

**STATEMENT OF JENNIFER MANNER, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE PUBLIC
SAFETY & HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU OF THE FCC
BEFORE THE COMMISSION
January 25, 2011**

- Thank you, Jamie. Last spring, the National Broadband Plan laid out a plan for achieving the deployment of a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network. The Commission has been moving forward expeditiously to ensure that such a network is created.
- First, the Commission established in April of last year the Emergency Response Interoperability Center, or ERIC, as part of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. ERIC has as a key part of its mission to lead the development of a technical and operational framework that will support and foster nationwide operability and interoperability in wireless broadband communications for America's first responders.
- Second, the Commission granted twenty one waivers for early deployment of the public safety broadband network in May of last year. These entities are the early builders of this important network. To ensure that the public safety broadband network is interoperable from day one of operation, the Bureau issued late last year an interoperability order.
- Today's item further advances the important national goal of nationwide interoperability for our first responders.
- With this, I would like to introduce Brian Hurley and Roberto Mussenden who will present the item for the Commission's consideration.