

NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

Issue 3, February 2011



FCC Takes Action to Advance Nationwide Broadband Communications for America's First Responders

On January 25, the Federal Communications Commission adopted a Third Report and Order (Order) and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) that will significantly advance communications interoperability for our Nation's first responders. The rules adopted and proposed in the Order and FNPRM support the build out of robust, dedicated and secure mobile broadband networks that will enable public safety broadband users to share information, videos, photos and emails across departments and jurisdictions nationwide for day-to-day operations and during large-scale emergencies.

The Order and FNPRM requires all 700 MHz public safety mobile broadband networks to use a common air interface, specifically Long Term Evolution (LTE), to support

roaming and interoperable communications and seeks comment on additional rules to enable nationwide interoperability. The FCC's actions today build on the technical requirements that state and local 700 MHz broadband waiver recipients are already subject to in the early buildout of their regional public safety broadband networks.

The FNPRM seeks public comment on, among other things:

- The architectural vision of the network;
- The effectiveness of open standards;
- Interconnectivity between networks;
- Network robustness and resiliency;
- Security and encryption; Coverage and coverage reliability requirements;



- Roaming and priority access between public safety broadband networks; and
- Interference coordination and protection.

The deadlines for public comments and reply comments on the FNPRM are 45 days and 75 days, respectively, after publication in the Federal Registry.

Quick Quote:

We now have a real opportunity to ensure nationwide interoperability—using spectrum cleared by the digital television transition and state of the art mobile broadband technologies.

—FCC Chairman
 Julius Genachowski

RESOURCES:

U.S. Economic Recovery
www.recovery.gov

www.BroadbandUSA.gov

NYSBroadband.ny.gov

NYS Broadband Development and Deployment Council

www.cio.ny.gov/OFT/UniversalBroadband/overview.htm

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

www.fcc.gov
Broadband.gov

National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)

www.ntia.doc.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

www.usda.gov

President Obama Calls for Connecting Every Part of America



In his State of the Union Address on January 25, President Barack Obama communicated that providing all Americans with broadband access and digital connections are a priority in his administration.

He said, "Within the next five years, we will make it possible for business to deploy the next generation of high-speed wireless coverage to 98% of all Americans. This isn't just about a faster internet and fewer dropped calls. It's about connecting every part of America to the digital age. It's about a rural community in Iowa or Alabama where farmers and small business owners will be able to sell their products all over the world. It's about a firefighter who can download the design of a burning building onto a handheld device; a student who can take classes with a digital textbook; or a patient who can have face-to-face video chats with her doctor."

FCC Calls for Comments In Preparation for an Update to the Rural Broadband Report

In the 2008 Farm Bill, Congress directed the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, to submit a report to Congress describing a comprehensive rural broadband strategy. On May 22, 2009, Acting Chairman Michael J. Copps delivered to Congress the 2009 Rural Broadband Report. The report recommended new policies to deliver broadband to rural areas and restore economic growth and opportunity for Americans residing and working in those areas. Con-



gress also required the Commission's Chairman, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, to "update and evaluate" the rural broadband report during the third year after enactment of the 2008 Farm Bill. The FCC is seeking comment from all interested parties on how best to update and evaluate the 2009 Rural Broadband Report.

The 2009 Rural Broadband Report identified a number of challenges typically affecting rural broadband, including technological issues, high costs, and lack of data. The report made a number of recommendations, including enhancing coordination among and between federal, Tribal, state, and community agencies, governments, and organizations; reviewing existing federal programs to identify barriers to rural broadband deployment; coordinating broadband data collection and mapping efforts; and supporting consumer education and training initiatives aimed at stimulating and sustaining broadband demand. The report also identified a number of policy areas and proceedings where Commission action could support broadband deployment and adoption.

There have been many broadband-related developments since the release of the 2009 Rural Broadband Report. Many of these developments result from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), in which Congress

provided new direction and support for federal broadband policies and initiatives. For example, the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) were authorized to spend \$7.2 billion in funding to expand access to and adoption of broadband services in communities across the United States. In addition, the FCC released a National Broadband Plan that sets out an ambitious agenda for connecting all corners of the nation with the communications network of the future and has initiated many proceedings that are consistent with that agenda.

In light of these and other developments, we seek comment on how to update and evaluate the 2009 Rural Broadband Report. What actions have the FCC and other federal agencies taken since the 2009 Rural Broadband Report that impact or enhance broadband deployment and adoption in rural areas? Have improvements in federal broadband data collection fostered rural broadband? The FCC asks commenters to identify any actions or changes that should be reflected in their update and evaluation of the 2009 Rural Broadband Report, including any additional measures that would improve access to rural broadband deployment and adoption. They encourage interested persons to submit relevant data and analyses regard-

ing broadband deployment and adoption in rural areas. Lastly, they welcome comment on the extent to which the recommendations in the 2009 Rural Broadband Report have been implemented.

Interested parties may file comments on or before March 2, 2011. When filing comments, please reference GN Docket No. 11-16.

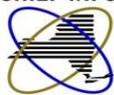
Comments may be filed using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper

copies. Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket or rulemaking numbers. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form." A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). Parties are strongly encouraged to file comments electronically using the Commission's ECFS. All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

For further information, contact William Kehoe of the Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-1580 or william.kehoe@fcc.gov.

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