



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – March 9, 2015

FirstNet News

- Today the FirstNet Board approved for release a second Public Notice (Second Notice) for comment. The primary purpose of this Second Notice is to seek public comment on key interpretations of the Act that impact operational and economic issues regarding the planning, deployment, operation, and sustainability of the NPSBN. Once the Second Notice is posted in the Federal Register, written comments may be submitted electronically within 30 days to www.regulations.gov or by mail to the address listed in the notice. We have posted an [FAQ about the Second Notice](#) on our website.
- Last week, FirstNet participated in a California Town Hall, the Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) and First Responder Network Security Summit, the Pennsylvania Southcentral Regional meeting, the National Fire Protection Association Board meeting and the Fraternal Order of Police Board meeting.
- This week, FirstNet will be participating in the Massachusetts initial consultation meeting, the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional Cities Conference, the APCO Emerging Technology Forum, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Homeland Security, and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1802 Committee meeting.
- FirstNet is looking forward to the annual IWCE conference and exhibit next week in Las Vegas. Senior staff and Board members will be participating on a number of panel sessions, including: legal and regulatory issues, cybersecurity, early builders, FirstNet integration, NG9-1-1 and public/private partnerships.
- FirstNet, in coordination with the NTIA State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) Team, will host the 2015 SPOC Meeting on April 14-15, 2015 in Reston, VA. This two day meeting will be designed to discuss the FirstNet and SLIGP updates, solicit state and territory feedback on FirstNet planning activities, and provide a forum to share successes and lessons learned on FirstNet planning efforts. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Reston located at 1800 Presidents Street, Reston, VA. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt. If you are interested in attending the SPOC Meeting, please RSVP to outreach@firstnet.gov. Additionally, you

can reserve your hotel room with the room block (government rate of \$229/night) online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/TheEventPlanningGroup>

- Last week, Dave Buchanan posted a blog regarding the Delaware consultation meeting; you can review the blog at <http://firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog/delaware-state-consultation>. The 3/4 consultation meeting with the state of Arkansas was cancelled by Arkansas due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled for April. We have held 15 consultation meetings thus far with more than 1,100 total stakeholders.
- Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings are: Nebraska (3/18-3/19), Washington DC (3/26), South Dakota (4/1), Missouri (4/7), New York (4/20), North Carolina (4/23), South Carolina (4/30), West Virginia (5/5), Arkansas (5/14), Virgin Islands (5/19), Maine (5/20), Idaho (5/21), New Hampshire (6/9), New Mexico (6/10), Ohio (6/11), Vermont (6/16), Kansas (6/17), Wisconsin (6/18), California (6/23-25), Illinois (7/14), Alabama (7/15), Georgia (7/21), Pennsylvania (8/4), Hawaii (8/12), Indiana (8/26) and New Jersey (9/3).
- To date, FirstNet has received completed consultation checklists from 48 of 56 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- The consultation schedule and tracker is on the FirstNet website: <http://firstnet.gov/consultation/meetings>.
- The next FirstNet Board and Committee meetings will be March 24-25 at the Department of Commerce headquarters building in Washington, DC. More information regarding registration and the agenda will be forthcoming.
- Federal Outreach is hiring an Emergency Management Specialist, ZP-0089-IV. The announcements opened Friday, March 6, 2015 and will close Friday, March 13, 2015. This is a 2 year term appointment that may be extended to 4 years. <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/396817500?share=email>
- The next quarterly SPOC webinar will be held on Thursday, April 2 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time. This meeting will focus on follow up from the March Board meetings. The link and call in number will be sent out soon to update your Outlook calendar appointment.

From the States and PSAC Organizations

- The Pennsylvania (PA)-FirstNet team held its third of nine regional meetings on March 6 in Shippensburg, PA to continue education on FirstNet and begin promoting data gathering. Agenda items included a FirstNet and PA-FirstNet overview and update, an LTE overview, a presentation by Texas on the benefits of public safety broadband communications, and an overview of the planned data gathering activities/surveys. The PA-FirstNet team plans to hold the remaining regional meetings through May and will highlight the findings from the requirements gathering activities at a statewide conference. Additional information about PA-FirstNet is available at <https://pafirstnet.com/>, including a PA-FirstNet Outreach and Education Virtual Briefing video.
- In response to a request from the PSAC, the Tribal Working Group (TWG) met via teleconference last week to finalize recommendations regarding FirstNet tribal outreach, education, and inclusive consultation strategies. The group also expressed interest in continuing to offer advice and assistance.
- The PSAC priority and preemption task team had a call on 3/4 to discuss the draft usage scenarios. Staff also held a call with the PSAC EC on user equipment on 3/4.
- Dates were set for the in person priority and preemption and public safety grade task team meetings in Boulder, CO for 4/7-8.

