

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Seeks Comment on Ways to Facilitate Earthquake-Related Emergency Alerts)	PS Docket No. 16-32

To: The Commission:

**REPLY COMMENTS OF AMERICA’S PUBLIC TELEVISION
STATIONS, THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC
BROADCASTING, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO AND THE
PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE**

America’s Public Television Stations (“APTS”),¹ the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (“CPB”),² National Public Radio (“NPR”)³ and the Public Broadcasting Service (“PBS”)⁴ (collectively, “Public Media”) submit these comments in response to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau’s analysis of means to improve earthquake-related emergency

¹ APTS is a non-profit organization whose membership comprises the licensees of nearly all of the nation’s CPB-qualified noncommercial educational television stations. The APTS mission is to support the continued growth and development of a strong and financially sound noncommercial television service for the American public.

² CPB is a private, non-profit corporation created and authorized by the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 to facilitate and promote a national system of public telecommunications. Pursuant to its authority, CPB has provided millions of dollars in grant monies for support and development of public broadcasting stations and programming.

³ NPR is an independent, non-profit media organization that works in partnership with some 950 independently owned local member stations, other producers and distributors of public radio programming including American Public Media (APM), Public Radio International (PRI), the Public Radio Exchange (PRX), and many stations, both large and small, rural and urban, that create and distribute content through the Public Radio Satellite System (PRSS).

⁴ PBS, with its 350 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content. Each month, PBS reaches more than 103 million people through television and over 33 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances.

alerts. Public Media supports the comments filed in this proceeding by the AWARN Alliance. Public television and radio stations are uniquely suited to assist in improving the speed and quality of earthquake related emergency alerts to first responders and to the public. As the AWARN Alliance comments point out, “Once alerts are transmitted by a broadcast station, they travel at the speed of light and can be received on an unlimited number of ATSC 3.0 – enabled consumer and automated devices without any network congestion or delay.” Public Media would only add to this statement the fact that receipt of such alerts can occur today through the broadcast ATSC 1.0 standard on devices that receive the alerts through an attached dongle.⁵

Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) Alerts

Public media stations can assist in getting faster and more content rich warnings to the public on earthquake early warning (EEW) alerts. Public media stations can also help to educate people in understanding EEW alerts and taking the proper action steps in response to these alerts. Public broadcast technology is inherently one-to-many and can reach thousands of people in just a matter of seconds. Further, the transmission pipe of public broadcast stations is large and allows the transmission of robust, rich video, evacuation maps, detailed instructions, and other critical and time-sensitive data that will allow the public to make informed decisions in their responsive actions in times of emergencies.⁶

Public media infrastructure was built and upgraded through public-private funding and support that is the hallmark of our system. Public service is the mission of public media

⁵ Comments of the AWARN Alliance, p. 2.

⁶ One key example of such capabilities is being deployed by public media in the state of Ohio, as a complementary backbone for IPAWS CAP alert dissemination. See *Joint Comments of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc., Monroe Electronics, Inc. and Triveni Digital, Inc. on Improvements to EAS Capabilities Using Advanced ATSC Data Broadcasting Capabilities*, PS Docket 15-94, (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001886173>)

stations. The infrastructure and mission create a strong incentive for service and assistance to first responder agencies and personnel responsible for timely, informative alerts, as well as to the public as a whole. Public media is eager to assist in the FCC's efforts to determine how more rapid and effective EEW alerts can be accomplished on a voluntary basis, leveraging the assets either already in place or planned in public media infrastructure. As noted by another commentator to this proceeding, "The Emergency Alert System involves the voluntary collaboration of EAS Participants. The participation of organizations in an EEWS should also be framed in terms of voluntary collaboration among dissemination channels, with appropriate support for voluntary participation."⁷

Conclusion

Public Media stands ready to work with the FCC and others to find the means to improve the timing and content of the EEW alerts.

⁷ *Reply Comments of Monroe Electronics, Inc.*, PS Docket 16-32 (<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60002086023>).

Respectfully submitted,

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