



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
<http://gohsep.la.gov/interop.aspx>

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January 22, 2013

Honorable Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

On behalf of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), it is my pleasure to report that at the beginning of this year, the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) was completed as it was originally designed. As of January 2013 all 119 sites are operational and are providing coverage to over 69,805 users. A full update on the status of LWIN follows:

LWIN Status

- Current Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) statewide coverage is 95% portable, on-street coverage
- Current composition of LWIN sites:
 - 119 active tower sites
 - 4 mobile tower sites
 - 2 mobile repeater sites
 - 4 mobile satellite dishes
 - 6 generators on wheels
- Subscriber Radios
 - From June 30, 2012 – January 1, 2013, LWIN has seen an increase from 66,713 subscriber units to 69,805 subscriber units which represent a 4% increase over the last six months.
 - LWIN is now the largest Statewide Radio System in the county and the only one to exceed 60,000 subscriber units.
 - The monthly average of Push-to-Talk (PTT) transmissions has increased to over 11,000,000 a month reaching 12,255,030 in August for a new high.
 - A fourth master site is on line and operational and 26 sites were moved to this master site in the last quarter of 2012. This move balanced the number of sites in the other zones and reduced the near capacity load in zone 1.

- Hurricane Isaac - August 26 to September 2, 2012
 - Total busies for time period all sites 34,746
 - Total PTT's time period all sites 4,020,458

Comparisons	<u>Isaac</u>	<u>Gustav</u>
○ Users	68,203	34,818
○ # sites	118	53
○ Available channels	1076	476
○ Total Busy Calls	34,746	85,780
○ Total PTT's	4,020,458	2,345,362

Comparing system response between Hurricanes Gustav in 2008 and Isaac in 2012, the LWIN System experienced a 59% reduction in the amount of busies experienced by the users, despite a 95% increase in system users.

FY 2012/2013 Appropriated Funding for Major Projects

- Monies appropriated for interoperability related projects from the Louisiana Communications Interoperability Fund.
 - \$311,004 – LWIN Statewide System Management and Administration, including (4) TO positions
 - \$8,904,130 – LWIN System Maintenance, including (6) TO positions
 - \$3,139,421– Fourth LWIN Master Site - To enhance system level redundancy and effectively provide a secondary communication path between the tower sites and an alternate Master Site. This capability is vital to the safety of Louisiana residents and the emergency service personnel responding to critical events.

State Funded System Maintenance

The GOHSEP is appropriated budget authority from the Statutory Dedicated-Louisiana Communications Interoperability Fund to support the annual maintenance of the LWIN. This State funding of LWIN allows the radio system to function without charging any subscriber fees – a leading reason for local agency adoption of and participation in LWIN.

SIEC Accomplishments

Meetings and Events

- During the time from June 30 - January 1, 2013, the SIEC held two meetings. Major topics covered included:
 - Completion of LWIN's 119 site build out
 - Louisiana's 700MHz Narrow banding Waiver was approved by the FCC, authorizing a new deadline of December 31, 2024
 - UHF/VHF narrowbanding deadline is January 1, 2013 and no waiver or extension is expected
 - Formation of a Public Safety Broadband Subcommittee

Super Bowl Preparations

In anticipation of the added traffic associated with the 2013 Super Bowl, a new LWIN site was installed inside the superdome. This will ensure capacity and coverage for the local, state, and federal first responders and emergency managers working the Super Bowl, and subsequent high priority events in the Superdome. The new Superdome site was brought on line in December and after rigorous testing the site is now in full operation.

FCC Petition for Rulemaking – 700 MHz Narrow banding Deadline

In October the FCC granted Louisiana's request for rulemaking to grant an eight year extension to the 700 MHz narrowbanding rule. Implementation of the rule could have cost the state up to \$417 million including \$120 million to change the system and an additional \$296 million to replace the subscriber units.

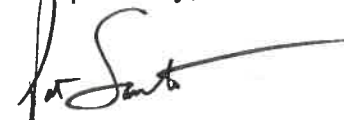
Long Term Evolution (LTE)

In February 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 were signed into law. Inside this legislation was a provision that authorizes the FCC to sell spectrum to raise over \$7 billion to build a nationwide broadband network dedicated to public safety officials. This network, officially called FirstNET, will ultimately provide a seamless interoperability data network that will allow first responders to communicate with each other anywhere in the country.

In February 2012, a team consisting of representatives from East Baton Rouge, Orleans Parish and GOHSEP met with members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to seek support in drafting a letter to encourage the FCC to approve the State's Petition for Waiver of the 700 MHz broadband spectrum. The delegation was very enthusiastic to support the State's efforts and submitted a letter to the FCC on behalf of the State. In order to provide as much flexibility and authority as possible to the new FirstNET Board under the NTIA, as of September 2, 2012 the FCC terminated the 20 - 700MHz public safety broadband network waivers, including Louisiana's, but established a process for entities to seek special temporary authority (STA) to continue their deployment.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me at (225) 925-7500 or Pat.Santos@la.gov.

Respectfully,



Pat Santos

cc: Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee