Working Group #3: Emergency Alert System

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

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).

- Review the FCC's rules regarding state EAS plans and recommend any actions that the Commission should take to improve the process by which state EAS plans are developed and submitted to the Commission.
    - Improve the selection and administration of State Emergency Communications Councils (SECCs).
    - Recommend methods for developing and submitting state EAS plans for FCC review in a manner that optimizes the effectiveness of the EAS and minimizes burdens on stakeholders, *e.g.*, electronic filing.
    - Duration: December 2013.

- WG3 will also develop recommendations for any actions, including best practices, the Commission should take to promote the security of the EAS.
    - Duration: TBD.

- WG3 will address such other EAS-related issues as assigned to CSRIC by the FCC.
    - Duration: TBD.

Relevant Constituencies

- Message Originators: FEMA; NWS; State & Local Emergency Managers, State EAS Networks.

- EAS Participants: Radio; TV; Cable TV; Satellite TV; Satellite Radio.

- EAS Equipment Manufacturers.

- SECCs.

- EAS Experts and Consultants.

Participants: 36 Members (as of September 10, 2013)

- Adrienne Abbott — Nevada EAS Chair
- John Archer — SiriusXM
- 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 — FEMA IPAWS
- Craig Hoden — NOAA
- Chris Homer — Public Broadcasting Service
- Steve Johnson — Johnson Telecom
- Wayne Luplow — LGE/Zenith
- Dan Mettler — Clear Channel Media + Entertainment
- David Munson — FCC Liaison

Participants (cont'd)

- Darryl Parker — TFT, Inc.
- Rich Parker — Vermont Public Radio
- Jerry Parkins — Comcast Cable
- Efraim Petel — AtHoc, Inc.
- 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
- 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.

Background

- **CSRIC II**
  - Working Group #2A: Cyber Security Best Practices
  - Working Group #5A: CAP Introduction

- **CSRIC III**
  - Working Group #2: Next Generation Alerting
  - Working Group #9: CAP Implementation

Current Activity

‣ Recruit working group participants

‣ Examine charter and structure work plan

‣ Establish CSRIC-WG3 ListServ

‣ Kick-off meeting: September 11, 2013

‣ Organize Committees
  ◦ State EAS Plans
  ◦ EAS Security
  ◦ Operational Issues/Nationwide EAS Test

Committee #1: State EAS Plans

- Develop recommendations for improving the process of developing and submitting state EAS plans by SECCs, and the FCC's review of state EAS plans.

  - Consider benefits of moving the process online.
  - Recommendations for standardizing EAS plans.
  - Duration: December 2013.

Committee #2: EAS Security

- Develop recommendations for steps to improve the security of the EAS system.
  - Duration: TBD

- Issues may include:
  - Message origination and dissemination.
  - Security of EAS Participant access.
  - Cyber hygiene best practices.
  - Engaging small entities.
  - Unauthorized EAS tones.

Committee #3: Operational Issues & Nationwide EAS Test

▸ Develop recommendations regarding certain operational issues that arose during the nationwide EAS test.
  ◦ Upcoming FCC NPRM on nationwide EAS test report.
  ◦ Duration: Depends on FCC NPRM release.

▸ Issues may include:
  ◦ Uniform specs for visual crawls.
  ◦ Test message: proper code, timing, length, dissemination.
  ◦ Equipment performance issues.
  ◦ Sound quality.

Next Steps

- Finalize membership.
- Establish on-line document sharing process.
- Schedule future meetings.
- Develop work plan and target dates.
- Committees:
  - Identify co-chairs.
  - Begin meetings.
  - Formulate goals and approach to sub-tasks.
  - Identify and assign action items.
- Progress reports to CSRIC Steering Committee and Council.

Working Group 3:
Emergency Alert System

Questions?