



Department of Public Safety
MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
Colonel Sandra K. Karsten, Superintendent



An
Internationally
Accredited
Agency

Eric R. Greitens
Governor

Charles A. (Drew) Juden
Director

May 10, 2018

Mr. Michael J. Wilhelm
Federal Communications Commission
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
Policy and Licensing Division
455 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Missouri State Highway Patrol Wireless Emergency Alert/Emergency Alert System Test
PS Docket No 15-91

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

The Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP), which is the primary initiator of public alerts in the state of Missouri using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), requests an FCC Rule Waiver to allow a live test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system and Emergency Alert Service (EAS) involving Commercial Mobile Service (CMS) providers and EAS participants conducting business in Cole County (029051) and surrounding counties: Boone - 029019, Callaway - 029027, Miller - 029131, Moniteau - 029135, Morgan - 029141, and Osage - 029151.

The live test, pending your approval, will be sent by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop F dispatch center in Jefferson City, Missouri, using an MSHP-developed system for accessing IPAWS with the Civil Emergency Message (CEM) code. The test would occur on July 17, 2018, between 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CDT) and will involve the use of a combined WEA and an EAS Message sent via IPAWS. If necessary, a back-up date of July 19, 2018, at 10:00AM (CDT), will be used.

The WEA message is planned to broadcast only to cell phones in the county of Cole, Missouri. The EAS message will be received by EAS participants monitoring for Cole County (029051) and emails sent only to selected local, state, regional, and federal officials participating in the test.

The test WEA message will read: *"TEST. TEST. TEST. This is a test of the Missouri Wireless Emergency Alerts. No action is required."* The test EAS message will read: *"This is a test of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Alert System. If there had been an actual emergency further instruction would have followed. This is only a test. No action is required."*

May 10, 2018
Mr. Michael J. Wilhelm
Federal Communications Commission
-2

This will be the first live regional test of the WEA system for the state of Missouri and will ensure the citizens of Missouri can have confidence in the state's ability to reliably send emergency notifications to their cellular phones and local broadcasters. The test is not intended to be a substitute for other scheduled tests of Wireless Emergency Alerts or Emergency Alert System.

The MSHP is tasked with a large percentage of the alerting to both the citizens of Missouri and public safety agencies throughout the state. This includes notifications involving incidents impacting life, safety, and property. The record of success of previous WEA alerts sent by the state has proven not to be reliable, which is why the MSHP developed its own product to access IPAWS. Given recent events across the nation, it is imperative the MSHP test its ability to send WEA alerts to IPAWS and expose the public to the type of messages they may receive during times of crisis. The MSHP believes it cannot wait until the May 2019 end-to-end FCC testing rules are put into place and needs to conduct the test on the proposed date in July 2018.

The MSHP has already begun to prepare a media campaign targeting the primary test county, as well as the surrounding counties, to ensure public understanding of the need and value for the scheduled WEA/EAS test. The MSHP will also reach out to the public information officers of the affected local jurisdictions to help with distribution to local broadcasters, newspapers, and cable providers. Additionally, the information will be posted on MSHP web sites and distributed on social media.

The MSHP will also work with participating CMS providers and EAS participants that operate within the area of Cole County. All emergency authorities that operate within and adjacent to Cole County, including first responder organizations such as Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS agencies, and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPS), will be informed to ensure they are aware of the test and confirm to the public the WEA/EAS message is a test.

The MSHP plans to record the test results and provide a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution of the WEA/EAS test to your office. The MSHP anticipates that, due to the nature of the proposed test, members of the public outside Cole County may receive a test and accordingly will address this issue in its outreach materials.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter. If you need further information, please contact Mr. J. Corey Chaney, assistant director of our Communications Division. You can contact him by email at jonathan.chaney@mshp.dps.mo.gov or by telephone at (573) 526-6104.

Sincerely,



SANDRA K. KARSTEN, Colonel
Superintendent