



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – November 17, 2014

FirstNet News

- The user advocacy team conducted the seventh state consultation meeting this week in Puerto Rico. The meeting was attended by more than 100 public safety representatives from the territory.
- The user advocacy team will conduct initial consultation meetings with Iowa on November 18 and Florida on December 12. The state consultation team continues to work with several states on scheduling meetings for 2015.
- Last week, FirstNet presented at The Performance Institute, the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA) (via webinar), the DHS Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) Team Forum, the American Petroleum Institute Telecommunications (API) Subcommittee and at the NPSTC meeting.
- FirstNet conducted its second webinar for NASNA members. The following states were represented: Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming.
- TJ Kennedy, along with DHS OEC Director Ron Hewitt and Delaware SPOC and SWIC Mark Grubb, will be testifying on November 18 before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee Hearing on Emergency Communications.
- To date, FirstNet has received completed state consultation checklists from 32 states and territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Washington, Washington DC, Wisconsin, Wyoming.
- In the [Federal Register](#), FirstNet announced its intent to prepare five regional Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (“PEISs”) and conduct public scoping meetings to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed nationwide public safety broadband network. The specific locations, dates, and times for the scoping meetings will be announced on the FirstNet Web site, no later than one week prior to each meeting. We will discuss this further on the upcoming SPOC calls.

- We now have four new RSS Feeds in place on FirstNet.gov. The available feeds are:
 - FirstNet Blogs
 - FirstNet Press Releases
 - FirstNet Federal Register Notices
 - FirstNet Jobs

You can view the feeds via the new RSS Feeds page at:

<http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/rss> or by clicking the new icon at the top of the home page.

- FirstNet is currently accepting applications for the following vacancies:

**Supervisory Communications Program Specialist (Region 6 - Outreach Lead)
GS-0301-15**

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

Location: Little Rock, AR; Baton Rouge, LA; Santa Fe County, NM; Oklahoma County, OK; Austin, TX (note this is a permanent telework position)

MAP vacancy announcement: [NTIA-FRNA-2015-0038](#) (open to those currently or previously employed by the federal government)

DEU vacancy announcement: [NTIA-FRNA-2015-0037](#) (open to all qualified U.S. citizens)

**Supervisory Communications Program Specialist (Region 2 - Outreach Lead)
GS-0301-15**

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

Location: Dover, DE; Trenton, NJ; Albany County, NY (note this is a permanent telework position)

MAP vacancy announcement: [NTIA-FRNA-2015-0034](#) (open to those currently or previously employed by the federal government)

DEU vacancy announcement: [NTIA-FRNA-2015-0033](#) (open to all qualified U.S. citizens)

Supervisory Communications Program Specialist (Region 4- Outreach Lead) GS-0301-15

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

Location: Montgomery County, AL; Tallahassee, FL; Atlanta, GA; Frankfort, KY; Jackson County, MS; Raleigh, NC; Columbia, SC; Nashville, TN (note this is a permanent telework position)

MAP vacancy announcement: [NTIA-FRNA-2015-0035](#) (open to those currently or previously employed by the federal government)

DEU vacancy announcement: [NTIA-FRNA-2015-0036](#) (open to all qualified U.S. citizens)

From the States and PSAC Organizations

- FirstNet staff participated in a coordination meeting with 16 attendees in New Mexico to discuss progress on their BTOP effort and address questions. The group also visited 2 potential sites for the project.
- This week, FirstNet will be presenting with state teams at the Oklahoma Regional Outreach Summit in Ardmore, the California 9-1-1 Town Hall in Sacramento, and the California E9-1-1 Advisory Board meeting in Santa Maria.
- Kevin McGinnis will present at the IAEM Conference on November 18.
- Regional calls for December will all occur between Dec 15 - 19 in order to avoid conflicts with the NCSWIC meeting and to include updates from the FirstNet Board meeting. Additionally, the invitations for the 2015 monthly regional SPOC/SWIC calls and the quarterly SPOC webinars went out on Nov 14. Please make sure you check for these in your inbox.

Media Watch

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Traditional Media

Among the public safety broadband media reports this week, the AWS-3 auction received a lot of coverage as did the issue of utilities' access to the FirstNet network. The AWS-3 auction generated \$1.7 billion in bids on the first day of the auction on November 13. *Urgent Comms* held a webinar on the subject of utilities communications, and it generated discussions and articles about utilities and FirstNet (see stories below).

Urgent Communications: Differences on 'public-safety entity' definition may be addressable by FirstNet (11/13/14)

In recent filings with FirstNet regarding the definition of a "public-safety entity" that would be eligible for priority-access consideration, commercial wireless carrier AT&T and utilities associations approach the matter very differently, but their final conclusions include a lot of similarities. <http://urgentcomm.com/blog/differences-public-safety-entity-definition-may-be-addressable-firstnet>

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association: FirstNet Acting General Manager Discusses Urgency of Public Safety Network (11/12/14)

FirstNet Acting General Manager TJ Kennedy said during an interview with NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield that the agency's goal is to accelerate the deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network. <http://www.ntca.org/2014-press-releases/firstnet-acting-general-manager-discusses-urgency-of-public-safety-network.html>

Urgent Communications: Webinar participants say wireless priority status essential for utilities (11/10/14)

Elevating their wireless status will be a primary concern for utilities as they work with FirstNet to explore the possible role of utilities in the development and operation of the new network, utility-communications experts said during a recent IWCE's Urgent Communications webinar. <http://urgentcomm.com/utility/webinar-participants-say-wireless-priority-status-essential-utilities>

Social Media

The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 1,175 followers, and the LinkedIn account has more than 330 followers. Our blog posts from this week can be found at:
<http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>