

Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee  
State of Louisiana

<http://gohsep.la.gov/SIEC>

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



CHRIS GUILBEAUX  
CHAIRMAN

January 2, 2017

Honorable John Bel Edwards  
Governor of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards:

On behalf of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), it is my pleasure to provide this report on the status of the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) and interoperable communications for first responders in the State of Louisiana.

**LWIN Statistics**

- Current Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) statewide coverage is 95% or better for portable on-street coverage, and 95% or better in building coverage in the nine (9) metropolitan areas of the State as defined in our Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).
- Current composition of LWIN sites:
  - 135 active tower sites
  - 4 mobile tower sites
  - 2 mobile repeater sites
  - 4 mobile satellite dishes
  - 6 generators on wheels
  - LWIN Sites are controlled by four master sites
    - Master Site One in Baton Rouge
    - Master Site Two in New Orleans
    - Master Site Three in Alexandria
    - Master Site Four in Baton Rouge
- Subscriber Radios
  - From July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016, LWIN has seen an increase from 83,431 subscriber units to over 85,518.
  - LWIN remains one of the largest Statewide Radio System in the nation.
  - The monthly average of Push-to-Talk (PTT) transmissions has remained consistent averaging 12,804,191 for the July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016 time frame.

### **State Funded LWIN System Maintenance and SIEC Governance**

The annual maintenance budget of \$8.5 million for LWIN is funded through the Riverboat Gaming Fund and is maintained by the Louisiana State Police Radio Communications Staff. This State funding of LWIN allows the radio system to function without charging any subscriber fees, a leading reason for local agency adoption of LWIN.

Through a BA-7, the former Office of Technology Services (OTS) radio communications staff were transferred back to the Louisiana State Police (20) employees and to GOHSEP (1) employee to provide a more efficient and direct oversight of the maintenance, governance and policy of LWIN and SIEC related matters.

### **SIEC Accomplishments**

#### **Meetings and Events**

During the time period of July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016, the SIEC held two (2) meetings. Major topics covered included:

- LWIN comprehensive system policy and Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan (SCIP) review and update
- LWIN system performance during August flooding event
- FirstNet statewide outreach program

### **LWIN software and equipment upgrades**

The LWIN system software and equipment upgrade funded with \$11.4 million of revenue from the Department of Public Safety Services began in August 2016. The initial phase is to replace all State and local console and workstations and is on schedule. The second phase to be completed by June 2017 is to update the LWIN system software. A detailed breakdown of the total project is listed below.

The upgrade consists of:

- The current software version - 7.13 that runs the LWIN system to version - 7.17 software release,
- In order to implement the new system software the console hardware equipment called General Purpose Input/Output Modules (GPIOMs) and workstations running Windows Vista will be upgraded.

The final phase is the replacement of all STR 3000 repeaters, as they are out of warranty and maintenance is no longer supported by the vendor. GOHSEP has submitted in its FY17/18 budget request \$4.4 million to completely replace all outdate STR 3000 repeaters.

### **LTE/ Public Safety Broadband**

Louisiana FirstNet staff continues to work with the SIEC, through its Broadband Subcommittee, as they implement the Department of Commerce's State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) requirements. The SIEC Policy and Planning Subcommittee proposed, and the SIEC adopted, changes to the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) to incorporate FirstNet and public safety broadband officially into interoperability planning for our State. Federal FirstNet planners are in the process of crafting plans to design, build and operate the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). Data collected from first responders via state SLIGP staff has been submitted to FirstNet in September 2016 for inclusion in these plans. Louisiana FirstNet outreach efforts continue to be conducted in person and through social media throughout this time period reaching hundreds of state, local and tribal public safety entities.

FirstNet is in the process of evaluating bids received on May 31, 2016, and an announcement of the successful bidder/network partner is anticipated in early 2017. Once a network partner is chosen by FirstNet, LA FirstNet will work with them to refine the FirstNet RAN plan for the state of Louisiana in preparation for a decision on the final RAN plan by the Governor in mid-2017. A phased build out of the NPSBN will commence after the decision on the RAN plan is made and communicated to FirstNet, the FCC, and NTIA.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 225.925.7331 or by email at [Christopher.Guilbeaux@la.gov](mailto:Christopher.Guilbeaux@la.gov).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Guilbeaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Chris Guilbeaux

cc: SIEC Members