

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Implementation of the NET 911)	
Improvement Act of 2008)	WC Docket No. 08-171
)	

COMMENTS OF NENA AND APCO

The National Emergency Number Association (“NENA”) and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International (“APCO”) hereby reply to the comments of others in the captioned proceeding. We agree generally that the 90-day statutory deadline for the FCC to issue regulations implementing the NET 911 Act precludes extensive consideration of issues that are beyond the immediate scope of Congressional implementation requirements. Nevertheless, there is no better time than now to open related proceedings, as further notices in this docket or separately, to deal with controversial questions that cannot be long deferred.¹

NENA and APCO cannot accept Vonage’s suggestion (Comments, 11) that the FCC encourage the permanent use of single Emergency Service Numbers (“ESNs”) where possible. Thirty months ago NENA issued a “Statement on VoIP E9-1-1 Implementation Issues” which included the following:

¹ NENA and APCO identified a couple of these, “mobile VoIP; dual-mode CMRS/Wi-Fi services” and “competitive E9-1-1 service interconnection issues.” Comments, 10-13.

VoIP Emergency Service Number (ESN) Selection

Where Selective Transfer is utilized for the PSAP, “detail” ESNs are required for VoIP E9-1-1.² If the Public Safety Authority agrees to temporary use of a single ESN per PSAP for simplification of VoIP E9-1-1 implementation, an agreement should be included for later conversion to detail ESNs to support full replication of wireline equivalent E9-1-1 service for fixed/static and nomadic (non-wireless) VoIP subscribers.³

Detail ESNs are not required for wireless call routing, and the permanent use of a single ESN for both wire and wireless calls does not allow for the former (including VoIP) to provide wireline-equivalent E9-1-1 functions.⁴

Nor can NENA and APCO say with certainty at this time that the King County demarcation order (Vonage Comments, 21) must always apply to cost allocation between VoIP service providers (“VSPs”) and PSAPs. The King County order was designed to settle a specific dispute about the transfer of wireless calls to PSAPs. The Commission may need to consider a counterpart order or clarification in the case of VSPs, where delivery methods are not uniform in any event.

² Selective Transfer is an E9-1-1 feature that allows the capability to transfer a 9-1-1 call to a response agency by operation of one of several buttons typically designated as police, fire, and emergency medical, based on the stored ESN of the caller. Detail ESNs are defined by unique combination of law enforcement, fire, and EMS jurisdictions, and support the logic required to identify and display that jurisdictional detail to the PSAP telecommunicator and allow the use of the Selective Transfer feature.

³ <http://www.nena.org/media/files/VoIPPolicyPositions3.20.06.doc>, at 2.

⁴ Primarily selective transfer (one button auto transfer to proper responder dispatch point) and ELT display (which responder groups are related to the caller location). The NENA ‘i2’ standard for VoIP and E9-1-1 requires detail ESNs to fully support E9-1-1 functions and equivalency.

NENA and APCO are not sure of the VON Coalition reference (Comments, 3) to 1900 PSAPs purportedly unable to answer VoIP calls. First, our best number for primary PSAPs that take calls directly is roughly 5700, of which some 4900 are capable of

answering VoIP calls.⁵ VON's comment at 18 about converged services simply reinforces the need for a separate but promptly called proceeding on these developing services.

The Open Network Architecture ("ONA") process described by Qwest (Comments, 4-5) sounds too protracted for the kind of expedited dispute resolution we believe is in order. Sprint proposes (Comments, 7) "accelerated docket procedures" which it says could cut the Qwest time in half. NENA and APCO prefer the latter, if feasible, or other reasonable dispute resolution proposals that will ensure prompt and fair resolution of issues as they arise.

Respectfully submitted,

NENA and APCO

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⁵ The 4900 is NENA's estimate of primary PSAPs that have access to dynamic data ALI update capability as part of the wireless E9-1-1 Phase II mechanism, which also supports VoIP dynamic data functions. NENA's Glossary defines "primary PSAP" as "a PSAP to which 9-1-1 calls are routed directly from the 9-1-1 Control Office."