Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Verizon Wireless Request for	)	WT Docket 05-301
Limited Waiver	)	DA 05-2760
	)	
Nextel Partners Petition for Limited Waiver	)	WT Docket 05-302
	)	DA 05-2761
	)	

To: The Commission

COMMENTS OF APCO

The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc. ("APCO") hereby submits the following brief comments in response to the Commission's public notices released on October 21, 2005, seeking comment on the above-captioned submissions.

APCO is the nation's oldest and largest public safety communications organization. Founded in 1935, APCO's members are state or local government personnel who manage and operate communications systems for police, fire, EMS and other public safety agencies. APCO has been an active participant throughout this proceeding, focusing on the operational requirements of Public Safety Answering Points ("PSAPs") and emergency personnel to respond quickly and accurately to 9-1-1 calls.

Section 20.18(g)(1)(v) of the Commission's wireless E9-1-1 rules provides that a carrier using handset-based location technology must "achieve 95 percent penetration of

location-capable handsets among its subscribers" by December 31, 2005.[1] The Commission also established a number of interim benchmarks that have since passed and provided ample warnings to carriers of the need to achieve near-universal handset penetration by the end of 2005. During that time, carriers were expected to cease deployment of handsets that are not location-capable and take appropriate steps to encourage the replacement of legacy handsets. Verizon Wireless and Nextel Partners now seek limited waivers of the 95% penetration requirement.

Verizon Wireless indicates that it will come very close to meeting the 95% requirement, but may need up to an additional six months to cross that threshold. Verizon Wireless appears to have made significant efforts to meet its E9-1-1 obligations, and those efforts should be given appropriate consideration in the Commission's review of its waiver request.

Nextel Partners poses a very different scenario. As with its "partner," the Sprint-Nextel iDEN network, Nextel Partners is not even close to meeting the 95% requirement. APCO previously submitted comments regarding the Sprint-Nextel request for waiver, in which we noted that its "results for the iDEN network are extremely troubling, and require close scrutiny by the Commission." The same exacting level of scrutiny is required for the Nextel-Partners request.

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[1] 47 C.F.R. §20.18(g)(1)(v).

CONCLUSION

The Commission should continue its current firm but fair approach to address these and other requests for waiver of the wireless E9-1-1- requirements.[2]

Respectfully submitted,

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS-INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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[2] APCO may not comment separately on each of the additional requests for waiver that have been or are expected to be filed with the Commission. APCO's silence should not be construed as either support or opposition to such requests.