FILE

National Emergency Number Association
The Voice of 9-1-1

April 29, 2008

Renée J. Jenkins
Director of Administration
Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Re: *Petition Filed by NENA/APCO Requesting Rules and Standards Governing Next Generation* 9-1-1 in a Competitive 9-1-1 Market; Case No. 08-287-TP-UNC

Dear Ms. Jenkins,

As various parties in the above captioned proceeding have presented differing opinions on the proper role of the state in promulgating rules concerning the offering of competitive E9-1-1 services and Next Generation 9-1-1 capabilities, the National Emergency Number Association ("NENA") respectfully submits the enclosed policy statement for consideration on the "Proper Balance and Timing of State and National Regulatory and Legislative Activities During the Transition to NG9-1-1." This statement was issued by NENA on Tuesday, April 29, 2008. As articulated in the policy statement, the evolution from today's 9-1-1 service structure to tomorrow's IP-based Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 system requires several major areas of simultaneous and interactive activities. A coordinated set of actions combining national, state, and local authorities is required to successfully accomplish critical preparations, development, testing and implementation of NG9-1-1.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Halley
Government Affairs Director

Enclosure

cc: Ohio Chapters of NENA and APCO
Parties of Record (via regular U.S. mail)

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NENA Policy Statement on the Proper Balance and Timing of State and National Regulatory and Legislative Activities During the Transition to NG9-1-1

The evolution from today's 9-1-1 service structure to tomorrow's IP-based Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 system requires several major areas of simultaneous and interactive activities. A coordinated set of actions combining national, state, and local authorities is required to successfully accomplish critical preparations, development, testing and implementation of NG9-1-1. This must be done in a way that retains and expands the quality and effectiveness of 9-1-1 service through knowledgeable and cooperative efforts at all levels of government. We hope and expect that interested parties will participate on more than one level so that developments can be shared.

To meet the objective of a fully functioning next generation 9-1-1 and emergency communications system, it is critical that state regulatory bodies take timely and carefully scrutinized action to analyze and update existing 9-1-1 rules and regulations. Such actions should be designed to facilitate an appropriate competitive 9-1-1 landscape for current E9-1-1 functions while ensuring that new or modified rules and regulations will effectively enable the transition to a full NG9-1-1 system.

NG9-1-1 is not simply an extension of E9-1-1. While a full NG9-1-1 system must support all E9-1-1 functions and features, NG9-1-1 is Internet Protocol (IP) based, and software and database controlled in fundamentally new ways, enabling many new technical and operational capabilities to further enhance the coordination and delivery of emergency services nationwide. During the transition to full NG9-1-1, it is expected that new 9-1-1 service offerings will be provided by incumbent and competitive 9-1-1 System Service Providers (SSPs) that advance beyond current E9-1-1 system capabilities, but simply advancing beyond today's capabilities should not be equated with providing a full NG9-1-1 system. Such efforts may better be characterized as "pre-NG9-1-1". These pre and full NG9-1-1 capabilities will necessarily involve new complex technical and business arrangements that current regulations and laws did not fully contemplate. Thus, states are encouraged to actively consider appropriate steps to enable appropriate competition for the delivery of E9-1-1 service that will provide increased opportunities and choices for 9-1-1 governing authorities today. Simultaneously, as such rules are considered, states must ensure that any regulatory actions will effectively enable the transition to a full NG9-1-1 system.

As states contemplate rule changes, it is critical that steps taken are in accordance with complementary national activities, many of which are being coordinated as a NENA NG9-1-1 Project through the work of NENA committees and the NENA Next Generation Partner Program, and through federal government efforts such as the U.S. DOT Next Generation 9-1-1 project. National progress on technical and operational standards development is progressing. Proof of concept trial demonstrations and testing of many aspects of NG9-1-1 are occurring in 2008, the results of which will be compared and

analyzed against current expectations and assumptions. NG9-1-1 funding model analysis is progressing. Discussions on the need for proper certification of all aspects of the NG9-1-1 system are ongoing. These and other activities being worked at the national level are the building blocks required to accomplish a fully featured, standards based NG9-1-1 system. Any state regulatory actions concerning NG9-1-1 should appropriately consider ongoing national activities. However, states should actively engage stakeholders today to prepare and plan for the implementation of a full NG9-1-1 system.

In sum, the evolution to an NG9-1-1 system should be treated as a national project in which individual state action is necessary, but must be appropriately coordinated with other state and national activities. While national and international technical and operational standards for NG9-1-1 are still in progress, and much work remains to be done to complete this critical work, many activities can and should be undertaken at the state and local levels to prepare. Chief among these is working to understand how current regulations and laws facilitate, or prohibit, the local, state, regional and national interoperable environment of NG9-1-1, and analyzing how such rules and regulations may need to be modified to enable the IP-based, software and database controlled structure of NG9-1-1.

Issued April 29, 2008