



NEWCOM

**North East Wisconsin Public Safety
Communications**

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Dear NTIA:

The counties of northeastern Wisconsin have a long history of working cooperatively to address the public safety needs of the area. This latest effort, called the North East Wisconsin Public Safety COMMunications or NEWCOM, was created to address the public safety communication needs for the Region. NEWCOM was created so that the 500 plus law enforcement and public safety organizations can communicate effectively throughout the Region.

NEWCOM is largely a rural area in northeast Wisconsin, but does include Marathon County which is a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA). As the testing and implementation of a wireless broadband system for public safety is designed we feel that NEWCOM uniquely positioned to represent the needs to have broadband in rural and urban areas as the legislation intended. NEWCOM also has existing infrastructure that can be leveraged to help build out the system. NEWCOM would like to see equipment co-located at existing towers sites when possible.

If funding is available for planning the NEWCOM region would like to hire consultants to help make the best use of existing infrastructure within the NEWCOM region. The NEWCOM region would be suited for any demonstration projects of the intended technologies. We look forward to access to this new technology and want to make sure that the rural areas are not forgotten as this system is designed. We also think that it is important to have a governing structure in place that allow all public safety disciplines to have input into the system design and implementation.

Sincerely,

Brad Henricks
NEWCOM Chair