



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Amanda Goebel Pereira, AICP  
NEPA Coordinator  
First Responder Network Authority  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr. M/S 243  
Reston, VA 20192

Subject: Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network for the Non-Contiguous U. S., CEQ # 20160051

Dear Ms. Pereira:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed a review of the Department of Commerce, First Responder Network Authority, draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on the *Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network for the Non-Contiguous U. S.* The draft PEIS analyses the impacts of the construction and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN).

The NPSBN will address a critical national infrastructure need for a nationwide network to allow law enforcement personnel, fire fighters, emergency medical service professionals, and other public safety entities to communicate across agencies and jurisdictions. The draft PEIS is one of a series that cover five geographic regions across the U.S. This draft PEIS includes the states of Alaska and Hawaii, the Commonwealths of the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico and the territories of American Samoa, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The draft PEIS analyzed three alternatives: 1) No Action; 2) Deployable Technologies Only and; 3) Mixed Technologies. FirstNet selected alternative three (Mixed Technologies) as the preferred alternative. This alternative incorporates a combination of methods including collocation of network equipment, construction of new communication towers, installation of new conduit and fiber technology and deployable technologies (portable satellite phones, cell-on-wheels, cell-on-light trucks and system-on-wheels).

Based on our review, EPA finds no objection with the preferred alternative in the draft PEIS. EPA has rated the draft PEIS as LO (“Lack of Objections”). The “LO” rating signifies the draft PEIS did not identify any environmental impacts requiring substantive changes. A summary of EPA’s Rating System Criteria is located at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/comments/ratings.html>

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft PEIS and look forward to reviewing the final PEIS. The staff contact for the review is Arthur Totten and he can be reached at (202) 564-7164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shari Wilson".

Shari Wilson  
Acting Division Director  
Office of Federal Activities/NCD