

# MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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## Emergency Communication Networks

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 137 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5137  
Phone: 651.201.7547 • Fax: 651.296.2665 • TTY: 651.282.6555  
www.ecn.state.mn.us

March 3, 2010

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

### INTRODUCTION

The Region 22 700 MHz Regional Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan") was approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in June 2006, WT Docket No. 02-378, Public Notice, 21 FCC Rcd 6906 (WTB 2006). On October 9, 2007 the Region 22 Planning Committee (hereinafter the "RPC") voted to relinquish its SIEC duties to the Statewide Radio Board and to make the appropriate changes in the Region 22 plan.

### BACKGROUND

Minnesota has established a Statewide Radio Board (hereinafter "SRB") under Minnesota Statute Section 403.36. The membership of the SRB is as follows:

#### State Representatives:

Commissioner of Public Safety-Chair  
Commissioner of Transportation  
Chief Information Officer  
Commissioner of Natural Resources  
Chief of Minnesota State Patrol  
Commissioner of Finance  
Chair of the Metropolitan Council

#### Local Representatives-Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area:

Elected City Official, nominated by Minnesota League of Cities  
Elected County Commissioner, nominated by Minnesota Association of Counties  
County Sheriff, nominated by Minnesota Sheriffs Association  
Chief of Police, nominated by Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association  
Fire Chief, nominated by Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association  
Emergency Medical Service Provider, nominated by Minnesota Ambulance Association  
Chair of metropolitan area Regional Radio Board.

**Local Representatives-Greater Minnesota:**

Elected City Official, nominated by Minnesota League of Cities  
Elected County Commissioner, nominated by Minnesota Association of Counties  
County Sheriff, nominated by Minnesota Sheriffs Association  
Chief of Police, nominated by Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association  
Fire Chief, nominated by Minnesota Fire Chief's Association  
Emergency Medical Service Provider, nominated by Minnesota Ambulance Association  
Representative of Greater Minnesota Regional Radio Boards

Minnesota statutes provide that the SRB shall oversee the implementation of Minnesota's statewide public safety radio system which seeks to provide an interoperable public safety communication platform for all public safety agencies (state, regional and local) throughout the state.

By Executive Order 07-15 dated October 2, 2007, Governor Timothy Pawlenty designated the SRB as Minnesota's State Interoperability Executive Committee (A copy of Executive Order 07-15 is attached to this document). The executive order provides that the SRB shall exercise the following responsibilities on behalf of Minnesota:

To the extent permitted by federal law, Federal Communications Commission regulations and the National Institute of Technology Administration, to develop guidelines and standards for the use of interoperability frequencies on all frequency spectrum assigned to public safety users.

To the extent permitted by state law, federal law and treaties with Canada, develop guidelines and standards that support interoperability with adjoining states, and with provinces of Canada along Minnesota's northern border.

Executive Order 07-15 provides that in fulfilling these responsibilities the Commissioner of Public Safety (who chairs the SRB) should seek input and participation from federal, local and tribal public safety officials, including emergency management officials within the state and ensure that all regions of the state are represented.

On December 3, 2007 the Minnesota Department of Public Safety submitted a State Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) to the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) outlining Minnesota's strategy to achieve the highest level of public safety communications interoperability. Minnesota's SCIP was approved by the SRB outlines the SRB's role in coordinating and achieving the highest level of public safety communication interoperability. Minnesota's SCIP was approved by DHS in May of 2008.

In November of 2009, the Division of Emergency Communication Networks (DECN) coordinated a review and update of Minnesota's SCIP. The original document was designed to address various requirements of the Public Safety Interoperable Communication (PSIC) grant program and was an overwhelming document at 340 pages.

The updated SCIP was designed around the SAFECOM Interoperability Continuum with specific reference and coordination with the National Emergency Communication Plan (NECP). The updated SCIP is posted on the Statewide Radio Board (SRB) website at [www.srb.state.mn.us](http://www.srb.state.mn.us).

The assignment of the responsibility for the SIEC to the SRB was subsequently included in Minnesota State Statute 403.36. Subdivision 1(g) was added to define the duties of the SRB as they relate to statewide interoperability planning.

#### **RPC ACTION**

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety requested the RPC transfer the administration of interoperability channels provided for in Section 5.12 of the Plan and the Statewide Interoperability Committee responsibilities provided for in Section 6.10 of the Plan from the RPC to the SRB at the RPC October 9, 2007 meeting. The motion was seconded and upon a vote of the RPC following discussion of the motion, the motion passed.

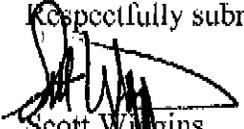
#### **CONCLUSION**

The Minnesota Commissioner of Public Safety is designated as Minnesota's primary point of contact for the State Interoperability Executive Committee as follows:

Commissioner of Public Safety Minnesota  
Department of Public Safety  
444 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Attn: Chair Statewide Radio Board-SIEC

Respectfully submitted,

  
Scott Wiggins  
Region 2/700 MHz RPC Chair

CC: Admiral Jamie Barnett (Ret)  
Chief of Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

Ms. Jeannie Benfaida  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau