November 15, 2017

Via FCC Electronic Comment Filing System

Ms. Marlene Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, DC 20554

Re: Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) – Proceeding 15-91

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The National Weather Service (NWS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are jointly filing this comment to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in support of an expedited timeline for device-based geo-targeting implementation. The three agencies appreciate the filings made by two wireless carriers to the FCC on September 22 and 26, 2017, which recommend a minimum 42-month timetable to implement device-based geo-targeting and state that the timetable may be expedited.

NWS, DHS, and FEMA agree with state and local public safety agencies that made clear to us their view that the timetable for device-based geotargeting be accelerated and achieved in less than 42 months. Efforts to deploy this capability should begin immediately in order to save lives. As stated in the Harris County (TX) filing to the FCC on September 15, 2017, emergency response efforts involving the catastrophic impacts from Hurricane Harvey demonstrate that there is a “compelling” need “on many occasions to get life-saving information to very select and discrete communities” and that “integrating the intelligence in the handset into WEA [wireless emergency alert] is a must.”

NWS, DHS, and FEMA are ready and willing to engage in a cooperative effort to implement device-based geo-targeting as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael E. Gerber

Physical Scientist, Office of Dissemination

NOAA/National Weather Service

/s/ Mark Lucero

Chief, IPAWS Engineering

FEMA National Continuity Programs

/s/ Denis A. Gusty

Program Manager, Homeland Security and First Responders Group

Science & Technology

U.S. Department of Homeland Security