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### Opening Shot

## PRSS Urges Stations to Do FCC Repack Survey

General managers and engineers of all interconnected stations received an email with a link to a survey recently concerning the intent of the FCC to repurpose existing television broadcast spectrum for other non-broadcasting wireless uses.

Due to the FCC's Spectrum Incentive Auction, digital television stations will be relocated to clear broadcast spectrum for other wireless uses. Although the recent auction didn't involve radio broadcast spectrum, the "repack" process could affect radio stations if their transmitter antennas are located on or near a transmission tower for a soon-to-be-repacked television station. Under some circumstances, stations could be required to operate under reduced power, to go off the air, and/or to relocate their antennas to accommodate new DTV antennas. (For more information on this subject, please see a PRSS FAQ available here: <http://prss.org/sites/prss/files/documents/CPB/TV-Repack%20FAQs-3-31-17.pdf>)

The intent of this survey, which is open until Monday, February 19, 2018, is to assess the potential impact on stations, since the FCC has not earmarked any funds for radio stations. The information gathered in the survey will help NPR and others advocate for Congress to allocate funds to defray station's costs as a result of the TV repack. If you are a station GM or lead engineer, you should have received an email with a link to the survey. If not, you can access it at this link: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4155694/2018-Television-Repack-Survey>

"Please take the time to answer the questions about whether your station is affected and, if it is, your plans and anticipated costs," said Mike Beach, NPR Distribution Vice President, and Mike Riksen, NPR Policy & Representation Vice President, in a letter to the system. "This information will help us build a case for additional funding for public radio stations caught up in the TV repack process."

One recent study prepared for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting estimates that 304 public radio stations could be affected. (The study, which includes lists of public radio FM stations potentially impacted, is available at [http://prss.org/sites/prss/files/documents/CPB/cpb-report-impacts\\_030617.pdf](http://prss.org/sites/prss/files/documents/CPB/cpb-report-impacts_030617.pdf). An FAQ prepared by the PRSS is available here: <http://prss.org/sites/prss/files/documents/CPB/TV-Repack%20FAQs-3-31-17.pdf>)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the PRSS Help Desk at 800.971.7677 or by email [PRSSHelp@npr.org](mailto:PRSSHelp@npr.org).

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## Candidates Sought for D/I Committee; St. John Up for Re-election

The D/I Committee has announced it is soliciting candidates to serve as members of the body, which provides oversight of the PRSS, proposing rates and policies to the NPR Board for approval and reviewing proposed changes in policy prior to presentation to the NPR Board.

Anyone interested in proposing a candidate has until February 20, 2018, to convey an expression of interest in the form of a letter stating the reasons for interest in serving as a non-Board member of the committee and a resume. Expressions of interest should be sent as e-mail attachments (preferably in MS Word or pdf format) to Twanna Clark, Manager, Board Relations, at [tclark1@npr.org](mailto:tclark1@npr.org), with the subject line "Non-Board D/I Committee Member Nominations."

Expressions of interest also may be sent by mail or courier, addressed to Twanna Clark, Manager, Board Relations, National Public Radio, Inc., 1111 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

In addition, Victoria St. John, Director of Operations at Vermont Public Radio, will be running for a second three-year term on the committee. The ratification ballot will open on Monday, July 9, 2018, and close on Thursday, August 9, 2018. The ratified Non-Board D/I Committee member will take office at the November 2018 meeting of the NPR Board.

## The News

### Important Info on February Streams Carrier Switch

As the PRSS prepares to transition its live streams to the new combined carrier on February 13, 2018, the following information about the Squawk Channel and its future status may be useful. The PRSS is committed to providing numerous options for stations to access Squawk. In an effort to provide details around our plans for Squawk, the below bullets represent the various options that stations will have to continue access to this service.

- o Stations that are using the legacy SR2000pro receivers to access Squawk will not be affected by the Feb. 13 transition.
- o Squawk will remain as Stream 22 (Transponder 3) and will continue to be decoded by the SR2000 until at least April 30, 2018.
- o Stations can now receive Squawk from a dedicated carrier on Transponder 1 (Frequency 1432.4, Symbol Rate 262) and can continue to use their SR2000 units.
- o Stations can now subscribe to Squawk via the ContentDepot Portal, which allows them to receive the Squawk channel on their SFX 4104 receiver.

