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Commission's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20002

### **Quarterly Report #6 by 700 MHz Waiver Recipient – Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB)**

By FCC Waiver Order 10-79, 700 MHz waiver recipients are required to file quarterly reports advising the FCC of progress in build-out of a conditionally approved 700 MHz public safety wireless broadband system. Therefore, ISICSB reports as follows:

#### **I. Planning**

A. The ISICSB was not awarded a BTOP grant per its request. This factor has substantially set-back Iowa's planned build-out of a 700 MHz public safety broadband network. Given the loss of this financial catalyst, ISICSB's timetable will be accordingly moved back.

B. In 2011, several changes have occurred. Iowa elected a new Governor, who is still in the process of becoming familiar with the issues. The ISICSB, which consists of fifteen voting members and four ex-officio legislative members, has undergone substantial change. Five of the voting members are newly appointed as are three of the legislative members. As a result, the ISICSB has been briefing these new members on this initiative.

C. The ISICSB Finance Committee met with its legislative members during the 2011 state legislative session (January-June) to try to develop a funding strategy and seek multi-year funding for a comprehensive statewide public safety network. This was unsuccessful due to the substantial shortfall in state revenues, the current economy, and the focus on the December 31, 2012 FCC narrowbanding mandate. It is hoped that as the economy improves and the narrowbanding mandate is addressed, appropriate funds can be found in the 2012 legislative session. Additionally, should funds become available through grants or legislation in connection with the D-Block issue, the ISICSB would apply for any such funding.



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D. Other planning activities have included:

- The ISICSB has been an active member of the PSST-OAC (Operators Advisory Committee), and active in discussions with the FCC, PSCR (Public Safety Communications Research), BTOP Grant recipients, the FCC, and others in promoting the development and refining of rules, regulations, requirements, and developments in this new and evolving technological broadband network;
- Accumulating industry information related to the required technology;
- The ISICSB issued an RFI (Request for Information) on July 1, 2011 to explore our build-out options given the complexity of this project. The ISICSB's Master Plan (2009) is to build-out a public safety 700 MHz. land-mobile radio statewide backbone. With this waiver, issued in 2010, the ISICSB desires to build-out a complementary 700 MHz. public safety broadband network. The RFI is seeking information on both components to update our plan with this new waiver capability and hopefully lead to a funding strategies and the build-out of that plan.
- Communicating with public safety officials at national meetings with the White House as well as within Iowa.

## II. Funding

- A. As previously advised, the ISICSB applied for BTOP grant funds to provide the much needed catalyst for a build-out of a wireless broadband public safety project under the re-opening of Round 2, June 1 – July 1, 2010. Iowa was not awarded any BTOP funds. Build-out and funding options are being explored in preparation for the 2012 legislative session and/or any upcoming grant opportunities present themselves.
- B. As a result of not receiving BTOP grant funds, the ISICSB and officials in Iowa are re-examining funding solutions, as noted above, and in connection with the RFI.
- C. Clearly the amount of funding required will depend on the final network model, e.g., one national network, the proposed national governance structure, the outcome of proposed national legislation, and proposed rules, regulations, final network architecture, technology development and feasibility of a public-private partnership,

## III. Deployment

- A. Any deployment timetable will depend on funding. It is anticipated that the responses to the RFI will provide the ISICSB with possible options. It is anticipated that the reviews of the RFI will take 30-60 days from this filing.



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### **Site development, including use of existing towers**

- A. Approximately 94 existing sites were identified in the proposed BTOP grant limited six county project area. Given the setback due to the lack of BTOP grant funding, the proposed project area will be re-examined consistent with projected state and local funding, as well as the results of the RFI.
- B. In the proposed BTOP system build-out, there are approximately 40 new sites which may be needed. Given the setback due to the lack of BTOP grant funding, the proposed project area will be re-examined consistent with projected state and local funding. Projected deployment timelines will be better known after the above RFI results are examined and the 2012 legislature reconvenes.
- C. At this time, there are no presently known rights of way issues related to the sites which could pose jurisdictional issues and result in delays.
- D. No additional site acquisitions or developments are planned until the above is completed.

### **Deployments and upgrades (commencement and completion), including site information and location**

- A. Projected deployment timelines will be better known after the above RFI is reviewed, and funding secured.
- B. The ISICSB did not submit an Interoperability Showing as it is not in a position for immediate build-out, as explained above.
- C. The proposed network will be accessible to all public safety entities in the project area.

### **Applications in development or in use**

- A. There are no applications in development or in use at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bogner  
Iowa Statewide Interoperability Coordinator