

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Revision of the Commission's)	
Rules to Ensure Compatibility)	CC Docket No. 94-102
with Enhanced 911 Emergency)	
Calling Systems)	
)	

**COMMENTS OF THE
CELLULAR TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INTERNET ASSOCIATION**

The Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association (“CTIA”),^{1/} pursuant to the Public Notice released July 31,^{2/} hereby submits its comments in support of the wireless E911 Phase II waiver request filed by Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (“Verizon Wireless”).^{3/} Verizon Wireless has requested a limited waiver of the Commission’s Phase II E911 rules to permit it to deploy a network-assisted Global Positioning Satellite/Advanced Forward Link Trilateration (“AGPS/AFLT”) solution throughout its Code Division Multiplexing Access (“CDMA”) network.

Verizon Wireless’ request satisfies the Commission’s criteria for waivers of the Phase II E-911 rules. Consistent with the Commission’s stated position that its E911 rules should not

^{1/} CTIA is the international organization of the wireless communications industry for both wireless carriers and manufacturers. Membership in the association covers all Commercial Mobile Radio Service (“CMRS”) providers and manufacturers, including cellular, broadband PCS, ESMR, as well as providers and manufacturers of wireless data services and products.

^{2/} Public Notice, “WTB Seeks Comment on Wireless E911 Phase II Waiver Request Filed by Verizon Wireless,” CC Docket No. 94-102, (rel. July 31, 2001).

^{3/} Verizon Wireless Updated Phase II E911 Report and Request for Limited Waiver, filed July 25, 2001 (“Verizon Wireless Waiver Request”).

“hamper the development and deployment of the best and most efficient ALI technologies and systems,”^{4/} the Commission should grant Verizon Wireless’ waiver request.

DISCUSSION

The wireless industry is committed to providing the best possible Phase II E911 service to subscribers, but carriers can only do as much as the currently available wireless location technology permits them to do. The Commission itself has recognized that during the transition to full Phase II deployment, there may be situations in which it is not possible for a carrier to satisfy the Commission’s Phase II standards by the prescribed deadlines. It therefore established a process under which individual waivers could be granted. In addition to satisfying the Commission’s traditional standards for a waiver by showing that “special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rules, and such a deviation will serve the public interest,”^{5/} carriers must demonstrate that “technology-related issues” or “exceptional circumstances” make it impossible for them to deploy Phase II by October 1, 2001.^{6/} Moreover, the relief sought by the carrier must be “specific, focused and limited in scope, ...with a clear path to full compliance” with the Commission’s Phase II rules.^{7/}

^{4/} Revision of the Commission’s Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 22665, 22725 ¶ 124 (Dec. 23, 1997).

^{5/} Revision of the Commission’s Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket No. 94-102, Fourth Memorandum Opinion and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 17442, 17457 ¶ 43 (rel. Sept. 8, 2000) (“Fourth MO&O”) (citing Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and WAIT Radio v. FCC, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969)).

^{6/} Fourth MO&O at ¶ 43.

^{7/} Id. at ¶ 44.

Applying these standards, the Commission granted VoiceStream a waiver so that it could use E-OTD technology in combination with an interim network software solution “safety net.”^{8/} The Commission found that VoiceStream’s proposal could offer “significant public safety benefits” by rapidly providing increased accuracy and reliability during the transition period from Phase I to Phase II, and even more precise levels of accuracy after that.^{9/} The Commission also found that VoiceStream faced “special circumstances” because of the limited technologies available for carriers using the GSM air interface.^{10/}

Like VoiceStream, Verizon Wireless’ waiver request clearly satisfies the standards established by the Commission for waivers of the Phase II E-911 rules. As Verizon Wireless explains in its Waiver Request, in order to provide the most accurate level of location information and best Phase II solution for customers and PSAPs it has modified its network solution from what it previously chose in its November 9, 2000 Phase II report.^{11/} Based upon the results of Verizon Wireless’ network tests, the unavailability of requisite hardware and software components, and all other information available, Verizon Wireless has determined that there will not be a Phase II location solution capable of achieving total compliance with the Commission’s E011 Phase II rules by October, 2001.^{12/} However, the AGPS/AFLT handset

^{8/} Id. at ¶¶ 59-60.

^{9/} Id. at ¶¶ 57-59.

^{10/} Id. at ¶ 56.

^{11/} See Verizon Wireless Waiver Request at 8. Verizon Wireless updated its technology selection in compliance with Section 20.18(i) of the Commission’s Rules.

^{12/} See id. at 3.

solution “will provide the best and most ubiquitous location capability while presenting fewer of the problems that surfaced with the network technology.”^{13/}

The relief Verizon Wireless requests in order to implement its chosen technology is “specific and limited,” with a “clear path to full compliance” after a reasonable transition period. In particular, Verizon Wireless has requested to deploy AGPS/AFLT on a timeline that is based on the scheduled switch and cell software releases from its network infrastructure vendors and the availability of compliant handsets.^{14/} In addition, Verizon Wireless plans to pursue two interim measures to bridge the transition to AGPS/AFLT. First, Verizon Wireless is strongly considering the deployment of Enhanced Forward Link Trilateration (“EFLT”), an interim network software technology that will provide enhanced location service for legacy CDMA handsets. Second, pending the deployment of AGPS/AFLT, Verizon Wireless will continue the deployment of the network-based hardware technology it originally reported to the Commission. Because Verizon Wireless has satisfied the requirements for a waiver of the Phase II E911 implementation rules, the Commission should grant Verizon Wireless the relief it seeks.

Granting Verizon Wireless a waiver of the Phase II rules is also consistent with the Commission’s policy of technological neutrality for E-911. As the Commission has explained, “there is no single perfect ALI solution. Each has its advantages and limitations. Each may be improved in the future. Under these circumstances, we believe that the public interest and public safety will best be served by allowing a broad range of technologies, including handset-based opportunities, a reasonable opportunity to compete in providing 911 ALI.”^{15/} Granting limited

^{13/} Id. at 10.

^{14/} See Verizon Wireless Waiver at 4.

^{15/} Revision of the Commission’s Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, CC Docket 94-102, Third Report and Order, 14 FCC Rcd 17388, 17404-05 ¶ (continued on next page)

waivers of the Phase II rules to individual wireless carriers is simply a further extension of this policy, which recognizes that every wireless carrier will face unique circumstances as it transitions from Phase I to Phase II and no single Phase II solution will work in each of these situations.

(continued from previous page)
33 (Oct. 6, 1999).

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Commission should grant Verizon Wireless' Phase II E911 waiver request.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

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