

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

September 22, 2011

Alex Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) requests OMB approval to submit a revision to the already approved information collection described herein under the “emergency processing” provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (5 CFR 1320.13). The Commission is requesting clearance for this revised information collection entitled: Emergency Alert System (EAS) National Test under OMB control number 3060-0207. We respectfully request OMB approval for this collection no later than October 17, 2011.

The Commission is seeking emergency processing and approval because this collection of information is critical to the implementation of the first nationwide test of the EAS. This test, a coordinated effort among the Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Executive Office of the President (EOP), has been scheduled to take place on November 9, 2011 at 2:00 PM EDT. Because of this abbreviated time frame, the Commission cannot comply with the regular OMB approval process and is requesting emergency processing.

In the *Third Report and Order* in EB Docket No. 04-296, FCC 11-12, the Commission adopted rules establishing a regulatory structure for a national test of the EAS. In order for the Commission to determine the extent to which the test, and by extension the EAS, was successful, it adopted rules requiring EAS participants, within forty five (45) days of the date of the first national EAS test, to record and submit to the Commission test-related diagnostic information for each alert received from each message source monitored at the time of the national test. On March 10, 2010, OMB pre-approved the collection as indicated by the related Notice of Office of Management and Budget Action notification.

The FCC is submitting this revision to the previously approved information collection to establish a voluntary electronic method of complying with the reporting that EAS participants must complete as part of the national EAS test. This electronic submission system will impose a lesser burden on EAS test participants because they can input electronically (via a web-based interface) the same information into a confidential database that the Commission would use to monitor and assess the test. The only

difference from the previously approved collection, other than the electronic nature of the filing, would be the timing of the collections. Test participants would submit the identifying data prior to the test date. On the day of the test, EAS test participants would be able to input immediate test results. They would input the remaining data called for by our reporting rules within the 45 day period. Structuring an electronic reporting system in this fashion will allow the participants to populate the database with known information prior to the test, and thus be able to provide the Commission with actual test data, both close to real-time and within a reasonable period in a minimally burdensome fashion. The relatively recent scheduling of the test, combined with a feasibility study for the proposed electronic reporting system precluded the Commission from seeking earlier OMB approval for this revised collection, thus the Commission cannot comply with the regular OMB approval process and is requesting emergency processing.

The Commission is seeking a waiver of the notice and comment period in the Federal Register requesting public comment on the information collection requirements due to the emergency nature of this request. The Commission will conduct all the necessary regular submission requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act after approval of this emergency request.

The FCC requests OMB's approval of this emergency request no later than October 17, 2011. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Mindy Ginsburg
Deputy Managing Director
Office of Managing Director