

FREQUENCY COORDINATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER AND AUXILIARY OPERATION IN NEW MEXICO

Policy and Procedures Established by the New Mexico Frequency Coordinating Committee (adopted March 1999, revised April 2002, February 2015, October 21, 2022)

General:

If you plan to operate an amateur radio station as a repeater or in auxiliary operation (see definitions below) in New Mexico, you should coordinate the frequencies for those operations with the New Mexico Frequency Coordinating Committee (NMFCC). The purpose of frequency coordination is to prevent interference between stations and to provide planning for efficient use of the spectrum in the future. On April 21, 1986 the FCC adopted a Report and Order that amended Part 97 of the Federal Regulations governing Amateur Radio Service. The amended rules place blame for interference directly on uncoordinated stations. In effect, this creates an enforceable way for the FCC to remove from operation any uncoordinated station that is causing a problem. Frequency coordination serves your interests in protecting your investment in time and effort. It requires everyone's cooperation so that the Coordinators have the information that they need to make intelligent recommendations for frequency assignments.

The frequency coordination process must operate by a set of rules and procedures that everyone understands. **The current rules and procedures are set forth in this document.** These procedures are open to constructive criticism and change by the repeater owners and trustees in New Mexico. Keep in mind that the Coordinators are serving in a voluntary capacity in good faith. They are not "repeater police" and have no authority to prevent anyone from using any frequency for any purpose. The NMFCC will, however, answer any inquiries from the FCC or other frequency coordinating services requesting coordination information. Our purpose here is to prevent and resolve interference and create an environment whereby amateurs can cooperate with one another as well as with other users of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Definitions:

New Mexico Frequency Coordinating Committee (NMFCC): The NMFCC is recognized by the Federal Communications Commission Part [97.201(C); 97.205 (C)] as the official source of information regarding the coordination status for amateur stations in repeater and auxiliary operation within the State of New Mexico. Originally started from the NM Cooperative Interference Committee, the NMFCC now consists of three coordinators representing the northern, central, and southern parts of NM. One coordinator serves as Secretary and Database Manager.

Repeater Operation:

Radio communication, other than auxiliary operation, for re-transmitting automatically the radio signals of other amateur radio stations.

Auxiliary Operation:

Radio communications for remotely controlling other amateur radio stations, for automatically relaying the radio signals of other amateur radio stations in a system of stations, or for intercommunicating with the other amateur radio stations in a system of amateur radio stations. Examples of auxiliary operation include transmissions to the control receiver of a repeater, linking of remote receiver audio to repeater transmitter, linking of two repeaters together, remote control operation of HF, VHF, UHF, and other amateur radio base stations. Operations that are point-to-point in nature facilitate communications between two designated points within a system of stations.

Coordinated station operation:

The repeater or auxiliary operation of an amateur station for which the transmitting and receiving frequencies have been implemented by the licensee in accordance with the recommendation of a frequency coordinator.

Harmful Interference:

Interference, which seriously degrades, obstructs, or repeatedly interrupts the operation of a radio communication service.

Frequency Coordinators:

An individual or organization recognized in a local or regional area by amateur operators whose stations are eligible to engage in repeater or auxiliary operation. They recommend frequencies and, where necessary, associated operation and technical parameters for amateur repeater or auxiliary operation in order to avoid or minimize potential interference.

Policy:

1. The NMFCC shall consist of three licensed amateur radio operators serving as Frequency Coordinators for the northern, central, and southern sections of New Mexico.
2. One of the coordinators shall serve as Secretary. The Secretary of the NMFCC will act as the central coordinator of all data and correspondence for the coordination activity.

