



A Professional Limited Liability Company

307 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1020  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
Telephone: 312-372-3930  
Facsimile: 312-372-3939

**Washington, D.C.**  
1333 New Hampshire Ave, NW, Fl 2  
Washington, DC 20036

**St. Louis**  
1714 Deer Tracks Trail, Ste 215  
St. Louis, MO 63131

**Kansas City**  
302 S. Platte Clay Way, Suite 101  
Kearney, MO 64060

**Scott C. Friedman**  
Admitted in Illinois and Wisconsin

June 29, 2012

David S. Turetsky  
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: New Ulm Telecom, Inc. (“New Ulm”); Request for Temporary Waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 11.56; EB Docket No. 04-296**

Dear Mr. Turetsky:

On behalf of New Ulm, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 11.52(d)(4), we submit this request for a waiver of the Common Alerting Protocol (“CAP”)–compliance deadline in 47 C.F.R. § 11.56(a). New Ulm requests a six-month waiver for its small cable system serving Jeffers, Minnesota (the “System”).

The System lacks physical access to broadband Internet service. Accordingly, New Ulm is entitled to a presumption in favor of a waiver.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, because New Ulm does not expect the circumstances to change at the expiration of the waiver’s initial six-month period, New Ulm requests that the Commission grant the waiver request for an additional six-month term. New Ulm will monitor the marketplace for the availability of broadband Internet service at the System, and will come into full compliance when it becomes available.<sup>2</sup>

We organize this request as follows:

- New Ulm company and system background
- Justification and authority supporting the waiver request
- Availability of EAS information if waiver request is granted
- Conclusion and requested relief

We also attach the declaration of Barbara Bornhoft, New Ulm’s Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, as Exhibit A.

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Review of the Emergency Alert System*, Fifth Report and Order, 27 FCC Rcd 642, ¶ 152 (rel. Jan. 10, 2012) (“*EAS Fifth Report and Order*”).

<sup>2</sup> See Declaration of Barbara Bornhoft, attached as *Exhibit A* (“*Bornhoft Declaration*”).

## I. New Ulm company and system background

### A. The company

New Ulm is organized as a Minnesota corporation with its principal office in New Ulm, Minnesota. New Ulm's business dates back to 1905, when it incorporated as the New Ulm Rural Telephone Company. In addition to owning and operating the cable system that serves New Ulm, Redwood Falls, Springfield, and Sanborn, Minnesota, New Ulm also owns and operates four cable systems serving the following communities: (i) Hutchinson and Litchfield, Minnesota, (ii) Glencoe, Cologne, Mayer, and New Germany, Minnesota, (iii) Jeffers, Minnesota, and (iv) Aurelia, Iowa. Altogether, New Ulm and its affiliated entities currently serve about 12,000 basic subscribers.

While preparing for the EAS CAP-compliance deadline, New Ulm determined that the System does not have access to the broadband Internet connectivity necessary for its headend to receive CAP-formatted emergency alert messages.<sup>3</sup> New Ulm's other systems are CAP-compliant.<sup>4</sup>

### B. The system

Name of System	PSID	CUID	Number of Subscribers
Jeffers, MN	013975	MN0631	30

## II. Justification and authority supporting the waivers

### A. Requested waivers and justification

New Ulm requests a six-month waiver of the CAP-compliance deadline in 47 C.F.R. § 11.56(a). New Ulm seeks this waiver because the System lacks physical access to broadband Internet service, necessary to receive CAP-formatted emergency alert messages. New Ulm further requests an additional six-month waiver.<sup>5</sup> New Ulm seeks this additional six-month waiver because it does not expect circumstances to change, especially since the System is remote and unlikely to obtain broadband Internet access in the foreseeable future.

### B. Commission authority supporting the waivers

In the *EAS Fifth Report and Order*, the Commission held that "the physical unavailability of broadband Internet service offers a presumption in favor of a waiver."<sup>6</sup> The Commission created this presumption in an effort to avoid EAS Participants having to purchase CAP-compliant equipment that

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<sup>3</sup> *Bornhoft Declaration*, ¶ 2.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*, ¶ 5.

<sup>5</sup> *EAS Fifth Report and Order*, ¶ 152 ("[W]e believe that any waiver based on the physical unavailability of broadband Internet access likely would not exceed six months, with the option of renewal if circumstances have not changed.").

