

## Augusta County Chronology

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March 22, 1999

- 09-21-94 Motorola requests preliminary evaluation for a single transmitter at Elliott Knob.
- 09-27-94 NRAO replies to Motorola with ERP limits on Elliott Knob transmitter.
- ??-??-?? County purchases emergency communications system from Motorola. Estimated cost is \$2.5 million. System is installed. County has not received its FCC operating license for the system.
- 08-04-97 County informs NRAO that a contract has been awarded to construct a communications system consisting of three transmitters.
- 08-19-97 NRAO suggests ERP limits on two of the three transmitters in the County's communications system.
- 09-30-97 County representatives visit NRAO-GB to discuss solutions for meeting ERP limits.
- 11-20-97 Motorola submits design proposal to meet ERP limits with mechanical downtilt of transmitter antennas. Data do not support claim that design will meet ERP limits.
- 12-23-97 Motorola resubmits downtilt proposal with more detailed information. Data still do not support claim that design will meet ERP limits.
- 12-30-97 County asks its U.S. congressional representative to investigate its conflict with the NRAO.
- 12-30-97 Congressional representative asks NSF to investigate County's "concern with the NRAO".
- 01-23-98 NSF, Division of Astronomical Sciences, replies to congressional representative. Describes purpose of NRQZ, documents NRAO efforts to resolve situation, and encourages cooperation to engineer a mutually acceptable solution.
- 02-11-98 County formally appeals to NSF for a waiver of NRAO restrictions on its transmitters. The appeal includes a consulting engineer's (RCC) study which claims NRAO's propagation analysis is incorrect.
- 03-05-98 County's representative in Virginia House of Delegates endorses County's appeal to NSF.
- 04-01-98 NSF conducts a briefing on the NRQZ/County for the U.S Congressman.
- 04-02-98 NSF requests NRAO's response to the County's appeal.
- 04-15-98 NRAO replies to County's appeal. Stands by its propagation study and ERP limits. Requests that directional antennas be used to meet limits.
- 05-19-98 Headline in Staunton, VA Daily News Leader: Help promised in radio fight.
- 05-26-98 NRAO and County representatives meet at the County Government Center in Verona, VA to resolve impasse. Parties agree to resolve discrepancies in propagation analyses with actual measurements. The power density of a signal generated at one of the transmitter sites is to be measured with NRAO facilities in Green Bank. NRAO offers to build a directional antenna for the other disputed site if a commercially available antenna cannot be found.
- 05-27-98 Headline in Daily News Leader: Testing permit possible for 911 radio.
- 06-01-98 NRAO documents the results of the May 26 meeting in a letter to the County.

- 07-08-98 County files request to the FCC for Special Temporary Authority (STA) to conduct test measurements.
- 07-21-98 County notifies the NRAO that STAs have been requested.
- 07-24-98 NRAO objects to STA requests. STA details do not comport with agreed upon tests.
- 07-30-98 County opposes NRAO objections. Asks the FCC to grant STAs immediately.
- 08-03-98 Twenty-two public safety officials from Augusta County, VA and the International Association of Fire Chiefs petition the FCC to support the County's request for STA.
- 08-03-98 FCC informs the County and NRAO that "... no further action will be taken on the STA request until the Commission is in receipt of a signed agreement between Augusta County and NRAO."
- 08-12-98 County Board of Supervisors adopts a formal resolution to request its U.S. congressional representative "...to introduce legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives limiting the ability of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory to prevent local governments from operating essential public safety communications systems".
- 08-17-98 Headline in Harrisonburg, VA Daily News Record: Augusta Officials Want Radio Restrictions Eased.
- 08-18-98 NRAO and County representatives hold teleconference to agree upon detailed test procedure. Representatives agree to measure transmissions from Elliott Knob and Devil's Knob at different times.
- 08-20-98 County formally notifies NRAO of its August 12 resolution.
- 08-21-98 Headlines in Daily New Leader: Quiet Zone protects science. Zone causes safety threat.
- 08-22-98 Headlines in Daily News Leader: Radio legal battle resumes. Public safety versus the needs of science.
- 08-26-98 Editorial in Daily News Leader: Augusta should work with, not fight Green Bank.
- 08-29-98 NRAO replies to County and public safety officials. Reiterates its position that radio astronomy and public safety are not mutually exclusive. Repeats its offers of technical assistance. Calls attention to fact that communications system was purchased and installed prior to granting of FCC license.
- 09-04-98 NRAO and County agree on testing details in a signed document to the FCC. NRAO states it has no objections to revised requests for STA.
- 09-08-98 County submits revised requests for STA to FCC.
- 10-07-98 RCC documents test procedures.
- 10-20-98 Measurements of signals generated at County's Elliott Knob and Devil's Knob sites are made with 140-Foot Telescope and monitoring station. Measurements are witnessed by County representatives. Signal transmissions are witnessed by NRAO representatives.
- 10-29-98 NRAO informs County of preliminary measurement results. Signal from Devil's Knob exceeds NRQZ power density limit by 13 dB. Signal from Elliott Knob is 15 dB below limit.
- 11-03-98 NRAO publishes report on test measurements. Additional attenuation in path between Elliott Knob and Green Bank attributed to trees at transmitter site.
- 11-04-98 NRAO and County representatives meet in Verona, VA to discuss test results. County agrees to reduce the transmitted power at Devil's Knob by 13 dB. Representatives

agree to verify modifications of the Devil's Knob transmitter with repeat measurements. No modifications are needed for the Elliott Knob transmitter.

**11-04-98** NRAO documents the results of the November 4 meeting in a letter to the County.

**11-20-98** Repeat measurements for modified transmitter at Devil's Knob. Results show that transmitter operates at agreed upon power limit.

**11-24-98** NRAO documents results of Devil's Knob measurement and restates transmitter power limit.

**02-26-99** County submits applications for FCC operating license.

**03-01-99** County submits request to FCC for extension of STA.

**03-10-99** County informs NRAO of request for STA extension and applications for FCC license.

**03-15-99** NRAO informs the FCC that it has no objection to the STA extension.