



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Washington, D.C. 20230

December 13, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) requests an emergency review of a new information collection entitled, "State and Local Implementation Grant Program" (SLIGP). This emergency review is being requested in order to enable NTIA to expedite the implementation of the SLIGP and allow States to apply for grant funding to assist them in identifying, planning, and implementing the most effective way to utilize and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the nationwide public safety broadband network (PSBN). NTIA requests that OMB conclude its review by January 7, 2013.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the 9/11 Commission recommended the establishment of a nationwide, interoperable public safety communications network to resolve the communications challenges faced by emergency responders nationwide. On February 22, 2012, President Obama signed into law the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act). The Act meets a long-standing priority of the Obama Administration as well as a critical national infrastructure need to create a single, nationwide interoperable PSBN that will, for the first time, allow public safety officials to effectively communicate with each other on a secure, reliable, and dedicated interoperable network during emergencies and to use technology to improve response time, keep communities safe, and save lives.

The Act establishes the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as an independent authority within NTIA and authorizes it to take all actions necessary to ensure the design, construction, and operation of a nationwide PSBN, based on a single, national network architecture. The Act also charges NTIA with establishing a grant program to assist state, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions with identifying, planning, and implementing the most efficient and effective means to use and integrate the infrastructure, equipment, and other architecture associated with the nationwide PSBN to satisfy the wireless broadband and data services needs of their jurisdictions. Further, the Act directed NTIA, in consultation with FirstNet, to establish programmatic requirements for SLIGP by August 22, 2012.

Although NTIA met the Act's directive by issuing a Notice on August 21, 2012, that described the scope of allowable activities that SLIGP will fund, the appointment of the FirstNet Board only occurred on August 20, 2012, leaving NTIA merely two days to consult with the Board on

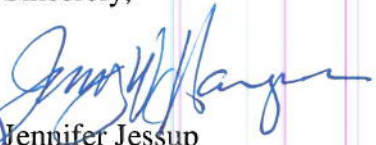
the SLIGP requirements. As a result, NTIA did not announce procedures for the submission of grant applications in the August 21 Notice. NTIA announced that it intended to release a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) and begin the application process during the first quarter of calendar year 2013. NTIA's consultations with the FirstNet Board have proceeded over the last few months as it has undertaken the administrative functions needed to prepare to award grants under SLIGP.

Accordingly, because work to design the nationwide PSBN and consult with States is a necessary precursor to deployment of the nationwide PSBN, NTIA is seeking to begin the application process in the first quarter of calendar year 2013 and award grants for SLIGP no later than June 1, 2013. In order to meet this deadline, NTIA is requesting clearance for the application and reporting requirements by January 7, 2012 in order to: (1) ensure applicants have reasonable notice of the federal funding opportunity; (2) provide applicants sufficient time to complete and submit their applications; and (3) allow NTIA adequate time to properly execute the application review process and make the awards.

Therefore, due to the urgent nature of designing and deploying the PSBN and the immediate need to establish SLIGP in order to provide the necessary funds to facilitate the consultation process between FirstNet and the regional, State, tribal, and local jurisdictions, as mandated by the Act, NTIA is requesting emergency review.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


(SAB) Jennifer Jessup
Information Collections Officer