



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee

<http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/interop.htm>

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January 1, 2011

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 provide this report on the status of interoperable communications for first responders in the State of Louisiana.

LWIN Status

- Current Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN) statewide coverage is 92.32% portable, on-street coverage
- Upon completion of current projects by the end of the 2011 Fiscal Year, the expected statewide coverage will be approximately 94.48%
- Current composition of LWIN sites:
 - 107 active tower sites,
 - 7 tower sites in development
 - 7 tower sites in planning stage
 - 5 mobile trailer-sites
 - Total of 121 fixed towers and 5 mobile trailer-sites
- Subscriber Radios
 - From January 1, 2010 – Nov 31, 2010, LWIN has seen an increase of subscriber units from 49,152 to 58,800 (19.6% increase)
 - The monthly average of Push-to-Talk (PTT) transmissions has increased from 6,696,064 to 8,305,624 (24.04% increase)
- LWIN System upgrade
 - In the first part of FY11, the controller will be upgraded to version 7.9, increasing the total subscribers allowed on the system to 128,000

FY 2010/2011 Appropriated Funding for Major Projects

- \$23,564,018 is appropriated for interoperability related projects from the Louisiana Communications Interoperability Fund.
 - \$462,895 – LWIN Statewide System Management and Administration, including (4) TO positions
 - \$9,414,489 – LWIN System Maintenance, including (6) TO positions
 - \$13,686,634 – Additional Capacity and Redundant Backhaul

State Funded System Maintenance

The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability receives and manages the annual maintenance budget for 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 LWIN. Beyond FY 2010/2011, the LWIN System administration and management for personnel and maintenance is expected to increase by 20% annually as more capacity and sites are added to the system.

SIEC Activities

Gap Analysis Report & Site Selections

Using metrics such as population, critical infrastructure, and miles of road, combined with GIS data, the GOHSEP Office of Interoperability created a report that was used as a tool in determining the most cost-effective selections of the final sites within the LWIN. Using this tool, assessments of tower locations are being conducted and the final sites are being selected for the current expansion phase of LWIN.

Capacity Expansion

Louisiana was awarded a \$17 Million HUD CDBG grant for capacity expansion and redundant backhaul. The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability conducted an analysis of the current usage and projected growth of LWIN, based on User Needs Assessments. Using this analysis, a list of sites targeted for capacity upgrade was compiled.

Refinement of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

In November The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability submitted an update to the SCIP.

Development of Statewide Communications System Policies

- Grade of Service Policy (Pending approval)
- Prioritization Policy (Currently being drafted)

SIEC Outreach Programs

- IECGP Training and Exercise

Using IECGP funding, The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability is conducting regional training and exercise programs in each of our Homeland Security Regions. These training events provide state and local first responders with free hands-on training. To date we have held events in the following regions:

- Region 8: October 18 – 22

- **Region 1 COML Exercise**

December 8 – 10 a communications exercise was held in Jefferson Parish that allowed participants to complete the COML task book required for COML recognition.

Gulf WIN and the MC-252 Oil Spill Response

The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability continues to operate the Gulf WIN communications network. Gulf WIN links multiple radio systems in order to provide interoperable communications for the U.S. Coast Guard along the Gulf Coast.

FCC Petitions

The GOHSEP Office of Interoperability has submitted two petitions to the FCC:

- Petition for Rulemaking – 700 MHz Narrowbanding Deadline
- Petition for Waiver – 700 MHz Broadband Waiver

Respectfully,

Brant Mitchell

BM:pjm

Cc: SIEC Members