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June 14, 2021

Via email
James Wiley
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Information on Wireless Emergency Alerts Requested in September 10, 2020, Letter
PS Docket Nos. 15-91, 15-94

Dear James:

The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) is writing to provide information in response to the letter from the Chair of Federal Communications Commission, dated September 10, 2020. In this letter, the Chair asked ATIS Wireless Technologies Systems Committee (WTSC) to provide guidance regarding discretionary parameters specified in ATIS WTSC Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) standards for enhanced geo-targeting. As noted below, ATIS continues to progress its efforts to provide additional guidance to the industry regarding WEA.

ATIS agrees with the Commission that there is benefit in establishing industry guidance for WEA flexible operational settings, which allow Commercial Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs) to adapt their network operations to evolving field conditions and deployments, as well as to adapt the WEA system to meet changing requirements. ATIS WEA has been working on a new document, entitled *WEA 3.0 Operational Considerations for Commercial Mobile Service Providers*, that will provide such guidance for the flexible operational settings pertinent to WEA 3.0. This document is expected to be approved for ballot during 3Q 2021.

The document will provide additional information on the purpose of the flexible operational settings and will illustrate the advantage to having these operational settings remain flexible. It will also describe the expected benefits and/or impacts to the users associated with an increase or decrease in the value settings. The document will include recommendations based on system design knowledge and ongoing operational experience regarding the balancing of these benefits and impacts.

In the September 2020 letter, the Chair asked WTSC to consider and address recommended processes to ensure that WEA-capable mobile devices display WEAs received during an active voice or data session when the device is located within the targeted geographical area. ATIS WTSC is updating its *Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) 3.0 Mobile Device Behavior (MDB) Specification* (ATIS-0700036v002) to clarify the requirement for this capability, as well as to

accommodate deployment generations beyond LTE. The original text of the specification provided that:

7.1 Reception While Mobile Device Busy

[WEA-MDB-RQMT-0810] When the mobile device is active in voice or data session on a 2G or 3G network, the mobile device is not required to receive any WEA message. However, when the mobile device is active in a voice or data session on an LTE network, the mobile device shall attempt to receive WEA messages.

The updated specification is expected to specify that:

7.1 Reception While Mobile Device Busy

[WEA-MDB-RQMT-0810]. When the mobile device is engaged in an active voice or data session, the mobile device shall be capable of receiving WEA messages. However, mobile devices engaged in active voice or data sessions on legacy (2G and 3G) networks may not be technically capable to receive a WEA message until the active voice or data session concludes.

The revised specification, as well as the *WEA 3.0 Operational Considerations for Commercial Mobile Service Providers*, will be available from <https://www.atis.org/standards-and-specifications>.

ATIS WTSC would also like to provide an update on its *WEA 3.0 Practical Hints for Alert Originators*. This document is expected to be published in July 2021. While ATIS WEA develops every document in collaboration with all WEA stakeholders, this project in particular has produced a much more in-depth collaboration and understanding among the industry, FEMA and major Alert Originators concerning the end-to-end operations of WEA. The document touches on topics that will also be addressed in the forthcoming *WEA 3.0 Operational Considerations for Commercial Mobile Service Providers*, but from the perspective of the Alert Originators rather than the CMSPs. The goal is to help the Alert Originators understand how their construction of the alert and the information they provide may impact the users' experience.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Thomas Goode
ATIS General Counsel

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cc: Travis Litman, Acting Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Acting Chairwoman
Jessica Rosenworcel
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