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

Media coverage on FirstNet included reports on the Special Board meeting and Public Notice; next week's Senate hearing; and consultation. Key stories from this week include:

Fierce Mobile Government: FirstNet Meets with Tribal Representatives as Part of Effort to Build Public Safety, Wireless Network

<http://www.fiercemobilegovernment.com/story/firstnet-meets-tribal-representatives-part-effort-build-public-safety-wirel/2015-03-04>

Early last week, the independent government board tasked with overseeing development of a nationwide, wireless broadband public safety network, met with a half dozen members of tribal organizations, one of the stakeholder groups that's helping develop the communications system. According to a recent [blog post](#) from the First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet, members of the group's public safety advisory committee met with the designated Tribal Working Group in Washington, D.C., Feb. 22.

Urgent Communications: FirstNet Board to Conduct Special Meeting, Swenson to Testify Before Congress Next Week

<http://urgentcomm.com/ntiafirstnet/firstnet-board-conduct-special-meeting-swenson-testify-congress-next-week>

FirstNet board members will consider issuing a second public notice on key policy questions during a special board meeting on Monday, and FirstNet Chairwoman Sue Swenson is slated to testify next Wednesday as part of the Senate Commerce Committee's first oversight hearing about the three-year-old organization.

The Hill: Overnight Tech: Senate Plans FirstNet Hearing

<http://thehill.com/policy/technology/overnights/234506-overnight-tech-new-patent-bill-gets-cold-shoulder>

The Senate Commerce Committee will hold an oversight hearing on the FCC's FirstNet program for first responders on the morning of March 11, Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) announced on Tuesday. FirstNet Chairwoman Susan Swenson is slated to testify, as is Commerce Deputy Secretary Bruce Andrews, the Commerce Department's inspector general and the Government Accountability Office's physical infrastructure director Mark Goldstein.

CalOES News: Cal OES Shares the Future of Public Safety Communications in the Capital of Silicon Valley

<https://caloesnewsroom.wordpress.com/2015/03/02/cal-oes-shares-the-future-of-public-safety-communications-in-the-capital-of-silicon-valley/>

Wireless broadband data applications enable exciting new possibilities for improving the operations and effectiveness of California public safety activities in life changing – and lifesaving – ways. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Public Safety Communications continues to lead informational meetings to prepare California's public

safety community for the first Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) deployment in the Golden State.

NPSTC Blog: FirstNet to Look at Public Safety Entity Definition in Further Notice

<http://blog.npstc.org/2015/02/28/firstnet-to-look-at-public-safety-entity-definition-in-further-notice/>

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) plans to issue another public notice further exploring issues related the definition of public safety entity, a FirstNet official said today at the National Emergency Number Association's 911 Goes to Washington event. The definition of public safety entity was an issue that drew many comments in a public notice issued by FirstNet last September (TRDaily, Sept. 17, 2014). The public notice sought comment on preliminary interpretations and other issues regarding FirstNet's authority under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Vicki Lee, FirstNet's association manager, said at today's event that FirstNet plans to issue a public notice that will solely further explore issues and interpretations related to the definition of public safety entity. She said she did not know when the public notice would be released.

Web and Social Media

Three new web pages have been added to the site to provide more information and updates on FirstNet activities in key areas:

- Speakers Request: Aims to help FirstNet manage the large quantity of speaker requests coming via an online form <http://firstnet.gov/contact/speaker-request>
- Environmental: Provides updates and resources related to FirstNet's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS): <http://firstnet.gov/about/peis>
- Land Mobile Radio: Addresses the expected continued use of LMR technology upon launch of the NPSNB: <http://firstnet.gov/network/lmr>

Social media discussions about FirstNet focused on consultation and outreach developments in the states and territories, as well as the upcoming board meetings and hearing. Washington SPOC Bill Schrier's blog on FirstNet received considerable attention on Twitter (posted below). FirstNet blogs this week focused on consultation, a recap of the first PSAC TWG meeting, and new additions to the technical team in Boulder: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>. The FirstNet Twitter account

continues to grow steadily, with more than 1,812 followers – including many public safety stakeholders; LinkedIn 560; Google+ 28; and YouTube has 92 subscribers.

The Chief Seattle Geek Blog: Will FirstNet Become the Next Healthcare.gov?

<https://schrier.wordpress.com/2015/03/04/will-firstnet-become-the-next-healthcare-gov/>

On October 1, 2013, the website healthcare.gov opened for business. This website was the centerpiece of the Affordable Care Act (“ACA” commonly known as “Obamacare”). ACA is one of the signature achievements of President Barack Obama. Certainly the core of Obamacare would have the latest in innovative technology, interactivity and customer experience, right? Healthcare.gov’s debut was a bomb. But then healthcare.gov was resurrected. Through an extraordinary effort the website was rapidly fixed and rebuilt by a top-notch team who were freed from most of the stultifying bureaucracy and regulations of the Federal Government. Today another signature achievement of the Obama Administration – the First Responder Network Authority – appears headed down a path similar to the original healthcare.gov.