



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>  
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 14-552

Released: April 24, 2014

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR PUBLIC NOTICE SEEKING TO REFRESH THE RECORD IN EB DOCKET NO. 04-296, ON PETITION FILED BY THE MINORITY MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL PROPOSING CHANGES TO EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) RULES TO SUPPORT MULTILINGUAL EAS AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

**EB Docket No. 04-296**

**Comment Date: May 28, 2014**  
**Reply Comment Date: June 12, 2014**

By this *Public Notice*, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) extends the comment filing deadlines for the *Multilingual EAS Notice* in the above-captioned proceeding to allow parties to address more thoroughly the technical and other issues raised in that notice and in the record.<sup>1</sup> Interested parties now will have until May 28, 2014, to file comments, and until June 12, 2014, to file reply comments.<sup>2</sup> On March 11, 2014, the Bureau released the *Multilingual EAS Notice* seeking comment to refresh the record on issues raised in a Petition for Immediate Interim Relief (Petition) filed by the Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, the Office of Communications of the United Church of Christ, Inc., and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (hereinafter collectively or individually referred to as “MMTC”), regarding the ability of non-English speakers to access EAS alerts and emergency information.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See Comment Requested to Refresh the Record in EB Docket No. 04-296, On Petition Filed by the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council Proposing Changes to Emergency Alert System (EAS) Rules to Support Multilingual EAS and Emergency Information, EB Docket No. 04-296, *Public Notice*, DA 14-336 (rel. March 11, 2014) (*Multilingual EAS Notice*).

<sup>2</sup> The *Multilingual EAS Notice* set forth comment and reply-comment dates of 30 and 45 days, respectively, after date of publication in the Federal Register. *Id.* The *Multilingual EAS Notice* was published in the Federal Register on March 28, 2014, thus, comments and reply comments were originally due on April 28, 2014, and May 12, 2014, respectively. See Comment Requested To Refresh the Record in EB Docket No. 04-296, on Petition Filed By the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council Proposing Changes to Emergency Alert System Rules To Support Multilingual Alerting and Emergency Information, 79 Fed. Reg. 17490 (Mar. 28, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> See Petition for Immediate Relief filed by the Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, the Office of Communications of the United Church of Christ, Inc., and the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, EB Docket 04-296 (filed September 22, 2005) (“Petition”). The Bureau took this action to refresh the record in this docketed proceeding pursuant to its delegated authority under Section 0.392 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 0.392.

On April 17, 2014, MMTC filed a request to extend the deadline for filing comments by one month.<sup>4</sup> The MMTC Request contends that "[a]s the moving party requesting that the Commission incorporate multilingual EAS and emergency information, we have a significant interest in this proceeding," but that "the current period is insufficient for MMTC to provide meaningful comments to each of the complex questions raised."<sup>5</sup> The MMTC Request further contends that "[a] one-month extension of the comment period would provide MMTC with a meaningful opportunity to speak with stakeholders to respond to the Commission's questions and assist the Commission in developing a full record."<sup>6</sup>

It is the general policy of the Commission that extensions of time shall not be routinely granted.<sup>7</sup> However, as the request was made by the party that filed the original petition, and to ensure that the record is as complete as possible, the Bureau agrees that a 30-day extension of time to file comments, and an additional 15 days thereafter to file reply comments, applicable to all parties, is warranted to ensure that the Commission obtains a complete and thorough record in response to the *Multilingual EAS Notice*. As we noted in the *Multilingual EAS Notice*, several years have passed since the Commission last sought comment on the issues raised in MMTC's Petition, during which interim, developments have evolved, such as the deployment of the Common Alerting Protocol-capable alert distribution systems at both the federal and state levels, along with revised EAS rules that incorporate these capabilities into the EAS.<sup>8</sup> In addition, as the Bureau noted in the *Multilingual EAS Notice*, MMTC has updated and elaborated on its proposal primarily in response to the changes in the alerting environment.<sup>9</sup> The *Multilingual EAS Notice* specifically sought comment on how these developments might impact the issues raised in MMTC's original Petition as well as the issue of multilingual EAS in general.<sup>10</sup> Accordingly, a 30-day extension of time to file comments is warranted to enable interested parties sufficient opportunity to more fully respond to the issues discussed in the *Multilingual EAS Notice*. Because the reply comment deadline for this proceeding was set to 15 days from the comment filing deadline, it also must be extended by 15 days from the new comment deadline.

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,<sup>11</sup> and Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules,<sup>12</sup> the Bureau extends the deadlines for filing comments and reply comments until May 28, 2014, and June 12, 2014, respectively.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> See Letter from David Honig to David G. Simpson, Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, FCC, EB Docket 04-296 (filed April 17, 2014) (MMTC Request).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 1.46(a).

<sup>8</sup> See *Multilingual EAS Notice* at 1-2, 6-9.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>10</sup> See *id.* at 5-6.

<sup>11</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 154(i).

<sup>12</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.46.

<sup>13</sup> This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to Sections 0.191 and 0.392 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.191, 0.392.

For further information, please contact Gregory Cooke of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Policy and Licensing Division, at (202) 418-2351 or [gregory.cooke@fcc.gov](mailto:gregory.cooke@fcc.gov).

Action by the Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

- FCC -