In the near future, stations should begin preparations to transitioning away from Stream 22 (Transponder 3). On April 30, 2018, the PRSS will begin preparations and reminder notifications about our plans to cease Squawk on Stream 22 (Transponder 3). The Squawk on Transponder 3 will be removed in order to continue with transponder consolidation and bandwidth efficiencies.

In advance of the Feb. 13 streams transition, the PRSS engineering team will hold a webinar to discuss the details of this action. The webinar will take place from 2:00 pm ET to 3:00 pm ET on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. We strongly encourage GMs and engineers and other relevant personnel to participate in the webinar. There will be a presentation followed by a Q&A session.

You may register for the webinar at this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/333735152708848642>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the PRSS Help Desk at 800.971.7677 or [prsshelp@npr.org](mailto:prsshelp@npr.org).

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## CD Upgrade Adds Drag & Drop, LWSF File Opt-Out

The ContentDepot received another upgrade recently, and the update includes several improvements users should appreciate.

One of them creates a check-box that stations can use to opt out of LWSF files while continuing to receive the live streams. This will allow stations to avoid downloading files they don't want if they simply intend to run the live version of a LWSF show. Also, the filename prefix has been moved to the subscription hours, which allows for producers to easily change program titles (beyond the first eight characters) without disrupting station automation.

We are also in the final throes of testing Drag & Drop, which will make it much easier to add segments. There will still be the option to 'select' a file, but this new functionality should be welcome to users looking for a more efficient process. In the next ContentDepot upgrade, Drag & Drop is scheduled to be deployed for all programs.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the PRSS Help Desk at 800.971.7677 or [prsshelp@npr.org](mailto:prsshelp@npr.org).

## Tips 'n' Tricks

### List of PRSS Contacts for Support and Assistance

In an effort to ensure all stations and producers are fully supported and connected to the right PRSS teams, below are the most up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses you can use when seeking customer support assistance.

Technical support is available to all interconnected stations and producers on a 24/7/365 basis. The PRSS Help Desk features a fulltime, dedicated technical specialist available from 8:00 am ET to 5:00 pm ET. Outside of normal business hours, phone calls are forwarded to the Network Operations Center (NOC), where a NOC technician will assist you. Please also feel free to use this phone number and email address for general non-pressing questions.

#### PRSS Help desk:

800.971.7677

prsshhelp@npr.org

**Network Operations Center (NOC):**

202.513.2640

800.433.1283

noc@npr.org

If there is a problem with a receiver or reception, you can reach out to our Network Support Center for assistance. Stations can call during business hours, from 8:00 am ET to 5:30 pm ET, Monday - Friday. During non-business hours, the Network Support Center phone is forwarded to the NOC, which will contact the on-call Depot technician if necessary.

**Network Support Center (NSC):**

202.513.2650

Please take a moment to review the numbers you have posted within your facility or as presets within your phone system.

**NPR Distribution communications**

The NOC uses ContentDepot messaging to communicate with stations and producers concerning urgent alerts, program impairments, system maintenance, and numerous other bits of information that can be vital. If you wish to ensure you are up-to-date with all PRSS communications, please make sure your ContentDepot messaging preferences are set to your liking. You should also confirm that ContentDepot messages aren't being directed to your Spam folder by your network.

For more information on how to set your preferences and the different types of messages you can subscribe to in ContentDepot, please visit <http://prss.org/messaging>

If you feel that you are not receiving the ContentDepot messages that you should be, please contact the PRSS Help Desk.

**Stay in Touch**

**We Want to Hear From You!**

EsPRSS-O welcomes and encourages your questions, comments, suggestions and ideas.

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Have you or your team developed a particularly unique and/or nifty technique in operating ContentDepot?

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Are you facing any new challenges and want to get the perspective of others who might be in a similar situation?

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Are you seeing any technology or business developments on the horizon that your pubradio colleagues ought to know about?

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Got a notion on your mind that you want to share with the PRSS?

If so, don't hesitate, write in today!

Send any and all correspondence to [PRSSCommunications@npr.org](mailto:PRSSCommunications@npr.org) along with info on the best way to get in touch with you.

**Stay in touch! Send your questions, comments and ideas to [PRSSCommunications@npr.org](mailto:PRSSCommunications@npr.org). As always, the PRSS Help Desk is also available 24/7 at 800.971.7677 or email [PRSSHelp@npr.org](mailto:PRSSHelp@npr.org).**



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