

September 11, 2014

For: Washington State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)  
*Via Electronic Mail*

On October 16<sup>th</sup> FirstNet will be coming to Washington to kick off a 12-18 month process to design the First Responders network here. This October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting is called the “initial consultation” of FirstNet with the State.

### **October 16 FirstNet Initial Consultation**

The agenda for October 16<sup>th</sup> is fluid. At this time we are expecting to have breakfast starting at 8:00 AM, start the event at 9:00 AM and finish at 5:00 PM. The venue is the Thurston County Fairgrounds in Lacey. I know 8 hours plus travel time is a lot to ask from SIEC members and staff. If you cannot commit that much time, it would be best to attend from 9:00 – 11:00 AM, but please plan to spend whatever part of the day you can. There will be no normal SIEC business conducted during this time.

FirstNet has 56 of these initial state consultations. We are only the fourth one to occur. These first four are “pilots” from FirstNet’s point of view – they are modifying the agenda as they do each one. I don’t expect a final agenda for our October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting until after they meet with Oregon on October 8<sup>th</sup>. However here are our planning assumptions:

- FirstNet will bring 5 to 10 staff members.
- This is not a series of presentations, but rather a conversation. FirstNet staff will tell us a bit about the consultation process which will ultimately result in a design for the network in Washington State, but they also want to hear from you – and others who attend – about challenges we face in responder communications: coverage, capacity, who is a “responder”, what sorts of daily incidents and major disasters are we planning for and have we already encountered (wildfires, landslide) and more.
- We will be inviting representatives from each of the 29 tribal nations in Washington, and responder agencies from rural and metropolitan areas. This might include every sheriff, for example, as well as chiefs of police and fire in major metropolitan areas. We’ll also invite the 80 folks who attended our stakeholder/technical workshop in Spokane which was held on August 13-14. And you can expect to see some of your counterparts from other states, e.g. Oregon, Iowa, Idaho and Alaska.

I will send you regular communications as planning proceeds. If you, as SIEC members, have specific people from your associations or your counterparts elsewhere in the state who we should invite (association directors, county commissioners, Mayors, police chiefs, fire chiefs, sheriffs, other responder chiefs), please let me know. You can also forward this message to them.

### **Other SIEC news:**

- The U. S. Secretary of Commerce has appointed five new members to the FirstNet Board. They include Hennepin County (Minneapolis) sheriff Richard Stanek, Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank, former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, and Houston Mayor Annise Parker. Original board members Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald (Story County, Iowa) and Deputy Chief Chuck Dowd (formerly NYPD) were not reappointed. Private company board members Sam Ginn (who chaired the board) and Craig Farrill did not seek re-appointment. [Article here.](#)

- Geekwire, a technology news website in Seattle, [published a fairly comprehensive article](#) about cell phone network over-loading in Seattle. It included interviews with the major carriers and also some comments about FirstNet and a link to our Washington OneNet site.
- Our short videos for FirstNet in Washington have received nationwide notice in the FirstNet state communities. Both the 2:42 minute (shorter) and 6:25 (short) are on the [OneNet website here](#).

Our next regular SIEC meeting is on December 18. We will, however, have several pieces of business to transact in the meantime. I will send you e-mail messages for such business.

-bill

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