Working Group #3: Emergency Alert System

Co-Chairs:
Clay Freinwald, Clay Freinwald Technical Services
Larry Walke, National Association of Broadcasters

Working Group Objectives

This Working Group will develop recommendations for the CSRIC's consideration regarding any actions the FCC should take to improve the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

- **State EAS Plans**. Recommend steps to improve the process for developing and submitting state EAS plans to the Commission. Consider the formation and role of State Emergency Communications Councils (SECCs), and processes for optimizing the EAS while minimizing burdens on EAS stakeholders.
  - Final Report: March 2014.

- **Nationwide EAS Test/Operational Issues**. Address other EAS-related issues as assigned to CSRIC by the FCC.
  - Final Report: June 2014.

- **EAS Security**. Recommend actions to improve promote the security of the EAS.
  - Interim Report re: Best Practices due September 2014.
  - Final Report: December 2014.

Participants: 42 Members (as of December 4, 2013)

▸ Adrienne Abbott	Nevada EAS Chair
▸ John Archer	SiriusXM
▸ John Benedict	CenturyLink
▸ Ron Boyer	Boyer Broadband
▸ Ted Buehner	National Weather Service
▸ Roswell Clark	Cox Media Group
▸ Kimberly Culp	Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority
▸ Edward Czarnecki	Monroe Electronics
▸ David Donovan	NY State Association of Broadcasters
▸ Chris Fine	Goldman Sachs
▸ Les Garrenton	LIN Media
▸ Mike Gerber	NOAA
▸ Suzanne Goucher	Maine Association of Broadcasters
▸ Neil Graves	SNR Systems (formerly FEMA IPAWS)
▸ Craig Hoden	NOAA
▸ Chris Homer	Public Broadcasting Service
▸ Steve Johnson	Johnson Telecom
▸ Alfred Kenyon	FEMA IPAWS
▸ Wayne Luplow	LGE/Zenith
▸ Bruce McFarlane	Fairfax County
▸ Dan Mettler	Clear Channel Media + Entertainment

Participants (cont'd)

- David Munson — FCC Liaison
- Brian Oliger — Hubbard Radio/WTOP
- Darryl Parker — TFT, Inc.
- Rich Parker — Vermont Public Radio
- Jerry Parkins — Comcast Cable
- Efraim Petel — AtHoc, Inc.
- Richard Perlotto — Shadowserver Foundation
- Joey Peters — MyStateUSA, Inc.
- Peter Poulos — Citi
- Harold Price — Sage Alerting Systems
- Richard Rudman — Broadcast Warning Working Group
- Francisco Sanchez, Jr. — Harris County (TX) Office of Homeland Security
- Tim Schott — NOAA
- Andy Scott — NCTA
- Bill Schully — DirecTV
- Gary Smith — KTAR Phoenix, Arizona SECC
- Matthew Straeb — Global Security Systems/ALERT FM
- Gary Timm — SRA International
- Leonardo Velazquez — AT&T U-Verse
- Michael Watson — Gray Television Group
- Kelly Williams — NAB
- Reed Wilson — Belo Corp.

Working Group #3:
State EAS Plans Subcommittee

Co-Chairs:

Clay Freinwald, Clay Freinwald Technical Services/ WA SECC Chair
Rich Parker, Vermont Public Radio/ VT SECC Chair
Richard Rudman, Broadcast Warning Working Group/ CA SECC Vice Chair
Gary Timm, WI SECC Chair

The Final Plans Sub Group Report

Executive Summary Highlights

- **This is the final report from the Plans Subgroup**

  - We reviewed the FCC's rules regarding state EAS plans and made specific recommendations for changes and best practices to the Commission and to the EAS Committees

  - We suggested a better process for development and submission of plans to the Commission by Committees

  - We suggested changes to the FCC's process of Plan review

  - We offered guidance suggestions to SECC's to help them in their work

Executive Summary Highlights, Contd.

- We offered suggestions to make key elements of EAS state plans more uniform

- We identified core Plan elements Committees should deliver to the FCC

- We provided specific examples of recommended Plan sections in Appendix 1 accompanied by descriptive language on adapting these sections for individual state Plans

- We provided suggestions on how SECCs can test dissemination of EAN distribution paths in meaningful ways

- We presented our vision for how SECCs can maintain and update EAS Plans

Executive Summary Highlights, Contd.

- We presented our vision for how SECCs can maintain and update EAS Plans

- In Appendix 1 we present a matrix approach for EAN distribution and monitoring

- In Appendix 2, we outline in detail our recommendations for changes and updates to FCC Part 11 EAS rules

- We included a table of helpful definitions in Appendix 3

- We presented a process flow chart in Appendix 4

- *We recommended that the FCC stand up an online database that can automatically cross-reference specific information with the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS)*

A Key Recommendation: The Proposed Database

o The subcommittee concludes that SECCs would benefit if a federal government monitoring assignment database is established to help assure confidence in EAN dissemination.

