



Integrated Public Safety Commission

100 N. Senate Ave., N825 Indianapolis IN 46204

State of Indiana

August 17, 2016

**Response to the DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
State Alternative Plan Program (SAPP)
Notice and Request for Comments**

Docket Number: **160706588-6588-01**

RIN: **0660-XC027**

Document Number: **2016-17034**

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August 17, 2016

Ms. Carolyn Dunn
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4078
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Dunn,

Having constructed a statewide 800 MHz interoperable communications system, Indiana recognizes the importance and necessity of uniform requirements and standards. The state also recognizes that certain onerous requirements, such as the 90-day opt-in/opt-out period and 180-day state RFP, are set by statute and, therefore, are not adjustable.

The State is concerned, however, that the SAPP further limits a state's legal right to opt out, as provisioned in the act. Concerns include:

- **Unknown RAN Construction Grant funding levels:** It is unclear when NTIA will release funding levels for the grant. Funding level information will be critical to have early – prior to the release of state plans – in order for states to appropriately evaluate opt-in and opt-out decisions. Additionally, states will need to know available funding levels in order to put together the alternative plan for submission to the FCC.
- **Timing of 180 days for the state procurement:** Due to the changing political landscape, Indiana has moved from a “may change” to “will change” gubernatorial column. Recognizing that the 180 day procurement timeline is set by the Act, this time period does not provide any state with the appropriate time to develop an RFP, put it out to bid, evaluate responses and negotiate a potential contract.
- **Timing of release of state plans:** While not specifically outlined in the notice, it is our understanding that all states will receive the state plan at the same time, and have the same 90-day window to opt-in or out. If opting out, states will move into a similar 180 day window for the procurement of a state RAN. With all opt-out states on a similar timeline, it is possible the vendor community may not be able to respond to all state RFPs due to workload, limiting the quality and quantity of responses for states.
- **Unknown requirements:** Prior to the release of the state plans, in order for states to plan and evaluate options, states will need to know all requirements for state operated RANs; this includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Surety bond requirements
 - Detailed technical and interoperability requirements



- **NTIA Evaluation of alternative plan and comparison to state plan:** The guidance indicates that the state plan will be used as a basis for comparison to the SAPP as part of the evaluation. Concern exists about the comparison of the two plans in key areas. For example, a state may wish to approach rural coverage differently given their knowledge of the state, creating the potential for an unbalanced evaluation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Vice".

David W. Vice,
Executive Director, Integrated Public Safety Commission
FirstNet State Point of Contact

cc. John Hill, Governor's Office