

Gate Ordinance Discussion



Objective

- Discuss the History of Gate Access in Manatee County
- Provide an Overview of the Current Gate Ordinance
- Provide a Review of Emergency Response Procedures Associated with Gate Access
- Provide an Overview of the Strengths and Weaknesses of the Current Gate Ordinance



History of Gate Access in Manatee County

- The Initial Gates in Manatee County Started in Mobile Home Parks
- Gate access was accomplished by utilizing hard access cards, code numbers, or physical keys
- Fire Departments within Manatee County were all utilizing different methods of access which ranged from a Knox Box System, individual codes, siren activated opening systems, and hard / individual access cards
- During the mid-1990's, it was determined that there was a need to standardize gate access countywide

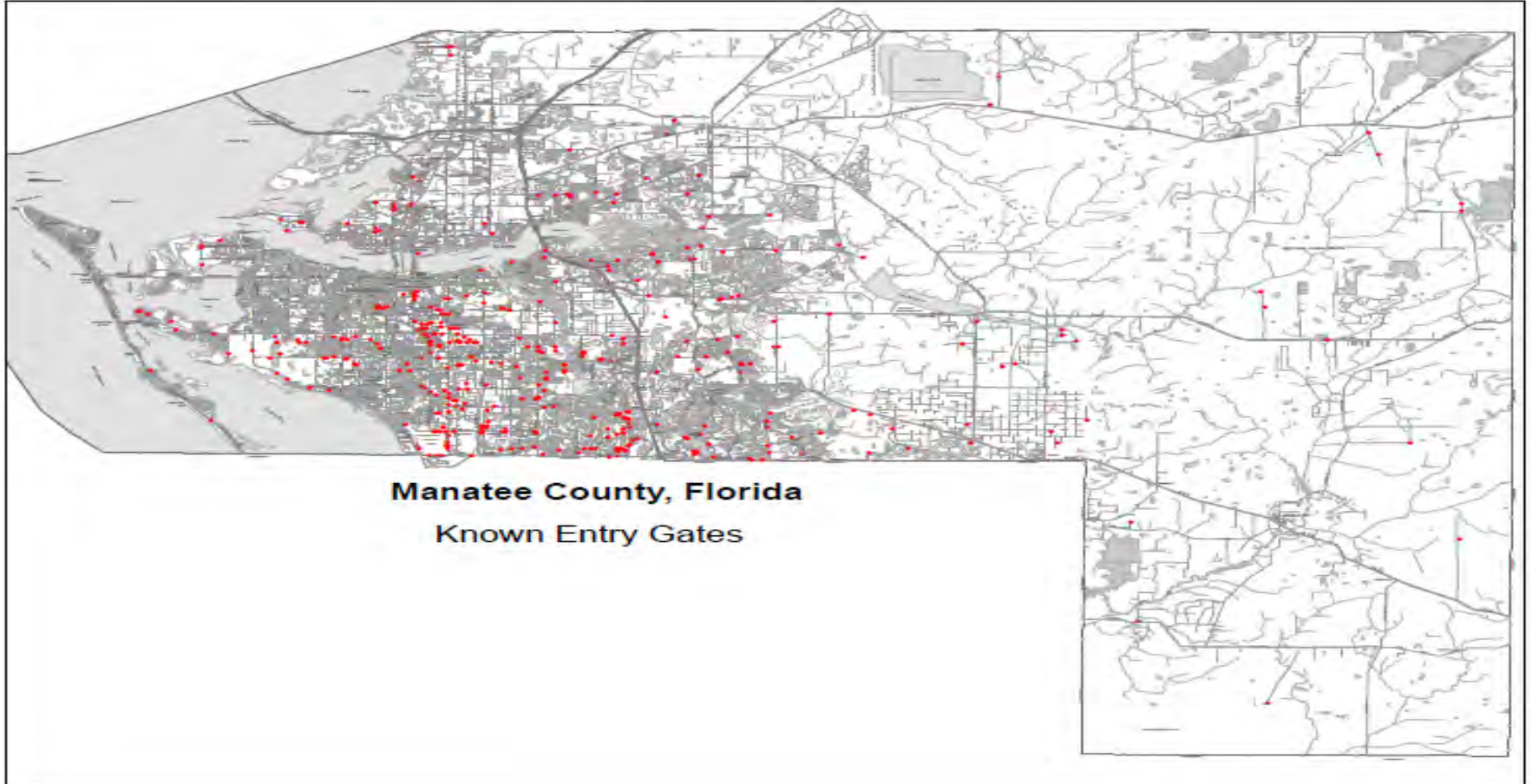


The Need to Standardize

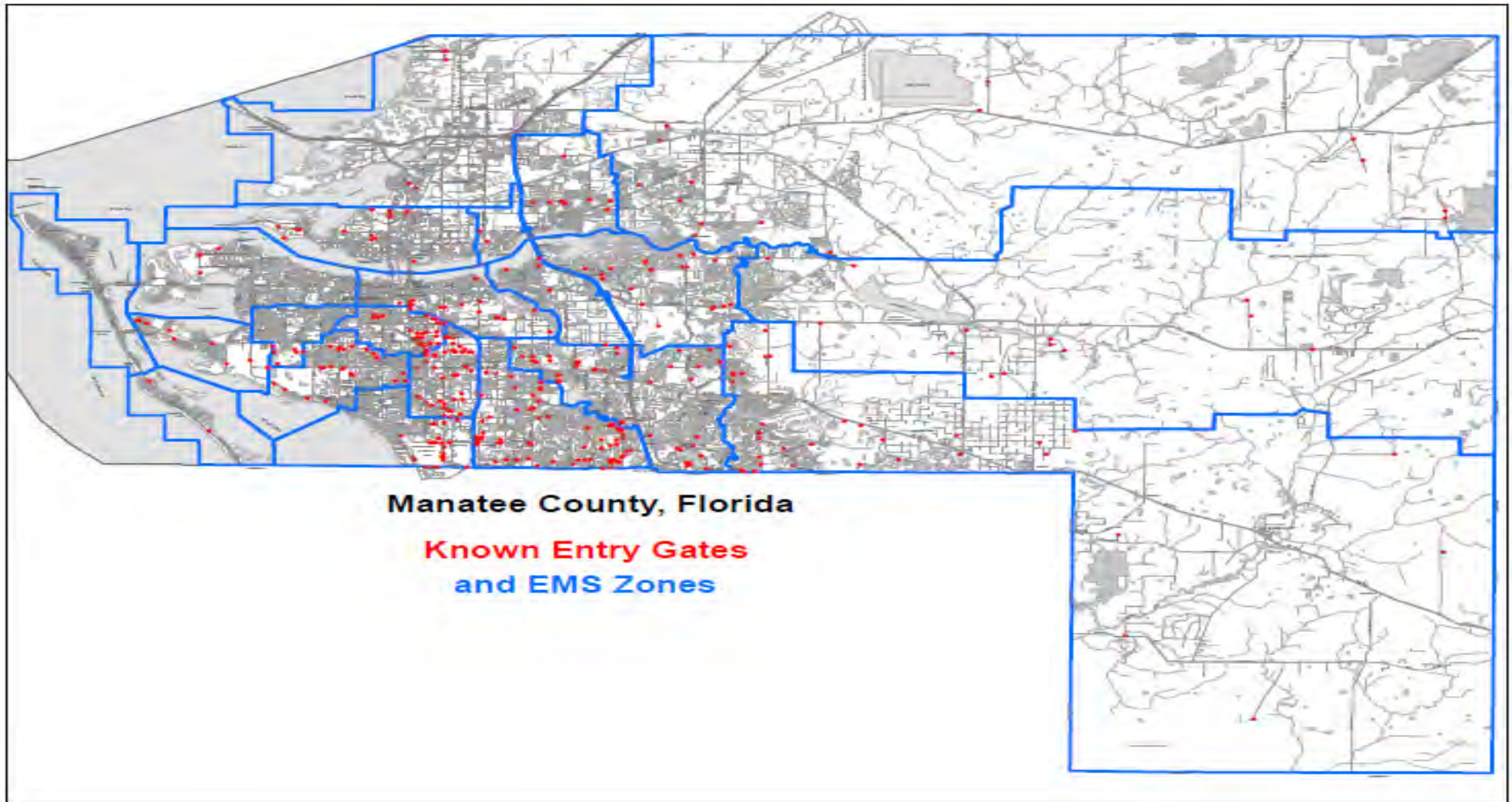
- Significant delays occurred for emergency responders as a lack of standard access did not exist
- Mutual aid responses (fire and law enforcement responding from different jurisdictions) were difficult as the responding agencies lacked the appropriate access codes / cards to gain access to these communities
- Lost cards, keys, personal clickers, and other access mechanisms became labor intensive and troublesome