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* ("Because it is important that any of our regulatory requirements, particularly where costs are involved, provide the benefits for which they are designed, we do not believe that it would be appropriate to require EAS Participants to purchase and install equipment that they could not use. Accordingly, we conclude that the physical unavailability of broadband Internet service offers a presumption in favor of a waiver.").

could not be utilized due to lack of access to CAP-formatted alerts transmitted over the Internet.<sup>7</sup> New Ulm is entitled to this presumption in favor of a waiver established because broadband Internet service is physically unavailable at the System headend.<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, the Commission may waive its rules for good cause shown.<sup>9</sup> Here, grant of the waiver will serve the public interest. Requiring New Ulm to purchase and install CAP-compliant equipment that it cannot use would be economically wasteful. In the *EAS Fifth Report and Order*, the Commission acknowledged that there are costs associated with upgrading and installing the equipment necessary for CAP compliance and crafted its rules to avoid, where possible, any unnecessary and unjustified costs associated with CAP compliance.<sup>10</sup> The Commission has also granted waivers of EAS rules in other circumstances where strict compliance with EAS rules would lead to similar economic waste.<sup>11</sup> Granting New Ulm's waiver request is consistent with these Commission precedents, which were aimed at avoiding unnecessary and unjustified costs associated with compliance with the EAS rules.

### III. Availability of EAS information if waiver request is granted

New Ulm will continue to operate its legacy EAS equipment in the System, and will monitor the marketplace for the availability of broadband Internet service at the System.<sup>12</sup> New Ulm's cable systems not subject to this waiver request are fully compliant with the EAS CAP requirements set forth in the *EAS Fifth Report and Order*.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> See *Bornhoft Declaration*, ¶ 2.

<sup>9</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.3. See also *Northeast Cellular Telephone Co., L.P. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) ("FCC has authority to waive its rules if there is "good cause" to do so."); See *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 4 18 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *aff'd*, 459 F.2d 1203 (D.C. Cir. 1972), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 1027 (1972) (The Commission may exercise its waiver authority where grant of the waiver does not undermine the policy served by the rule, and where particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest.).

<sup>10</sup> *EAS Fifth Report and Order*, ¶ 72 (allowing the use of intermediary devices because "imposition of the costs associated with the purchase of replacement EAS equipment is unnecessary and unjustified").

<sup>11</sup> *In the Matter of Mediacom Communications Corporation; Operator of Cable Systems in the States of: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri and Wisconsin; Request for Waiver of Section 11.11(a) of the Commission's Rules*, File No. EB-02-TS-617, 18 FCC Rcd 7656, ¶¶ 3-4 (rel. April 21, 2003) (granting a 12-month waiver of the October 1, 2002 EAS implementation deadline because requiring strict compliance would result in economic waste).

<sup>12</sup> *Bornhoft Declaration*, ¶ 4.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*, ¶ 5.

#### **IV. Conclusion and requested relief**

As set forth above, the System lacks physical access to broadband Internet service. Accordingly, New Ulm requests a waiver of the CAP-compliance deadline in 47 C.F.R. § 11.56(a). Moreover, because New Ulm does not expect the circumstances to change after six months, New Ulm requests that the Commission grant the waiver for 12 months. For these reasons, New Ulm requests that the Commission waive its CAP-compliance deadline as described above.

Sincerely,



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Scott C. Friedman

Cinnamon Mueller  
307 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1020  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
(312) 372-3930 (voice)  
(312) 372-3939 (fax)

Attorneys for New Ulm Telecom, Inc.

June 29, 2012

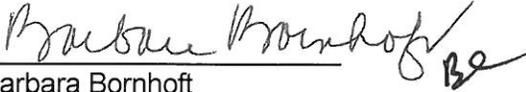
EXHIBIT A

**DECLARATION OF BARBARA BORNHOFT**

1. My name is Barbara Bornhoft and I am Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for New Ulm Telecom, Inc. ("New Ulm").
2. New Ulm does not have access to the broadband Internet connectivity necessary for it to receive CAP-formatted emergency alert messages for the following system:

<b>Name of System</b>	<b>PSID</b>	<b>CUID</b>	<b>Number of Subscribers</b>
Jeffers, MN	013975	MN0631	30

3. New Ulm will continue to operate its legacy EAS equipment in the System.
4. New Ulm will monitor the marketplace for the availability of broadband Internet service at the System headend and will come into full compliance when it becomes available.
5. New Ulm's other cable systems not subject to this waiver request are CAP-compliant.
6. I have read the foregoing "Request for Temporary Waiver of 47 C.F.R. § 11.56" (the "Waiver Request") and I am familiar with its contents.
7. I declare under penalty of perjury that the facts contained herein and within the foregoing Waiver Request are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, that the Waiver Request is well grounded in fact, that it is warranted by existing law or a good-faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Bornhoft  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer  
New Ulm Telecom, Inc.

June 26, 2012.