



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

January 7, 2016

Ref 15-91

The City of Peoria IL is asking that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allow the WEA Character Length to exceed the 90 characters allowed now. We feel that 360 characters is much more beneficial and would allow for not only the alert message from our City/County system but allow for the text to provide what actions citizens could take.

We would like to see a test code enabled for WEA.

We would like to see State and Local testing of WEA and proficiency training for authorized users of the system.

Having a category for Emergency Government Information that would allow our agency to provide shelter locations would be extremely beneficial during/after an event, such as a snow/ice storm. This should be allowed as a standalone. While there is some concern that this may desensitize citizens to the alerts, it would be up to the agency to only use the alerts when there is great benefit to the community. If there is concern in this area, there could be an opt-out feature on the phone.

The public does turn to the internet after receiving a WEA for further information. Being able to provide a URL that persons could click on could be beneficial and save the citizens time.

Wireless carriers should be able to provide reports to agencies on how the WEA reached the targeted citizens. Having the number of wireless devices reached would be very beneficial.

Thank you for allowing comment.

David Tuttle
ECC Manager
City of Peoria IL