

March 25, 2013
Ms. Marlene Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

RE: NOTICE OF EX PARTE

In the matter of "Petition for Declaratory Ruling and/or Rulemaking Filed by Telecommunication Systems, Inc." GN Docket 11-117, WC Docket 05-196, PS Docket 11-153, and PS Docket 10-255.

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I was recently made aware, through the North Dakota 9-1-1 Association, of U.S. Patent Number 6,744,858 and the numerous complaints against vendors trying to, or contracting for, NG9-1-1 solutions, related to it. We are in the process of planning for the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1).

I feel that the comments that TCS has made that, the patent rights necessary to provide NG9-1-1 should be provided; "with the authorization and consent of the Government" are valid. This will clear the way to deploy NG9-1-1 in a manner that is both timely and cost efficient, without the worry of patent infringement. For local governments and PSAP's this will greatly reduce the burden of the expense to deploy the NG9-1-1 system that our citizens and responders deserve to have, by keeping the vendors ability to bid competitively.

I am supportive of TCS in asking that the FCC adopt rules so that these 9-1-1 service capabilities are licensed under reasonable and non-discriminatory (RAND) terms.

I also feel that the proposed rulemaking will assist in keeping the field open for new and innovative technologies to assist us as we try to carry out the life saving mission of answering and dispatching 9-1-1, whether they are voice, text or anything else that comes in the future. Companies should not be permitted to hold patents on public safety technologies and thought processes, without considering that unnecessary financial burden that is put on the citizens. Without RAND in place, companies that could develop less expensive technologies are not able to due to the high cost of licensing agreements and/or service agreements with the patent holder.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kempert
9-1-1 Systems Coordinator

