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National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Office of Public Safety Communications (OPSC) Update  

At the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Conference  

August 17, 2016
OPSC Priorities

✓ Provide the NTIA focal point for public safety communications coordination

✓ Oversee NTIA’s duties under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (the Act), which created FirstNet.

✓ Administer grant programs related to public safety communications.
OPSC Activities

Statutory oversight responsibilities include:

- Review and Approval of FirstNet Fees
- State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)
  - For more information:
    - APCO Session: State and Local Implementation Grant Program Update
    - Today at 1:40 PM
- State Alternative Plan Program (SAPP)
- Next Generation 911 Grant Program
State Alternative Plan Program (SAPP) Background

The Act requires that FirstNet’s NPSBN consist of a core network and a radio access network (RAN) that links to the core to ensure a single, interoperable nationwide network.

States and territories may decide to “opt-out” of FirstNet construction of the RAN in their state. If they opt-out, states accept responsibility to construct, operate, maintain, and improve their own RAN that still must connect to the FirstNet core.

To obtain spectrum capacity leasing rights and get a grant for RAN construction, a state must demonstrate to NTIA that it has the ability to build, operate, maintain, and improve a RAN that interoperates with the NPSBN.
SAPP – Understanding The Process

1. **FirstNet**
   - State Plan

2. **Governor - 90 Days**
   - Disapprove
     - Disapprove - Discussion between FirstNet and State
     - Right to Execute SMLA with FirstNet

3. **NTIA**
   - Federal Funding Opportunity

4. **State RFP**
   - 180 Days

5. **SAPP Application**
   - To: NTIA

6. **TO:** NTIA

7. **Mandatory Spectrum**

8. **Optional**
   - RAN Construction Grant
   - Construction Grant Award

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SAPP – Understanding The Program

- SAPP is designed for states and territories that seek to construct, operate, maintain, and improve the RAN in their state.

- States **must** apply to NTIA for the right to execute a spectrum capacity lease with FirstNet and they **may** apply for a grant to go towards the cost of building the RAN.

- The same evaluation criteria will be used for both the right to execute a spectrum lease and a construction grant.
NTIA released a Public Notice discussing the 5 statutory demonstrations a state must make to receive the authority to enter into a spectrum lease with FirstNet and the opportunity to receive grant funds to assist in RAN construction:

- The technical capabilities to operate, and the funding to support, the state radio access network;
- The ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with the nationwide public safety broadband network;
- The ability to complete the project within specified comparable timelines specific to the state;
- The cost-effectiveness of the state plan; and
- Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to that of the nationwide public safety broadband network.
SAPP – Required Demonstration

The technical capabilities to operate, and the funding to support, the state radio access network
SAPP – Required Demonstration

The ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with the nationwide public safety broadband network
SAPP – Required Demonstration

The ability to complete the project within specified comparable timelines specific to the state
SAPP – Required Demonstration

The cost-effectiveness of the state plan

Inputs That May Be Considered:

1. Spectrum Utilization
2. Business Plan
3. RAN Construction and Deployment Plans
SAPP – Required Demonstration

Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to that of FirstNet
SAPP Public Notice

Notice can be found at:

Comments can be sent to:
SAPP-comments@ntia.doc.gov

Comments due TOMORROW:
August 18, 2016
Questions?
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