



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

September 11, 2014

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) hereby submits a new information collection under the “emergency processing” provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (5 CFR § 1320.13). The Commission is requesting emergency clearance with respect to the information collection contained in the rules that the Commission adopted on August 11, 2014 in a *Second Report and Order* imposing requirements on Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers and other providers of interconnected text messaging applications (collectively, covered text providers). The Commission released *the Second Report and Order* on August 13, 2014 (see FCC 14-118, PS Docket Nos. 11-153 and 10-255). The new information collection is entitled: Deployment of Text-to-911. We respectfully request OMB approval for this collection by October 30, 2014.

As described below, the information collection is vital to the swift implementation of text-to-911, a service by which the public will be able to reach 911 emergency services by sending text messages to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The request for emergency processing is consistent with Section 1320.13(a)(2)(iii) of OMB regulations, which states that requests for emergency processing shall be accompanied by a written determination that the agency cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures because doing so “*is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information* or is reasonably likely to cause a statutory or court ordered deadline to be missed (emphasis added).”

Background:

The *Second Report and Order* observes that current trends in mobile wireless usage have recently changed from a predominantly voice-driven medium of communication to one based more on text and data transmissions. The need to expeditiously provide text-to-911 service is pressing because many consumers believe text-to-911 is already an available service, because of the unique value of text-to-911 for the millions of Americans with hearing or speech disabilities, and because of the crucial role it can play in protecting life and property when making a voice call would be dangerous, impractical, or impossible due to transmission problems. To ensure that these potentially life-saving benefits of text-to-911 are available to all consumers as swiftly as possible, the *Second Report and Order* adopts new rules to commence the implementation of text-to-911 service with an initial deadline of December 31, 2014 for all covered text providers to be capable of supporting text-to-911 service. The *Second Report and Order* also provides that

covered text providers then have a six-month implementation period – they must begin routing all 911 text messages to a PSAP by June 30, 2015 or within six months of a valid PSAP request for text-to-911 service, whichever is later.

For covered text providers to promptly begin implementing text-to-911 service and to facilitate notifying them what PSAPs are technically ready to receive texts, the *Second Report and Order* specifies the following steps entailing action by the Commission and/or the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (or PSHSB), including the voluntary submission of information by PSAPs:

- PSHSB is directed to establish and maintain a centralized database to provide PSAPs with an option to register their text-readiness – this registration constitutes one approach that PSAPs may voluntarily choose to notify covered text providers of their ability to receive text messages to 911.
- PSHSB will issue a Public Notice providing additional information regarding the database, including the availability of the database for PSAP registration. In the interim, PSAPs that are text-ready before the database is publicly available may electronically file notifications with the Commission in the text-to-911 proceeding dockets, PS Dockets 11-153 and 10-255.
- PSAPs also have the option of providing covered text providers a written notification that a PSAP is “text-ready.” A PSAP’s registration in the database or its written notification to a covered text provider is an essential component of what constitutes a “valid PSAP Request” for text-to-911 service.

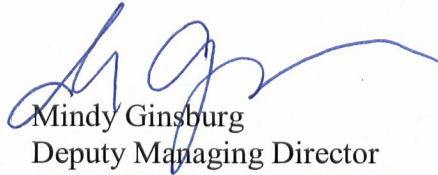
In order for December 31, 2014 to be an effective commencement date for triggering the implementation period for covered text providers, it is essential that the Commission has the relevant information from PSAPs that are text-ready before December 31, 2014, so that covered text providers have the full six months to implement text-to-911 service to those PSAPs. Therefore, it is crucial to have the information collection approved by OMB so that the adopted rules can be effective as far as possible in advance of the date certain, December 31, 2014. In addition, the rules adopted by the Commission also include third party notifications that need to be effective in order to implement text-to-911, including necessary notifications to consumers, covered text providers, and the Commission. These notifications are essential to ensure that all affected parties are aware of the limitations, capabilities, and status of text-to-911 services.

We believe that emergency approval is warranted because “*the use of normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information.*” (emphasis added) The normal clearance procedures, as set forth in 5 C.F.R. § 1320, are likely to prevent the timely collection of critical information before December 31, 2014 that is essential to the successful implementation of text-to-911 service. Emergency approval of the information collection will enable implementation of the text-to-911 requirements within the timeframe set forth by the *Second Report and Order*.

Due to the emergency nature of this request, the Commission is requesting waiver of the 60 day Federal Register notice and comment requirement under 5 CFR §1320.8(d) and, in a Federal Register notice (referenced above), is soliciting comments on the information collection within 30 days and announcing the Commission’s request for emergency approval. The Commission

will conduct all the necessary regular submission requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act after approval of this emergency request.

FCC staff is ready to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to assure OMB's approval of this emergency request by October 30, 2014.



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Federal Communications Commission