3. The NMFCC will recommend frequencies in accordance with ARRL Band Plans. Requests for frequencies that do not conform to Band Plans are discouraged. After April 12, 1986 the NMFCC will not coordinate "upside down pairs," "odd splits," and "off channel frequencies." Waivers permitting the use of non Band Plan frequencies will be issued on a case-by-case basis if justification can be given showing how the requested frequency would minimize or prevent interference to existing amateur repeaters and other services. This policy is intended to insure maximum utilization of the spectrums for the entire state of New Mexico. Repeaters known to be in operation on not on ARR: Band Plan frequencies will be officially listed in the NMFCC records as UNCOORDINATED for purposes of responding to inquiries by the FCC. This policy does not apply to frequencies given coordination status prior to April 21, 1986.
4. In the case where applicants request frequencies already in use, Coordinators will assess the technical feasibility of co-channel existence based on transmitter power, location, terrain, physical separation, receiver sensitivity, antennas, and other factors. Even if conditions appear to permit co-channel use of a frequency, Coordinators will notify existing users of the application and request comments and concurrence of the Coordinator's assessment.
5. There will be no verbal coordination. No coordination action will be initiated by the NMFCC without a signed application form on file with the Secretary.
6. Applicants should not consider their frequency request approved just because they have filled out a form and mailed it in. The coordination is not official until the applicant receives written notification from the Secretary.
7. Coordination is nullified by changing the physical location of equipment or by increasing the Effective Radiated Power. There is a maximum time of one year, from the date of approval, for the Trustee/Owner to get the frequency in operation. The frequency must not be out of service for more than one year. In these cases, the trustee must re-apply for the frequency. The intent is to keep the data required for the coordination process current and accurate so that potential interference can be avoided and fair allocations of all frequencies can be maintained.
8. Any repeater or auxiliary use of frequencies that comes to the attention of the NMFCC which have not been coordinated will be recorded in official records as "un-coordinated."
9. The NMFCC will consider complaints of interference. In general, the amateur community will be best served if we can iron out our problems internally before bringing in the FCC. If there are objections to an applicant's request for a particular frequency or if there are interference problems that arise with new installations, the NMFCC will consider such objections and complaints if they are based on firm evidence, are documented, and have sound technical merit. The NMFCC will make recommendations to all users in an attempt to reduce or eliminate the interference.
10. If approved frequencies are not used in a reasonable time (one year), and there is demand for those frequencies, the NMFCC has the prerogative to reassign those frequencies to another applicant. In this event, the original applicant will be notified that the frequencies are no longer coordinated for his use.
11. The policies stated here are formulated by the NMFCC based on inputs from repeater owners, trustees, and users. These policies will change from time to time, but the repeater trustees may not necessarily be notified of such changes.

Procedures:

1. Obtain the current frequency coordination forms (Part 1 and Part 2) from 1) your area Coordinator, 2) the NMFCC Secretary, or 3) from the web site: <http://www.qsl.net/nmfcc/>. You should submit only one Form 1 (the main form) for each of your sites. If you operate more than one transmitter and one receiver at a given site, attach a Supplementary Data Sheet (Form 2) for each additional transmitter and receiver.
2. Fill out the forms completely. In selecting frequencies use the published band plans as a guide. Talk with your area Coordinator. Tell him your plans and what you would like. He may be able to recommend some frequencies that you can put on the application. Also keep in mind that some bands are shared with Federal Government users, in those cases there are some restrictions, and we, as amateurs, are secondary users and may be preempted. Consult the FCC Part 97 Rule Book for details.
3. Applicants for new frequencies will be required to provide a photocopy of the Trustee's Amateur Radio Operator's License if the call sign of Trustee does not appear in the FCC Data Base.
4. eMail (or USPS mail) the completed application (and other applicable information) to the Secretary and Data Base Manager.
5. The Secretary will coordinate the application with your area Coordinator. If the application involves overlap coverage with neighboring state(s), the Secretary will coordinate the frequency with Coordinator of the state(s) and request comment and concurrence with the frequency.
6. The area Coordinator will examine the application for potential interference situations and may require additional information in order to approve the application. Upon approval (not necessarily for the frequencies requested) the Coordinator will notify the Secretary who will eMail written notice of approval to the applicant.

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Neil Addis W7FED
NMFCC Secretary and Database Manager
October, 21, 2022