A Key Recommendation: The Proposed Database

o The subcommittee concludes that SECCs would benefit if a federal government monitoring assignment database was established to help assure confidence in EAN dissemination.

o We believe that secure and authorized access to a federal database by the State SECCs will help the Commission and other federal partners assure that EAS EAN messages will disseminate properly to the greatest extent possible.

A Key Recommendation: The Proposed Database

o The subcommittee concludes that SECCs would benefit if a federal government monitoring assignment database was established to help assure confidence in EAN dissemination.

  o We believe that secure and authorized access to a federal database by the State SECCs will help the Commission and other federal partners assure that EAS EAN messages will disseminate properly to the greatest extent possible.

  o We outlined a proposed standardized format for SECC database submissions based on an easily understood and commonly used matrix-type format.

A Key Recommendation: The Proposed Database

o The subcommittee concludes that SECCs would benefit if a federal government monitoring assignment database was established to help assure confidence in EAN dissemination.

  o We believe that secure and authorized access to a federal database by the State SECCs will help the Commission and other federal partners assure that EAS EAN messages will disseminate properly to the greatest extent possible.

  o We outlined a proposed standardized format for SECC database submissions based on an easily understood and commonly used matrix format.

  o We highlighted the key and continuing role of the Local Emergency Communications Committees (LECCs) in the process.

A Key Recommendation: The Proposed Database

- Database Guiding Principal: An EAS warning strategy that is structured to clarify for all EAS Participants exactly who they are supposed to monitor.

A Key Recommendation: The Proposed Database

▶ Database Guiding Principal: An EAS warning strategy that is structured to clarify for all EAS Participants exactly who they are supposed to monitor.

- We recognized the Commission has neither the staffing nor local expertise to manage monitor assignments and must rely on the SECC's for basic monitoring structure, maintenance and updates.

- .

A Key Recommendation: The Proposed Database

▸ Database Guiding Principal: An EAS warning strategy that is structured to clarify for all EAS Participants exactly who they are supposed to monitor.

◦ We recognized the Commission has neither the staffing nor local expertise to manage monitor assignments and must rely on the SECC's for basic monitoring structure, maintenance and updates.

◦ There is less than100% certainty that all 50 states and territories are capable of supporting this effort. Our recommendations can facilitate reaching as close to a 100% assurance level as possible.

Suggested Part 11 Changes

Suggested Part 11 Changes

✓ Eliminate mapbook reference from Part 11

Suggested Part 11 Changes

- ✓ Eliminate mapbook reference from Part 11
- ✓ Drop outdated or conflicting rules from Part 11

Suggested Part 11 Changes

- ✓ Eliminate mapbook reference from Part 11
- ✓ Drop outdated or conflicting rules from Part 11
- ✓ Clarify FEMA's PEP responsibilities under Part 11

Suggested Part 11 Changes

✓ Eliminate mapbook reference from Part 11

✓ Drop outdated or conflicting rules from Part 11

✓ Clarify FEMA's PEP responsibilities under Part 11

✓ Reconcile intent of the EAS Rules in various sections of Part 11

Suggested Part 11 Changes

✓ Eliminate mapbook reference from Part 11

✓ Drop outdated or conflicting rules from Part 11

✓ Clarify FEMA's PEP responsibilities under Part 11

✓ Reconcile intent of the EAS Rules in various sections of Part 11

✓ Provide a definition for what an SECC is in Part 11

Suggested Part 11 Changes

- ✓ Eliminate mapbook reference from Part 11
- ✓ Drop outdated or conflicting rules from Part 11
- ✓ Clarify FEMA's PEP responsibilities under Part 11
- ✓ Reconcile intent of the EAS Rules in various sections of Part 11
- ✓ Provide a definition for what an SECC is in Part 11
- ✓ Suggest changes in wording to clarify part 11

Suggested Part 11 Changes

- ✓ Eliminate mapbook reference from Part 11
- ✓ Drop outdated or conflicting rules from Part 11
- ✓ Clarify FEMA's PEP responsibilities under Part 11
- ✓ Reconcile intent of the EAS Rules in various sections of Part 11
- ✓ Provide a definition for what an SECC is in Part 11
- ✓ Suggest changes in wording to clarify part 11
- ✓ Clarify how monitoring assignments are requested and approved

❖ SECC Definition Proposed For Part 11.2

State Emergency Communications Committee: A body recognized by the Federal Communications Commission that includes but is not necessarily limited to EAS stakeholders such as EAS Participants, emergency management officials, public safety agencies that issue EAS messages, and National Weather Service entities. Responsibilities of an SECC include but also may not be limited to planning EAN dissemination within their respective jurisdictions, developing and maintaining State EAS plans and monitoring assignments, informing the Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, of the FCC of State Plan and monitoring assignment changes, and liaison to other SECCs in other geographical areas.

Working Group 3: Emergency Alert System

Plans Sub Group Report
March 20, 2014