



National Regional Planning Council

Dear Regional Planning Member:

As you are aware, NRPC in cooperation with DHS, is working diligently to improve many of the functionalities within CAPRAD, specifically concerning the application process. Today, there are two parts to CAPRAD; the planning side and the applications side. CAPRAD is a database built on an aging Oracle based software platform that serves regional planning committees well and continues to support their planning activities. Several issues exist within CAPRAD on the application side today that unfortunately limits 700 and 800 MHz regional planning functionality going forward.

The CAPRAD application module was never designed to do a license modification and was never designed to incorporate the NPSPAC Regions either. The inclusion of the NPSPAC regions were incorporated into the NRPC after the fact. Up to now there has been very little done to CAPRAD to address those 800 Region's needs.

This migration for the application module is meant to improve not only the 700 side of the house, but also address some long, unaddressed NPSPAC issues.

1. The first is the inability for CAPRAD to be able to accept and process an FCC license MODIFICATION by applicants in the CAPRAD Licensing Module. CAPRAD can create and process NEW FCC license applications as they are submitted to 700-800 MHz regional planning committees. The process for receiving a MODIFICATION of an existing FCC license is a different process altogether and requires functionality not incorporated into the current CAPRAD platform. For CAPRAD to continue to support 700-800MHz regional planning committees with the ability to receive FCC license applications from applicants directly, the incorporation of this functionality is critical to the regional planning community. To support FCC license modification, CAPRAD must incorporate a process within its database which extracts the changes made to the existing license within a license modification from the FCC's Universal License System and incorporate those changes into the license application.
2. In addition, CAPRAD must then be able to share the FCC license MODIFICATION application with ALL FCC certified frequency coordinators using the established Electronic Batch Format (EBF) currently utilized when sharing applications between coordinators and when filing applications with the FCC. The trial and error associated with making these changes in CAPRAD to facilitate the accurate transfer of the necessary information between CAPRAD and other FCC certified coordinators as well as the FCC will be time consuming for those initiating the change and those seeking to accomplish the upgrade to CAPRAD may require additional information from other frequency coordinators and licensing entities as well. It is not known how information will be exchanged between current CAPRAD support and existing entities that CAPRAD will need to exchange information with.
3. Lastly, the CAPRAD database and how it is utilized by regional planning committees and their applicants will evolve over time. Any solution must be able to accommodate, over the life of CAPRAD, in a cost effective manner, data transfer to future database platforms and architectures (for example .NET framework and possible replacement and upgrade of the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS)) as a product of their evolution. The evolution of CAPRAD is not a single process but it is the first step on a path towards increased flexibility and adaptability to future database technologies and formats.

So, the decision has been made to split CAPRAD. The planning module will reside at its current location and continues to be managed by TEQ Services. The application module (currently being developed) will be managed by Sitesafe via Spectrumwatch. We anticipate release of the new application module by end of (first quarter, 2017). NRPC has formed a CAPRAD Upgrade Team with its members involved in every single step of this process. We ask for your patience and cooperation as we work together to make CAPRAD a better pre-coordination tool for all regional planning committees.

The NRPC will provide the Regions around the country the necessary training to migrate to the new application platform. Plus, there will be an effort to provide applicants with a training module that will assist them entering and completing their applications for review by the regions upon completion. Most of the processes with the regions will be maintained. Regions have the option to use the new platform or some other means as necessary to process their Regional applications.

Bill Carter
NRPC Chairman