



Sirius XM Radio Inc.
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November 5, 2018

Via Electronic Filing (ECFS)

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice: *Review of the Emergency Alert System*, EB Docket No. 04-296; *Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System*, PS Docket No. 15-94

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Sirius XM Radio Inc. (“Sirius XM”) submits this letter to follow up on its Further Supplement to Petition for Reconsideration and Request for Limited Waiver filed in the above-referenced dockets on September 24, 2018 (“Further Supplement”).

The Further Supplement explained, *inter alia*, that the Commission’s 2018 EAS Order required State EAS Plans to specify any satellite-based communications resources that a state’s EAS Participants intended to use as alternate monitoring sources for emergency messages.¹ In addition, the 2018 EAS Order limited State EAS Plans’ use of satellite-based resources to only those sources “approved by FEMA [the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Administration] as alternate monitoring assignments for the Presidential Alert.”²

FEMA has now sent Sirius XM a letter dated October 31, 2018, provided as Attachment A hereto, approving use of Sirius XM satellites as alternative monitoring sources only as to the two free preview channels on the Sirius XM network, namely Sirius network Channel 184 and XM Radio network Channel 1. Accordingly, based on FEMA’s letter and consistent with the 2018 EAS Order, any EAS participant monitoring Sirius XM will receive a signal fully capable of triggering its EAS equipment.

Should any questions arise in connection with this matter, please communicate directly with the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

s/ James S. Blitz
James S. Blitz
Vice President, Regulatory Counsel

¹ See *Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System*, Report and Order, FCC 18-39 (released April 10, 2018) (the “2018 EAS Order”) at ¶ 42.

² *Id.* at n.114.

Attachment A



FEMA

October 31, 2018

James S. Blitz, V.P., Regulatory Counsel
Sirius XM Radio Inc.
1500 Eckington Place, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Re: EAS Alerts on Sirius XM Radio

Dear Mr. Blitz:

As noted in your letter of August 22, 2018, Sirius XM Radio is a valued partner serving as a FEMA designated Primary Entry Point for distribution of national level EAS messages. FEMA's relationship with Sirius XM Radio dates back to August, 2005 with a collaboration between FEMA, XM Radio, and Northrop Grumman as FEMA's contractor. One product of that effort involved installation of FEMA owned PEP EAS devices at XMs' Eckington Place facility and the integration of FEMA's national level EAS audio into XM's UDS. That equipment remains in place to this day.

Given the established FEMA point of presence in Sirius XM Radio systems and the on-going relationship between FEMA and Sirius XM Radio Inc., FEMA approves the use of select programming channels as the exclusive alternative monitoring sources (PEP sources) on the Sirius XM satellites for the purpose of further distribution of national level EAS messages to the public. These channels are the Sirius Preview Channel (Sirius satellite network, Channel 184) and the XM Preview Channel (XM satellite network, Channel 1), when each is received by a Sirius XM approved commercially available receiver.

While all Sirius XM subscribers will receive national EAS messages regardless of what channel they may be listening to at the time an alert is issued, use of the two above described channels will ensure that any national level EAS message is received and further distributed without regard to whether the radio receiver is currently, or ever was, subscribed to a Sirius XM satellite radio service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antwane V. Johnson".

Antwane V. Johnson
IPAWS Division Director