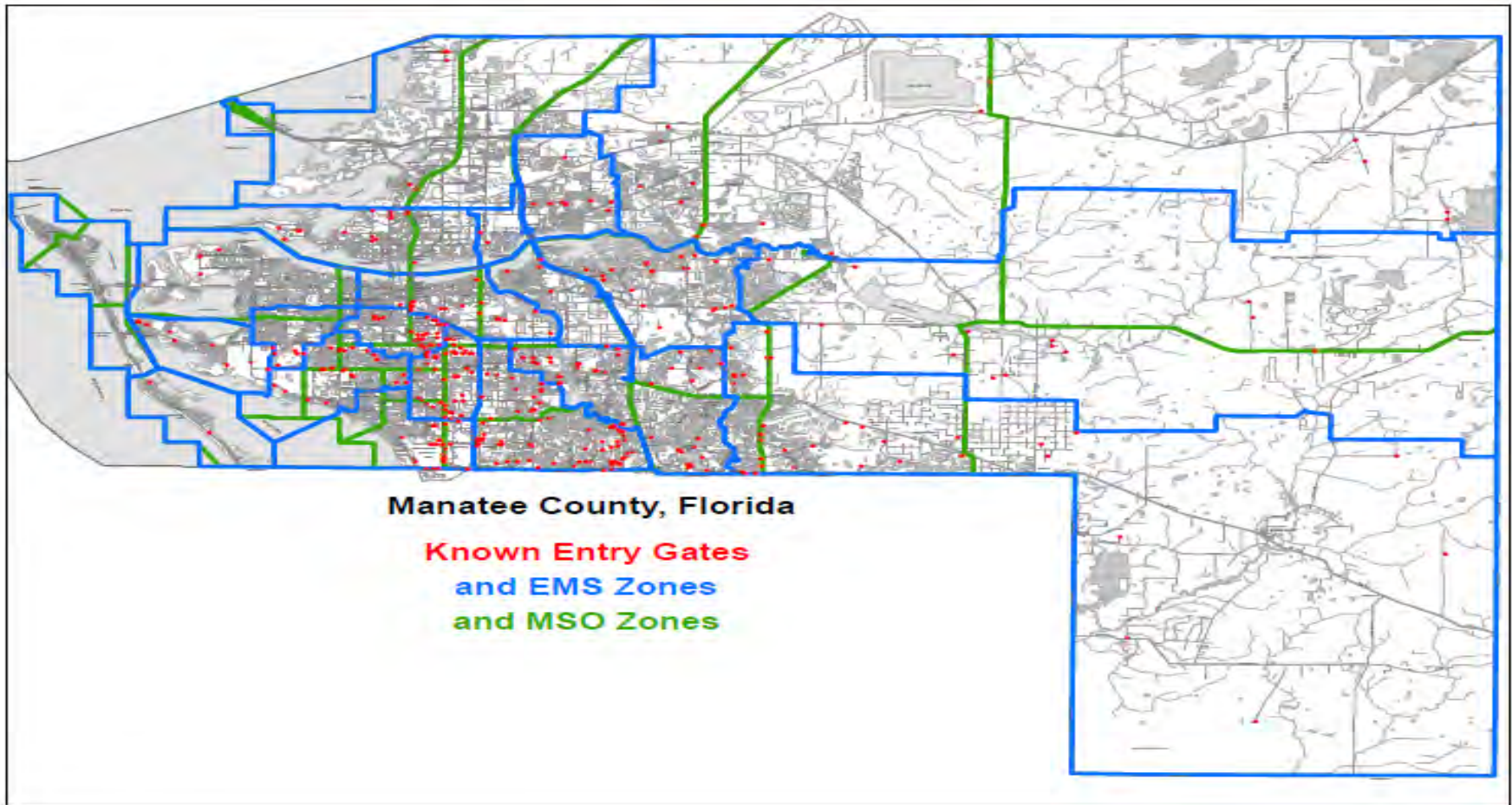
Known Gates in Manatee County



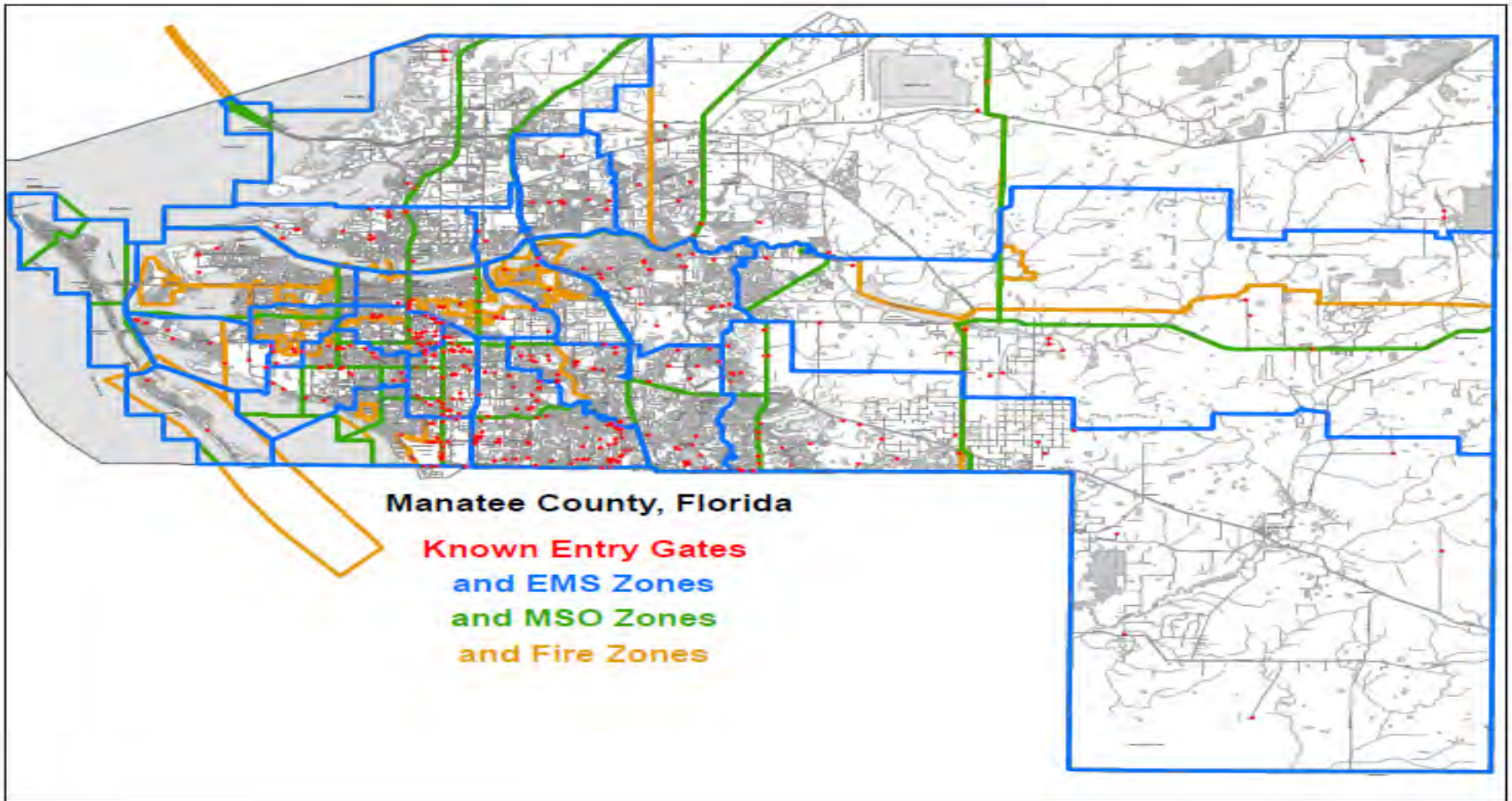
Gate Response Complexity



Gate Response Complexity Cont.



Gate Response Complexity Cont.



The Path to Standardization

- The Manatee County Department of Public Safety – EMS Division was tasked with creating a standardized method of access to gates
- Research was conducted which targeted other communities to determine a best practice
- Emergency response agencies (EMS, Law, and Fire) met and determined the universal remote (clicker) access method to be the best model that met all public safety needs
- Ordinance 04-30 was adopted on May 18, 2004



Ordinance 04-30

- Ordinance 04-30 requires:
 - Developers of new communities to install remote access systems that meet the requirements set forth by the Director of the Public Safety Department
 - The Director of the Public Safety Department to coordinate the standards with the Fire Districts, Law Enforcement, and other emergency response agencies to ensure an efficient access system is used throughout the County



Land Development Code

- Section 2-28-2: *Emergency access through automatic security gates; remote control access system, requires:*
 - All entities within Manatee County (except single family residences), that operate and maintain automatic security gates, to install a remote control access system which meets minimum standards published by the Manatee County Department of Public Safety
