Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) consoles with all I/O, require approval from the SLATER Radio System Managers Radio Board.  Agencies may apply for a variance if the requirement is not technically possible or if the requirement is operationally inappropriate.  The following are valid reasons for approval of a variance:

1.     Low tier, non-display radios with a maximum of three zones of 16 channels each.

2.     Single talkgroup control station radios used for console interface, console backup, or fixed gateway interfaces.

3.     Radios that do not have operator selectable talkgroups.

4.     Receive only radios used for recording, intercom audio, etc.

5.     Radios used for special applications such as Varda alarms, etc.

6.     Radios used exclusively for training and educational purposes.

7.     Radios assigned to personnel or vehicles that are not first responders and are not part of a response plan to emergencies or disasters in any way,

such as internal building facilities maintenance, internal use in jails, correctional facilities, etc.

8.     Radios used by private contractors performing services under contract to a governmental entity such as Metro Mobility, construction contractors, etc.

9.     Radio locked on a single talkgroup assigned to a specific location such as an Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) control tower

B.     Request for Variance

1.     A request for variance must include:

a)     A justification statement identifying the technical or operational reasons why the radio(s) or console(s) will be in non-compliance.
b)     An inventory of the type, quantity, and duty assignment of the radios for which the variance is requested.

2.     A list indicating which, if any, statewide interoperability talkgroups and channels are programmed into each radio or group of identical radios, including zone and channel position information.

C.     Management and Distribution of Variance Reports

1.     The SLATER Radio Systems Mangers will be responsible for acquiring, updating, organizing, and distributing all variance reports.

2.     The variance reports will be distributed to regional County agencies, certified Incident Commanders, and other individuals responsible for interoperable communications activities.

VI.     <u>MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING</u>

This policy is covered under the MOU signed previously by each public safety user and outside agency user on the SLATER system.

*Approved by the Emergency Communications Commission on* _____

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*Director,*                                                                      *Chairman,*
*Emergency Communications Network*                  *Emergency Communications Commission*