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## Emergency Communication Networks

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March 16, 2018

Michael J. Wilhelm  
Chief, Policy and Licensing Division  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

State of Minnesota Wireless Emergency Alert/Emergency Alert System  
Test waiver request - PS Docket No. 15-91

Dear Chief Wilhelm:

The State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Communication Networks (DPS-ECN), which functions as the statewide coordinating office for the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) functions in Minnesota, would like to request an FCC Rule Waiver on behalf of participating Commercial Mobile Service (CMS)<sup>1</sup> Providers and EAS Participants<sup>2</sup> to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) test in Stevens County (027149) including participants in the surrounding counties:

Big Stone, 027011; Douglas, 027041; Grant, 027051; Kandiyohi, 027067; Stearns, 027145; Swift, 027151; Pope, 027121; Traverse, 027155.

The live test end to end test, pending your approval would be sent by Stevens County Emergency Management with their Notification System (CodeRed) using the Civil Danger Warning (CDW) code. The test would occur on June 18, 2018, between 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM (CDT) and will involve the use of a combined WEA and an EAS Message sent via the

<sup>1</sup> A Participating CMS Provider is an FCC licensee providing commercial mobile service as defined in section 332(d)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 that has voluntarily elected to transmit WEA Alert Messages under part 10 of the FCC's rules. See 47 CFR §10.10 (d), (f).

<sup>2</sup> Entities required under the Commission's rules to comply with EAS rules, e.g., analog radio and television stations, and wired and wireless cable television systems, DBS, DTV, SDARS, digital cable and DAB, and wireline video systems. Reference 47 CFR §11.2 (d)

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Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), if necessary, with a back-up date of June 19, 2018, at 6:30 (CDT).

The WEA message is planned to broadcast only to cell phones in the city of Morris, Minnesota (56267). The EAS message will be received by EAS Participants monitoring for Stevens County (FIPS Code 027149) and e-mails sent only to selected (Local, State, Regional and Federal) officials participating in the test.

**The test messages will read:**

**WEA:** *"This is a test of the Stevens County Emergency Alert System. No action is required."*

**EAS:** *"This is a test of the Stevens County Emergency Alert System. If there had been an actual emergency further instructions would have followed, this is only a test. No action is required."*

This test is not intended to be a substitute for other scheduled tests of Wireless Emergency Alerts or Emergency Alert System. This will be the first live test of the WEA system for the State of Minnesota and will be used to build on our education of how the system should work and form a template and best practice for future testing.

Emergency Managers and Public Safety Officials are tasked with public information and warning, which includes alerts and notifications to our residents during both local and federal emergencies and incidents that impact life, safety, and property. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA and EAS systems will work during such emergencies, for portions of the State of Minnesota.

As recent events in Hawaii and California demonstrate, it is essential that the public be familiar with WEA and EAS. Also emergency managers must be proficient in the use of their system(s) and with the decision making processes that need to be made before the initiation of an actual alert is necessary.

In addition, DPS-ECN is currently working on a multi-media public announcement advertisement and marketing plan with Stevens County Emergency Management for the proposed upcoming WEA/EAS test to insure public understanding of the function and utility of WEA/EAS, insuring that the June 18 WEA/EAS message is, in fact a test. This plan will be shared with the Public Information Officers in all affected jurisdictions for distribution to all surrounding county media outlets, including newspapers, radio, television, cable outlets. It will be posted on web sites and social media as well.

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DPS-ECN will also coordinate information about the test with the participating CMS providers and EAS Participants that operate within the area of Stevens County. All emergency authorities that operate within and neighbor Stevens County, including first responder organizations such as Police, Fire/EMS agencies and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPs), will be informed to ensure that they are aware of the test and can confirm to the public that the WEA/EAS message is a test.

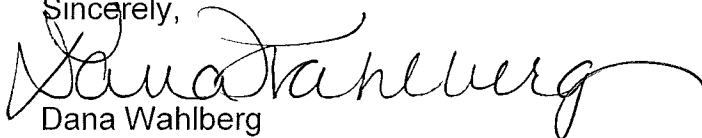
DPS-ECN and local Emergency Managers plan to record test results, and provide a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution of the WEA/EAS test to your office.

DPS-ECN anticipates that due to the nature of the proposed test, members of the public may receive a test message outside Stevens County, and accordingly will address this issue in its outreach materials.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact John Dooley, IPAWS Program Manager, Division of Emergency Communication Networks at [john.dooley@state.mn.us](mailto:john.dooley@state.mn.us) or ay 651-201-7099.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Dana Wahlberg

Director  
State of Minnesota  
Department of Public Safety  
Emergency Communication Networks

cc: Dona Greiner, Emergency Manager, Stevens County, Minnesota