 - Required developers to install this universal system on newly constructed communities.
 - Allowed for fines to be imposed



Current Gate Facts

- There are over 700 known access gates in Manatee County
 - There are more Gates in East Manatee Fire Rescue's District alone than in all of Pasco County
- All Gates are required to be in compliance with Ordinance 04-30



Current Gate Concerns

- A few communities have expressed concern that the universal code has become compromised allowing unwanted / unsolicited visitors into their communities
- Complaints that infrastructure workers such as: water, sewer, code enforcement, and other municipal agencies are accessing gates
- Parcel Services such as UPS and FedEx have obtained gate remotes and have access to their communities
- Private delivery drivers have obtained unauthorized access
- There is no way to determine the method of access



Options

- The current ordinance works exceptionally well for emergency gate access
- This ordinance serves as the standard for other surrounding municipalities emergency gate access



Option 1 - Change the Code

- Change the existing universal countywide code
 - New code could become compromised
 - Would require that an additional remote be carried in each emergency response vehicle until all gates have switched to the new code
 - There are over 1000 emergency response remotes deployed within the first responder network; costing approx. \$35 each



Option 2 – 800MHz (P25) Opener

- Would require a total retrofit of all existing gates within Manatee County
- Expense to retrofit gates would be a significant cost to the citizens of each gated community estimated to range from \$2,500 - \$4,000 per gate
- This technology is not currently in the scope of the P25 radio project



Option 3– Siren Operated Opener

- Siren operated openers activate the gate with the use of a specific siren tone
 - Studies have shown that this older technology is unreliable
 - Law enforcement responding to crimes in progress become compromised as the assailant can hear the audible siren
 - Older technology used prior to adopting the emergency gate ordinance



Viabile Proposed Solutions

- Communication with members of gated communities during association meetings about the importance of not providing access codes to individuals outside the community
- Communities with universal and keypad entry codes change the code frequently
- Individual patrol requests be made to law enforcement to address vehicles lacking proper access credentials



Viable Proposed Solutions Cont.

- Public Safety recommends an amendment to the existing ordinance that:
 - Provides enforcement authority for law enforcement to address unauthorized usage
 - Enter a requirement for ordinance regulated gates to change their codes on a recurring basis
 - Establish a centralized database of all ordinance regulated gates



QUESTIONS ??

